

Minutes from the Christchurch Singletrack Club 2015 Annual General Meeting

Date: **27 June 2015** - Location: Twisted Hop

Attendees whose names were recorded: Scott Emmens, Sara Taylor, Brian Smith & Sylvia, Glenn Jarrett, Kevin Behrens and Lyndal, Sherrat family, Jeff Long, Trent & Kelly Williams, John Thornton & Maia, Rebekah Tregurtha, Jennifer Tregurtha, Sharon Prutton, Carey Prior and Amber Prior

Apologies: Michelle Peterson, Craig Tregurtha, Graham Allen, Helena Parsons, Andy Osborne, Mike Nixon, Greig Larcombe, Graeme Marshall, Graeme Woodward, Mike Stringer, Sue Steegh

1. Approval of the minutes of the 2014 Annual General Meeting

The minutes from 2014 were received as being accurate. Moved Jeff, seconded Kevin

2. Financial report for 2014-15 year Christchurch Singletrack Club Inc

Accounts for the Year to June 30, 2014

Christchurch Singletrack Club Inc

Accounts for the Year to June 30, 2014

<u>Income</u>	2013-14	2014-15
Subscriptions	\$2,210.00	\$2,204.90
Donations/sales	\$500.00	
Event Fees	\$2,684.40	\$3,305.20
Grants	\$2,445.63	\$3,331.00
Interest	\$818.18	\$900.71
Other Income		
Auction proceeds		
	\$8,658.21	\$9,741.81
<u>Expenses</u>		
Events	\$578.13	\$960.00
Equipment	\$1,182.85	\$2,750.35
Construction	\$3,131.00	\$609.56
Donations		
Operations	\$489.93	\$175.54
Affiliation Fees	\$685.00	\$200.00
	\$6,066.91	\$4,695.45
Excess of Income over Expenditure	\$2,591.30	\$5,046.36

Bank balance at the SBS Bank was \$9530.43 as at 26th June 2015

Term Investment of \$10,868.04 at SBS Bank, maturing Oct 1, 2015

Term Investment of \$20,000 from Transpower at SBS Bank, maturing 16th July 2015

held for the Huntsbury Track mtb
work

Although some equipment purchases will last for more than a year, they
have all been expensed.

27th June 2015

The financial report for 2014-15 was received as being accurate. Moved Glenn, seconded Rebekah.

3. Election of Executive Committee members for the 2015-16 year.

Chairperson: Brian Smith Moved Jeff, seconded Rebekah

Secretary : Rebekah Tregurtha Moved Brian, seconded Scott

Treasurer: Scott Emmens Moved Jeff, seconded Glenn

Membership Sec'y: Michelle Peterson Moved Sara, seconded Scott

Committee members: Graham Allan, Glenn Jarrett, Sara Taylor, Craig Tregurtha, Trent Williams

4. 2015-16 membership fees

Brian moved that the club membership fees for the July 2015 to June 2016 year remain at Individual \$20 (including \$5 levy to MTBNZ) and \$30 a family. Scott seconded.

5. Chairperson's report

Club Membership for 2014 – 2015 Year

By the end of the year we had 150 financial members.

Facebook = 1490 followers

Singletrack Rides Group = 781

Singletrack Chicks Group = 248

Review of the clubs activities during the 2014 – 2015 year

Events

Short Track Series (3 events) 116 entries over 3 races. Slightly down on the previous year.

Mini XC Series (3 events) 123 entries over the three races. Great to see Anton Cooper at the first race and Ben and Craig Oliver at the first and second races.

Port Hills Hill Climb Series (3 events) 159 entries which was down on the previous year but still very competitive hard fought races.

Port Hills Classic Race run on Dan Van Ashes farm The Crocodile and C2 Beautiful weather on the day and 79 entries in the main event plus 29 kids doing various courses on the flat. Great to see the small crew having a ball. Many thanks to Sara for leading the organisation of this event and to her helpers.

Cyclocross Series run by Scott

Activities

I'm sure Craig will touch on this subject as well but I'd like to thank the teams that took on maintenance of various tracks around the area, Crocodile, C2 etc., Living Springs and The Bowenvale Bonus (Brian, Julie and Murray) as well as Graham and Craig's crews on numerous other tracks. If you are like me it feels a bit special when your riding buddies or passers-by comment on how good a track that you have helped with, is riding.

Given the strong financial position of the club we decided to donate \$1000 to The Old Ghost Road Trail track building appeal. When complete this trail will be a world class MTB experience.

