

**Bicycles Plus Cycling Club
Annual General Meeting
17 January 2009
MINUTES**

Attendance: Delta Samson-Desainde, Doug Smith, Scott McMillan, Susan MacDonald, Arthur Baxter, Jose Martins, Michael Jaros, Zuzka Ecerova, Antar Fuentes, Troy Berlinghoff, Matthew White, Adrien Adler, Eric Weaver, Gerard Walsh, Norman Lai, Kaarin Tae, Ghislain Desainde, Cynthia Fry, Donald MacIntosh, Geoff Murray, George Henley, Blair King.

1. Welcome from the President (Ghislain), thank you for coming. The executive met for three hours to discuss issues and prepare the agenda for this AGM.

2. **Approval of Agenda:** No additions. Motion to approve the agenda: Arthur Baxter, Gerard Walsh (second). All in favour, motion carried.

3. **Approval of Minutes from AGM 2008:** No minutes to approve, secretarial turnover...

4. **Treasurer's Report:** See Gerard's report for full details.

- Social activities: Spending down from last year and we have to correct that.
- Education: MTB and Road commissaire training for a few members, Norm for Level 2 coaching.
- Website: Hosting and domain name registration for 3 years.
- Balance up \$168.84.
- Finances are healthy, holding steady.
- Questions? None.
- Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report: Cynthia Fry, Scott McMillan (second). All in favour, motion carried.

5. **Registrar's Report**

5.1. **2008 Stats:** BPCC had 141 members in 2008. Members must write legibly on form and include emergency contact info.

5.2. **2009 Membership Forms and Fees:** No BNS general membership cards in 2008 and there will probably be none in 2009. The registration forms and waivers for 2009 are ready and will be available when fees and code of conduct are approved.

6. **BPCC Executive**

6.1. **Role of Executive:** All 2008 executive members were introduced. They are Ghislain Desainde (President), Geoff Murray (Vice-President), Gerard Walsh (Treasurer), Kaarin Tae (Secretary), Cynthia Fry (Registrar), Norman Lai (Coach), Donald MacIntosh (Commissaire). The executive are volunteers. The duties include:

- Oversee membership process
- Make sure everyone participating in club events is a member for the sake of insurance coverage and compliance with BNS.
- BNS requires member-clubs to have a certified coach and commissaire on the executive in order to develop the human infrastructure required to put on events and train new riders.

Enforcing the Code of Conduct has become a larger issue for the Executive in 2008. The Code of Conduct is necessary to protect ourselves and the general public. All members are required to sign it, promising to follow it on all club rides, but when it is violated the complaints come to the Executive to be resolved. Trying to "enforce" the Code of Conduct took too much time and energy in 2008, so the executive is proposing some changes for 2009. We are not hall monitors and can't be everywhere, but we take concerns and feedback from members seriously and will follow up.

However, nobody on the executive wants to have the role of enforcing the Code of Conduct. We are all adults, we have all signed the document, and we should all simply follow the rules. We don't want to take the fun out of having a club, and nobody will want to serve on the executive if they have to be enforcers of the code of conduct. Even minor episodes take time and energy, although general members might not think so.

6.2. Executive Positions Available:

- Treasurer
- Commissaire
- Secretary

- Kaarin Tae nominates Donald MacIntosh for Treasurer. Susan MacDonald seconds nomination. All in favour. Gerard, thank you for years of service in this position.
- Donald MacIntosh nominates Kaarin Tae for Commissaire. Delta Samson-Desainde seconds nomination. All in favour.
- Gerard Walsh nominates Scott McMillan for secretary. Norman Lai seconds nomination. All in favour.

7. BPCC Code of Conduct – Review and approval of proposed changes

#1. “ride in groups not larger than **6** riders, thus allowing vehicles to pass freely.” – changed from **8** riders.

Reasons for proposed change:

- A paceline of 8 riders is 40+ feet long, difficult to pass on our increasingly-busy roads. There is a greater risk to more people in each ride group with 8 riders instead of 6.
- Communication is easier within the group, safer.
- Easier for a group of 6 riders to cleanly overtake another group of 6 riders.

Concerns about proposed change (and responses/discussion in parentheses)

- Who will enforce it? (We are all adults. Experienced riders must set an example for less experienced riders. A firm pre-ride announcement may be a good idea, too. Ghislain's announcements have been effective this year.)
- Who will drop out of the group if there are 8 who want to ride together? (Good to mix up the groups a bit, for the sake of mentoring new riders, welcoming new riders, and keeping the feel of the club more casual and less clique-ish.)

#2. “not be confrontational with **others**.” Changed from “...**a motorist**”.

Reasons for proposed change:

- Includes fellow riders as well as drivers of motor vehicles.

#3. “not be shy about pointing out the unsafe riding practices of others (**in a constructive and encouraging way**).” Words in parentheses added.

Reasons for proposed change:

- More productive to do it in a positive, friendly way.

#4. “recognize that the Executive of the Club, at its sole discretion, **may revoke membership and/or refuse membership**.” Changed from “...**may bar me from club rides if I fail to follow this code**”.

Reasons for proposed change:

- Doesn't pin the Executive to the exact legal wording of the Code in cases where someone is violating the spirit of the Code with unsafe behaviour that may not be spelled out in this code. Covers the Executive to make decisions for the safety of club members.

Changes 1 – 4 are proposed for the Road Rider's Code of Conduct, while changes 2 – 4 are proposed for the Mountain Bike Rider's Code of Conduct.

All in favour, changes approved.

