

Totara Park Mountain Bike Club Inc

AGM Minutes

Date: Thursday 27th May 2021

Venue: Nathan Homestead, 70 Hill Rd, Manurewa, Auckland



Present:	Greg Simmons, Martyn Capstick, Kelvin Hieatt, Geoff Leckie, Alan Zuppich, Egbert Koekoek, Murray Byers, Nigel McCreight, Steve LeGallais, Mike Small, Rob Grossart, Kevin Hawke, Andrew Shallard, Thomas Airs, Adrienne Airs, Braden Schultz, Megan Schultz, Karl French, Glenn Murphy and Phil Murray
Apologies:	Sean Dick, Dave Pizzini, Glenys Org, Janet Stark and Sean Bolton Motion to accept Apologies was proposed by Kelvin Hieatt seconded by Marty Capstick – Carried
Minutes:	Megan Schultz

	Information
	Meeting Opened – 07:35pm
	A motion to accept the minutes of the 2020 AGM was proposed by Greg Simmons and seconded by Martyn Capstick – Motion Carried
1.	Presidents Report Delivered by Martyn Capstick Whilst the worst of Covid is hopefully behind us, we were still impacted with the postponement of race events and working bees, and not able to start any new tracks as in the previous few years. Valley Y was the next area to be developed but the Covid uncertainty cut off our funding. This area has now been planted out, so we need to get in there sooner rather than later to minimise disturbance of the plants. In June we received \$10K from the local board which enabled the jumps on Mawhitiwhiti to be rebuilt, and general weed eating and spraying on the Tom, Dick, Harry and Anaconda tracks Working bees were also reduced over the past year because of the wet winter and park volunteers not being able to work under levels 2 & 3. Earlier this year we Kelvin arranged a dozen or so truckloads of metal to be stockpiled around the park so hopefully working bees monthly will keep the tracks in best condition. We also received 2 truckloads of rock from Link Alliance for use on the Tom, Dick & Harry tracks, some of which has been put to good use, including the new rock drop. The committee wishes to thank Nigel McCreight for helping with this donation. Thank you also to those who attended the working bee last weekend to tidy up Pony Express as this has made a huge improvement in the shedding of rainwater off the track. A good turnout at the working bees helps spread the workload, and great progress can be made quickly. Two weeks ago, we made a submission to the Local Board for another \$20K which will be for the general maintenance of the high-use tracks, with a focus to refurbish the Harry and Dick down tracks as they are potholing on the braking points and crests, and hopefully that will be granted in the coming months. The council have a continual programme to fence off the waterways to prevent cattle gaining access. The council's original proposal would have seen the loss of the whole challenger loop over the skinny bridge, however after negotiation we were able to retain it with the addition of 2 new cattle grates. The ramping up to the grates should be done over the next week and then we will reopen the track. The newly fenced area will also be planted out with natives and there is an opportunity to mark out a new track down to the top of dipper. As discussed at the last AGM we with 5 other mountain biking clubs in the Auckland region put an application with into the Sports and Recreation Facilities Investment Fund

The total application was \$600K for all 5 clubs, with our share being \$150K. The purpose of this Investment Fund was to assist clubs in developing new tracks to enhance the recreation facilities of the local community, which fitted perfectly with our vision.

Because the park is on council owned land, we require a MOU which previous committees have spent many hours trying to arrange, and subsequently our share is deferred until an MOU is established. Good news is recently the council have appointed a consultant, Mat who will advise the on how this is to be set up, as this will be used as a template for other clubs using public land, e.g. Puni, Waiheke and Arch Hill. We have a good ally as he is a keen mountain biker and knows what a good well maintained track network should be and has ridden Totara Park so understands its potential.

The main items of the MOU state who will be responsible for track maintenance, track grading and signage and most importantly where the annual funding will come from.

Mat was unable to be here tonight to give further explanation as he is in Rotorua meeting with the local trails trust and has also talked to the Nelson MTB clubs, so now that he is driving this issue along, we hope to have an outcome soon.