Worsley Spur Adventure Park. A number of club members have been involved in assisting this exciting project. No doubt many of you contributed your support to the resource consent process. Hopefully it will be as good if not better than Whakarewarewa in Rotorua. Bring it on.

6. Track Reports were submitted by Craig and Graham and read by Rebekah and Brian in their absence. Race Report presented by Sara Taylor.

Craig's 2014-15 trailbuilding review

1. Living Springs

Last year Living Springs got hit really hard with storms and so at the start of 2015 Paul Kelly offered to take on some of the maintenance of the Living Springs circuit to ease the pressure on us. While the lack of storms and a very dry year has helped, this work by Paul's crew has been great as they have kept the tracks in pretty good shape this year and the feedback I have received is that the tracks have been riding nicely. A few of us have still pitched in and during the past 12 months there have been quite a few sessions doing general maintenance of drains, cutting back vines, spraying weeds and scrubcutting grass. We've also removed the occasional wind fall tree which included a rather big ugly one on Zanes which took a bit of effort.

But the big news for 2015 is that Living Springs have recently sourced lots of funding support to fence off many of their waterways to create reserves that are stock free and which will become regenerated forest thanks to the planting of thousands of native trees. The first of these reserves to affect us this year is the paddock below the Pines. To work in with the new fences we have just recently installed a couple of cattlestops. The creation of this reserve has opened up the opportunity for us to create a climbing line through that gully to avoid the steep rutted descent of Skoolz Out and the much hated 4WD climb. The new track will be around 300m long and will take you from the canyon drop area straight up to the Pines using a gentle climb. We are not sure when we will build this track but will hopefully start later this winter. The plans for another reserve in 2016 will

open up the opportunity for another fun technical descent option for getting back down to the Farm Park carpark.

So chances are we will need quite a bit of help later this year. If you are not already on our Living Springs trailbuilding email list but would like to help then please let me know.

2. Halswell Tracks

After meeting with the Quarry ranger last year and discussing the issues with the track going around the outside of the dog park area he went away and made some enquiries and a few weeks later came back to us saying he has got permission to create the new gravel track running up the northern side of the dog park area. Since this has opened the user conflict issues seem to have all but stopped from what I can see.

C2 and Deviation are becoming quite popular with riders, walkers and runners and it is really encouraging seeing so many people use that circuit. We also see quite a few little kids using the section of C2 near the stormwater ponds. This popularity shows that there is a growing need for tracks over the west side of town and we are currently building an extension of Deviation to bring it down to the dog park area. This section is 300m long and is being built mostly with a digger with the intention of creating a wide flowy track more Rotorua style than typically seen on the Port Hills. It will also be one way only to make it safer. We have one more day on the digger and then some finishing work by hand before this track can be opened. We have plenty of other track development ideas for this property but what actually happens is based on our available time and working in with the guy who leases the farm for grazing who obviously has his farming interests as a higher priority than more tracks.

Dave started building a more technical line in the forest block last year which he was hoping to have ready for riding last summer but he hasn't been able to make much progress in the past year. But we got approached by a French guy who is coming to NZ soon for a few months and asked if we could provide him with a trail project that he can do while here, all on a volunteer basis. So we are currently thinking that he could take on Dave's project and get that finished.

At the AGM last year Mike Nixon put up his hand and offered for his riding crew to take on some of the maintenance of the Halswell tracks, especially the Crocodile Track, and they have done a great job keeping drains clear etc. They are also, along with Alister Sladen, looking at fixing up a couple of the rough steep corners on the upper section of the Crocodile this year.

Graham's 2014-15 Port Hills Liaison Review

We arrive at winter 2015 in much better shape than 2014 when a very wet autumn saw the hills saturated & weeping water right through winter. Because of the dry summer & autumn trackwork has only had two work mornings thus far in 2015, focused on drainage at Greenwood Park & Anaconda.

A pleasing development in the last 12 months has been "adopt-a-track" ;

- C2 & Crocodile tracks being looked after by Mike Nixon & cronies,
- Old Bowenvale track by Murray Lobb & Julie Ponsonby, assisted by Brian Smith & mates
- Castle Rock track by persons whose names I cannot recall (apologies)
- Frog Pond track (Clifton Hill) by Adrian Blok and others

When out biking it is not uncommon to notice small bits of work that have been done here and there by unheralded but fabulous pixies. For the most part this is of good quality, but I would remind pixies that liaison with Nick Singleton (or other landowner) to make sure there are no surprises should they be asked "what's going on?".