8. Club Rides

8.1. Road rides

8.1.1. 2008 in review: Official, regular, insured club rides include the Saturday morning rides and the Roosters-in-the-Henhouse rides from June - September. We need to pre-inform BNS to be insured so rides organised on Paceline between members are not insured.

8.1.2. 2009 in preview: No changes planned. Anything new, anyone?

8.2. Mountain bike rides

8.2.1. 2008 in review: Wednesday evening rides switched from Shubie Park (wide gravel trail) to Spider Lake (extensive single-track). We lost some numbers with the switch to more challenging riding, but it's better riding and better for improving skills. There is always a talk before the ride, Tom Kavanagh leads, Geoff Murray sweeps.

8.2.2. 2009 in preview: Planning to continue on Wednesday nights at Spider Lake. No other plans for a regular mtb club ride.

8.3. Spin rides at Palooka's: Geoff Murray has organised spin classes at Palooka's on Tuesday evenings. They have a new studio with good bikes and are offering a good price for the group: \$50.91 per person for 8 weeks. Fall session over, 2 seats available in winter session.

9. Introducing.... Paceline 2.0

Paceline 1.0 has been hosted by MSN Groups but they are letting it die and it will cease to exist on 21 February. Geoff Murray has been busy creating Paceline 2.0 for the club and here are some screen shots of the new forum (viewed in meeting). Geoff also created a website for the club since we have never had a website independent of the shop website, over which we have no control. The new forum costs 5\$/month for 5 years and it has many features lacking in Paceline 1.0. The forum will be for members only and not viewable by guests. The BPCC website will be viewable by public and will be low maintenance, without items that need constant updating.

Thank you Geoff!

10. BPCC Team Kit

Louis Garneau (LG) has been our supplier for many years but Giordana is after our business too. We are due for a new design so we will consider Giordana while we're making changes anyway.

The main colour of the team kit – blue – will remain. With the re-design we will keep the order simple this year with only short sleeve jerseys and shorts. Manufacturers do provide some design assistance but we need to do most of this ourselves. We will be forming a team to re-design the team kit, including Doug Smith.

11. Racing

11.1. Road racing

11.1.1. Tour de Wentworth: Tom Beazley and Carol Griffith did a great job as race directors for Tour de Wentworth in 2008. Thank you! Thanks also to all of the volunteers and racers.

11.1.2. Schedule for 2009:

- a) Wentworth: If we are going to organise this race again we will need someone to step up as race director and a small team to make this happen. Nobody on the horizon so far.
- b) Halifax Criterium: HRM has contacted us about making the Crit part of Bike Week! We have set it for the weekend of may 30 – 31 since the Lobster Crawl in Yarmouth is the following weekend. One possible glitch: North Park Street is due for major repairs and the race would be unsafe on the road in its current condition, but it may not be repaired in time. Hanita (HRM transportation/bike week) will look into the schedule for the repairs. HRM may cooperate with us for publicity and they are very interested in putting on a kids' race as well. Sponsorship money from Gavin Giles is still available from last year, but BPCC needs a Race Director.
- c) BNS Road Committee is meeting 27 January to discuss the race schedule for the season.
- d) Breakaway Cycling Productions: Al Mumford is planning a series of races this season, including some stage races.

11.2. Mountain Bike racing – BNS

- 11.2.1. A-Gore-A-Phobia 2008:** Tom Kavanagh was the Race Director, Geoff murray Chief Commissaire and Lola Doucet donated the prizes (cow bells for 1-2-3). There were 76 racers making it the largest BNS MTB race of the season. Will do it again in 2009.
- b) Iditalake: Tom and Geoff will be putting on a 4-race series called "Iditalake" in Jan-Feb, ice-racing on Lake Charles.

11.3. Club Races

11.3.1. 2008 in review: Eric's Time Trial series

Eric Weaver organised 8 Time Trials, weekly, in July-August. The route was 9 km long on a quiet road by Miller Lake. First one was well-attended but attendance did drop off after that. Wanted to attract the "non-racers" to give them a casual event to test themselves. Huge thank you to eric for organising the races!

- 11.3.2. 2009 plans:** Eric plans to organise the series again in 2009 if people will come out to race. Maybe 2 series, one in spring and one in late summer. Zuzka recommends mixing up the results based on improvement rather than just time.

12. Skills workshops for 2009?

Rob Stel used to put on basic bike maintenance clinics. Anyone else interested in doing this? Perhaps staff at the shop? Barry occasionally puts on bike repair clinics. He has a women-only clinic in the works now.

Eric suggested a "Learn to Race" clinic with a video from Canadian Cycling Association. Things like cornering, riding in a pack, climbing and sprinting. A DVD version could be posted on Paceline.

13. Any Other Business

Discussion about how to get more club members out to club rides. 141 members but 50 show up to road rides. About 25 of the members are mtbers. Some join club with best intentions of joining club rides, others join for the club discount. All of the riders who show up regularly to ride are getting faster, so even our slowest Saturday morning group is getting perhaps too fast for members new to cycling. Some people find the club rides intimidating, or riding on the road in any group intimidating. How to introduce them to group riding in a positive way? Suggestions include: schedule a beginner ride the day after a hard training ride, use it as a recovery ride (Zuzka); Barry has organised 2 "Ambassador Rides" but turnout is really low, although that was Gary Murray's first ride with the shop and now he's an active member (Susan); How about scheduling a beginner ride at 11:00 in the summer, after the regular club ride, so when we are all cooked we can go for an easy spin with new members (Art B.). All good ideas to consider for this summer.

14. Adjournment

Scott McMillan moved to adjourn at 9:22 pm.