



2024-25 AGM MTB Sub-Committee Report

MTB Sub-committee members for the 2024-25 season have been: Robert Comeskey (convenor), Deb Sherwin, Wayne Hiscock, Marco Renalli, Martin McCrudden, Georgia Jennings, Jason Brown.

Acknowledgements:

I would like to start with an acknowledgement of Krissy (Kit) O'Connor who passed away on Wed 9 July after a nearly year long battle with cancer, and pass our condolences to Mike, her husband. Krissy was PNP MTB convenor for many years up to 2020, doing a lot of work, with Mike, for our MTB riders. Particularly notable was her work on rebuilding the PNP website, which we still enjoy today as well as many resources we still recycle.

Ride in Peace, Kit.



Also we owe huge thanks some Marshals/Supporters (as well as the committee) including: Jana & Michal Solc (+their trailer), Leighton Beard, Mark Donald, Pip Patterson, Gin Weston, Rodney.

Overview:

The 2024-25 MTB season saw a recovery in the number of riders involved in Cross-country mountain biking. Notably the number of Junior riders recovered. This is a good start in rebuilding for the future.

The 2024-25 events were reasonably routine with no new venues being added to the spring series.

Timing Systems

The 2025 Spring Series had the club using an electronic timing system which we purchased. Tags are worn on helmets and the reader antenna being mounted above the riders on a gazebo frame. This is largely reliable, but some reads were missed either due to significant bunches or damaged/low emission tags. For 2025-26 we are looking to possibly get a second antenna get a new tablet with the current tablets all being at least 10 years old, but more likely to be 15+ years old. For 'DownCountry' races where a second device is required, the use of a phone is sufficient as the starter's device. Importantly, this system integrates with Web Scorer which allows us to keep a track of completed laps for riders while the race is on, so we have better visibility of who is currently on course and how far complete they are.

Health & Safety

The Health & Safety requirements will require an extra bit of time and effort in the 2025-26 year as our **ROSA Outdoor Safety Certificate** expires and a new independent Health & Safety Audit will be required.