Overall trackwerx seems to be in reasonably good heart, with regularly good turnouts of 10 – 20 peoples to dig, gossip, and enjoy the views. At times our level of organisation could be better, but as I am not a particularly good delegator or collaborator that's how we roll. Applications from anyone who would like to assume the role gladly considered.

The new track arena is less positive. A \$20,000 grant that we received from Transpower Community Fund has sat dormant for 2 years, and is now almost expired. However the CCC middle management have finally woken up to the fact this is too good a thing to give back. Many CSC members will have completed the survey I circulated. 375 responses have come back, with a wide variety of opinion & information. It is heartening to have this level of support.

The upshot of all this is that a new mountain bike track will be built in what remains of 2015 in the Montgomery Spur Reserve. As mandated by the management plan of 2010 this will be an intermediate grade track intended to meet a gap in the Port Hills network of tracks that are generally more technical than intermediate tracks should be. The technical nature of Port Hills tracks tends to come from their rockiness, but the sense of 'exposure' on steep side slopes is also an issue for many people transitioning to narrow ribbons of track on hilly terrain. Montgomery Spur will be a wide benched track with gentle up & down grades, with its entry point near the stock yards half-way up Rapaki Track. Although this might not seem an ideal location, there will in future hopefully be the opportunity to link it to the suburb below with a mountain bike specific track, and give mountain bikers an alternative to the much loved & often hated Rapaki Track.

The reason the desired track (per funding applied for from Transpower) could not be built on Huntsbury Spur is that such a proposal has not gone to public consultation. The much delayed "Port Hills (recreation management) Plan" will be the time to lobby for the additional tracks that CSC members believe will enhance the Port Hills mountain bike experience. A city to summit road singletrack line is favoured by many in the survey. At the time of writing this PHP is still stalled, with no known timeframe for a draft plan come out for public consultation.

I am always happy to have dialogue with mountain bikers about Port Hills matters so please get in touch to share your ideas. Just remember the biggest thing I have learnt in this role is "you can't please all the people all the time".

Happy riding & digging

Graham Allan

CSC Port Hills Liaison

Sara's Port Hills Classic Race Report

On February 28th 2015 we held the 2015 Port Hills Classic race in Halswell Quarry after it not being held since 2005(?) This iconic event began in Christchurch on the Port Hills 28 years ago. For this event the day dawned beautiful and hot with the temperature getting to 30 degrees. This helped to attract the 78 riders competing on the day with a lot entering on the day. 49 raced people in the main event and 29 in the kid's races that ran in the early afternoon. This attendance was a record for the club at an event.

The main event consisted of 3, 2 and 1 laps of a fun, yet challenging course which ran from the quarry through Dan van Asch's land and back show casing the fantastic tracks our club have built. The kid's races consisted of 3 categories and 3 short courses, pre-school, medium and hard and the kids who raced aged from 3 to 14 years.

This successful event could not have been held without support from the generous land owner, Dan van Asch, the Port Hills Ranger Robbie, the farmer Tom and assistance of the entire committee plus

of course the fabulous sponsors - The Southern Trust, Cycleways, SBS Bank Riccarton, Pure Hydration, Ground Effect, NZ MTB'r, Moffatt Flowers, Dole Bananas and Hellers.

I had some great feedback from competitors speaking highly about the course, the organisation of the event and especially the fabulous prizes. I even heard of one person stopping mid race to take photos from the top of the course! The highlight for me was that there were no major injuries!

After the event, before even leaving the course Dan asked our club to continue with this event next year and was extremely keen to assist in holding a special 30th anniversary race on 2017. After speaking with the sponsors after the event they are all keen to be involved in 2016 and because of this I would be happy to again organise the event just as long as the full committee can assist again! I have learned a lot from this experience, you need a LOT of fabulous people assisting you, before and on the day.

Sara Taylor

7. Trophies:

The following trophies were awarded:

Men's Club Champion – Dayle McLauchlan

Women's Club Champion – Sharon Prutton

Hillclimb Men's Champion – Brent Miller

Hillclimb Women's Champion – Sharon Prutton

8. General Business:

- a. Club purpose was raised at last year's AGM. This was discussed at a subsequent committee meeting.
- b. Kids races – still a need to get something organised for this area. Sara to consider.
- c. Old Ghost Rd – the club won a major prize following its financial donation to the Old Ghost Rd project. The committee decided to donate the prize (helicopter flight + accommodation) to the Tregurtha family as a thank you for their contribution to mountainbiking.

The meeting was followed by supper, a MTB DVD was played and there was a lot of social discussion.