



## Meeting Minutes

North Island Endurance Forum  
6<sup>th</sup> May 2023, start 10:00am  
Venue: Dunstan Fibre Fresh NEC Taupo

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**Present:** Sue Reid (Chair), Sue Billigheimer, Ron Guest, Wendy Farnell, Daryl Owen, Murray Smith, Sandy Hickman, Sylvia Ireland, Heidi Phiama, Ruth Dawber, Fiona Stephen, Pip Mutch, Maeve Mclellan, Rowena Black.

**Present via Zoom** Sue Landis, Ursula Keenan, Heidi Bulfin

**Apologies:** Jenny Weston, Shane Dougan, Frank Aldridge, Vicky Whitehead.

### Welcome

Sue Reid welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### Championship Rides

The board have put through a suggestion of having a central team of individual members that are prepared to be available to help with the organisation of Championship rides. The individuals, not necessarily board members with particular strengths i.e. officials, funding, Evo etc, can be called upon as required to help. A central pool of money could be made available so that profits could go on to the next Championships.

The board running Championships in the past had failed at times due to lack of ownership and ability to get funding.

### Difficulties found by Clubs.

Getting correct and current officials

Funding

Each Club is now running Champs more often.

Getting Crew/helpers

Man hours involved with no of people is seen as the main pinch point

Some of the above is fixable with input from the right people and timing being important. And whilst this is happening on an informal basis it may help to have a more formal structure.

Clubs will still need to find and mark the track.

Over 120 km needs to be night marked. Possible solution could be two-day rides (If long weekend then Championships could be 3 days to help with crew etc)

Could possibly look at having no North Island Championships when Nationals are in the NI but some see this as negative and can mean less momentum with both members and new to the sport. (Waikato had a good response from newcomers because of Champs) also less numbers at Nationals. It could also become too easy to drop out of hosting.

Expanding on the Central fund discussion.

Could be separate for NI, SI & Nats. Nats has run at a profit for last few years so possibly just look at Islands and have each club put in \$ each year as seed money to help fund with the thought that in a few years there would be no need for board grants.

Would require central/neutral person/s to audit accounts/spending so that excess money is not spent. (EG expensive caterers) But the concept in general was thought of as a good start.

### **Calendar**

Ursula has put up a calendar based on ideal timing. It is fully understood that landowners/beach tides etc may not suit dates put forward and they are not set in stone at all.

Some had not seen the post on the club liaison page. Clubs to put forward rides.

### **Club Structure**

Whilst this is a bit of work from an administrative point of view it was felt in general that people have a sense of belonging with a club. We can work on this to lift the culture and increase some motivation by looking at teams(clubs) events at Nats/yearly awards.

Administration could be lessened by clubs doing membership through EVO. Would be more beneficial if all clubs did the same.

### **Growing the sport.**

As tabled could clubs run winter series/low level winter days.

More easily done at club level also. Ursula Keenan has offered to help any club with marketing of rides etc.

Tips & tricks, goodie packs, spot prizes are all good ways of increasing lower levels. Special rosettes, Sausage sizzle after 10/20km riders have finished so less waiting for prizegiving.

CTR is good because of winners/placings.

A question was asked as to how we sell ourselves due to cost. :-

We need to concentrate on what we are doing and market ourselves well. We have great levels of vetting, well organised rides etc. We shouldn't try and dumb ourselves down.

Whilst some have the perception that we are "posh" that isn't the case. Again we need to market to our strengths.

Marketing just the top end doesn't work but with grass roots only a few come through to do higher levels. The majority are happy to stay at the 10/20km level. But we should celebrate and embrace that. They contribute \$ and can often be a great help on the ground.

We still need to provide opportunities at higher level, Trans-Tasman etc. As a great aspiration for mid/higher levels. A fair number of e-mails have been sent and options are being looked into.

### **FEI Rides**

Nick Page's report from the FEI Sports Forum was read.

Whilst the report and the apparent outcome is disappointing there are still some positives with FEI Rides

We have had some amazing experiences with foreign officials -vets in particular this year. This has also given younger vets an interest in becoming PTV's

The FEI fund for travel has meant no huge costs for getting them here.

Whilst some haven't had the greatest experience at FEI (international) rides there have been many good experiences.

If we stopped FEI what would we be aiming for? Quilty/Tevis have 24 hours to complete and 90% are there to complete.

### **Advisory Update**

FEI rule changes were dominant up to February

Discussions with DRNZ have prompted a proposal from them. Still to be evaluated.

Looking at options for ESNZ alternative structure -The board have not had a chance to discuss this yet but initial look at alternatives ie member organisations etc could be more expensive.

### **EVO**

Email has been sent through to Club secretaries on training coming up. Be good to get 2 or 3 from each club.

It has been felt that it is time consuming and not what was sold to us. Some have not understood fully what is available and making extra work for themselves.

John/Vicky have always been really helpful when you ring but not everyone can wait for them to get back to you.

Wendy Farnell has offered to help.

Poli payment makes it easier on clubs.

### **General Other issues/Comments**

Database can't check eligibility & official status not up to date.

TD report is easy.

Some members are not getting e-mails from secretaries. Clubs can advise if an extra e-mail to be added to the list so talk to your committees.

Club Liaison page-some are missing notifications-Tag if possible or check for updates.

**Close of Meeting:** 2.15pm