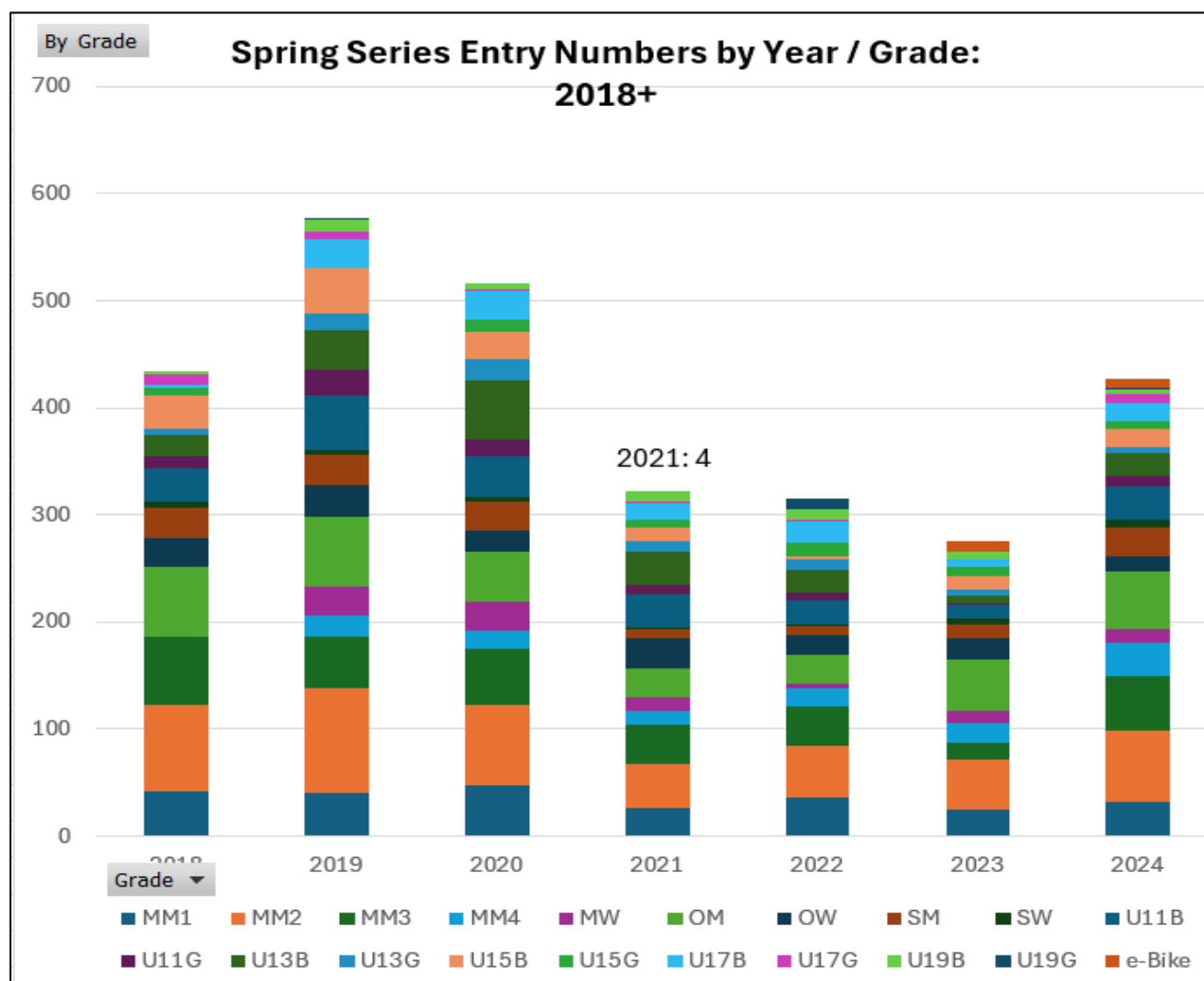
The cost of providing On-site Medical assistance for a reduced number of riders was becoming prohibitive. In 2024-25 we benefited from having sent about a dozen of our committee and regular marshals and riders to attend a 1-day Outdoor First Aid course focussed on safety around MTB events. However many of these certificates are expiring and we have turn-over of marshals, and so more first aid courses are advisable. However certified First Aiders are not a requirement on us imposed by councils.



Rider Numbers

As mentioned in the introduction, the number of riders participating in the 2024-25 season recovered a bit, lead by the MM grades (above average). The Porirua event was the first event since 2020 with over 100 entrants. The 2025 Club Champs numbers were very disappointing with a little over 50 entries. There were about 50 entries but only 43 riders in 2024 compared to 55 entries in 2024, 57 in 2022 and 83 in 2021.

The number of entries in the Spring Series 2018-2024 has been summarised in the graph below. Gender ratios vary a bit, but female riders continue to make up around 20% of riders.



Seniors: 2024 numbers increased - the best since 2020: MM grades leading the recovery.

Year	MM1	MM2	MM3	MM4	MW	OM	OW	SM	SW	e-Bike	Total
2018	42	80	65	0	0	64	27	29	5		312
2019	40	98	49	19	27	65	30	28	4		360
2020	47	75	53	17	27	47	19	28	4		317
2021	26	41	37	13	12	27	29	8	2		195
2022	36	49	36	17	5	27	18	8	2		198
2023	25	47	15	19	11	48	20	12	7	10	214
2024	32	66	52	30	13	54	15	26	7	9	304
Avg	35	65	44	16	14	47	23	20	4	10	271

Juniors: 2024 numbers increased, back to 2021-22 levels

Year	U11B	U11G	U13B	U13G	U15B	U15G	U17B	U17G	U19B	U19G	Total
2018	32	11	19	6	31	7	4	9	3	0	122
2019	52	24	37	15	42	1	27	7	11	1	217
2020	38	15	56	20	25	12	26	2	5	0	199
2021	31	8	31	11	12	7	16	1	11	0	128
2022	23	6	21	10	4	12	20	2	10	9	117
2023	12	1	8	5	13	9	6	0	7	0	61
2024	32	10	20	7	16	7	17	9	4	1	123
Avg	31	11	27	11	20	8	17	4	7	2	138

Gender Balance: 2024 female proportion figures remained significantly decreased

By Gender				
Row Labels	F	M	Total	F%
2018	65	369	434	15%
2019	109	468	577	19%
2020	99	417	516	19%
2021	70	253	323	22%
2022	64	251	315	20%
2023	53	212	265	20%
2024	69	349	418	17%
Total	529	2,319	2,848	17%

Collaboration

There has been some work in collaboration amongst MTB groups to encourage schools riding. Mark Donald called a meeting with PNP, WTBC, WORD to see what we could do with encouraging schools to get students involved in cycle events. This is the start of possibly some good cross-club collaboration. We know Track have had a 'Have a Go' day in collaboration with WORD. An area for growth and development.

WMTB offered to be involved with the 'Schools MTB Champs', if we want to re-format that event. That may be key.

Achievements

There have been some significant achievements by club riders including:

Sammie Maxwell: Thumping the World Elite XCO series: 1-2-2-2-1! 8th at Olympics 2024.

NZ & Oceania XCO Champ. Yes, she is from Taupo but rode with PNP for a number of years while living in Wellington.

Gary Moller: Another age-grade rainbow jersey! Keeps on keeping on and is an inspiration.

Sophie Hiswin: Had a huge battle with Sophia Western in the 2024 Spring Series (where she showed respect to her competitor) but also enthusiastically competed in and did well in a number of events including: PNP Club Champion (women); Karapoti 20km: 1st U18, 1st Female, broke the Junior Women record; 5th at NZ Nationals (first time); 2nd U17 NI Schools MTB Champs; 1st Female and 1st in age group for Craters Classis. + Cyclocross 1st U17.

Mary-Anee Moller: Riding in Europe and showing that MTB adventure with family is possible and not everything MTB is about Premier-grade results.

Spring Series Results:

The winners of each section of the **2024 Spring Series** were:

Grade	Men	Women
Open	Callum Kennedy	Laura Park
Social	Glen Woods	Rebecca Wallace
Masters1: 30+	Sam Nelson	-
Masters2: 40+	Ross Weston	Jacqueline O'Hagen
Masters3: 50+	Craig Lawn	-
Masters4: 60+	Gary Moller	-
U19	Robert McGuian	Millie Donald
U17	Oscar Stoltz	Sophia Weston
U15	Stephan Grant	Amelia Burkhart
U13	Jagger Lawn	Ellie Wallace
U11	Charlie Pidcock	Isabelle Crump

Club Championships:

The 2025 Club Champs in Feb 2024 were: Liam Brown and Sophie Hiswin.

The numbers attending the 2024 club Championships low but consistent. Results were easier to generate with standardising on Series Points for all 3 race events, allowing for all 3 events to be entered into a Webscorer Series event and have points automatically tallied.

There was still a delay in generating results was purely in tidying up results for the final Criterium event with some electronic 'taps' not being recorded within bunches (or with 'worn' chips) and some mistakes made in re-entering numbers during the race. If we make the timing system fully reliable we solve the results issue here.

Future:

Despite some marketing directly to schools, XCO rider numbers are poor in the Junior grades. Given the strong Junior MTB and Cyclo-Cross base in Wellington, we must look to cross-promote to other groups. There has been a tentative start with Mak Donald (see: Collaboration)

New committee members are required for the upcoming year, and the real challenge for sustainability is developing a group of people who don't necessarily want to sit through committee meetings but are willing and capable of completing a number of tasks which need to be done. These may be 'riding' tasks like helping with course mark-out and pack-down or guiding pre-rides. They may also be 'back-office' tasks like web site updates, marketing tasks and grants applications. Importantly a backup person running the Timing system is required.

A wider 'village' support base is required for our new MTB Convenor - nominee: Jas Bown. I am looking to transition various skills and resources to a **variety** of people to take up the various tasks.

It has been a privilege performing this role, and you can expect to see me still offering support.

Robert Comeskey
(Departing) Convenor MTB Sub-committee