Greg has been updating the masterplan to work towards providing 30km of tracks within the park, which doubles what we have now.

We have also been working with the council on the Redoubt Road carpark redevelopment and the inclusion of a toilet block, bike wash area, additional parking and space put aside for other facilities such as a pump track.

No winter series was able to be held, so a Spring series was held on Sunday afternoons in November and was well attended with over 100 riders and thank-you to Greg for surprising the placegetters with their medallions.

The Summer series was held in February and was also well attended on Thursday evenings. We got 4 of the 5 of the races as the lockdown delayed one race and the final one cancelled.

Thank-you to Woodside Bar and Kitchen for coming on board as the naming sponsor, and also to the Wiri Licencing Trust for their sponsorship.

The Covid lockdown at the end of February required the race committee to decide postponing the March event as we were unsure of what level the country would be at on race day.

A new date was quickly locked in at the end of April to secure the race timing contractor and avoid other biking events as they rescheduled too. This meant that instead of holding the event on hard dry tracks in the late summer we were edging into the fickle autumn season.

On race day morning the event village was hit with heavy rain showers but fortunately had cleared by the 9am start time.

Greg's record of the last 22 race starts being on sunny days without rain had finally come to an end.

However, it provided participants with a new challenge of softer tracks, slippery roots and lots of mud, but by midday the weather was more settled and the tracks became drier and tacky.

Thank-you to Shimano and MyRide Botany for their continued sponsorship of this event, and to Greg and his band of helpers in putting this event together.

After the 2020 event the club presented a cheque for \$2000 to the Totara Hospice and a similar donation will be made again once the accounts are finalised.

We also acknowledged on Facebook and on the signboard in the hub the companies that generously provided the spot prizes, so please continue to show them your support too.

Fund raising from all these events and small grants enabled the club to purchase the club start/finish flags and sign-written gazebo which provided welcome shelter on race days. The gazebo will also be used to establish a base for club members when participating in other events such as the Pukete or Whaka. Another e-barrow and compactor were purchased, so we now have 2 electric and 1 petrol powered barrow and 2 compactors.

In summary club is in a good state with a growing membership and Facebook following, and whilst funding maybe tight for new tracks and equipment for the foreseeable future we are well positioned to look after what we already have.

Thank-you to the present committee for what has been achieved over the last year.

A motion to accept the Presidents Report was proposed by Kelvin Hieatt and seconded by Andrew Shallard – Motion Carried

<p>2.</p>	<p>Treasurers Report Delivered by Greg Simmons</p> <p>Greg ran us through the accounts for the end of 2020/2021 which are looking reasonably healthy for the general running of the club, purchasing new tools and track maintenance. Income has come from donations, maintenance income and racing revenue. Expenses have been the purchase of an E Barrow and compactor for use maintaining the trails. Money has also been spent on hiring contractors to carry out weed spraying, Trail Pro doing work to reshape Mawhitiwhiti and Race Costs (including signage). The club currently has \$16,000 net funds which includes \$7000 for maintenance, \$5000 for races and \$3000 general funds. Financially the club is in a good place, but we are also careful what we spend money on. The fantastic turn out to our races helps a lot with funding so these will continue throughout the year.</p> <p>A motion to accept the Treasurers Report was proposed by Andrew Shallard and seconded by Megan Schultz. Motion Carried</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>Membership Report Delivered by Megan Schultz</p> <p>We currently have approximately 360 members which have increased from 330 this time last year. We have a successful social media presence with 3,523 likes and 3,788 followers on Facebook. This has proven a great way to promote events and working bees as well as share general news and concerns from the club. We are looking at a refresh of the members list, looking to update members details and create an active membership to engage with races and working bees.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Council/Local Board</p> <p>Kelvin has continued to foster a good relationship with the council and has put through a funding application to the Manurewa Local Board for \$20,000 to cover maintenance of the tracks over the coming year. Along with the club working bees resurfacing of Tom and a tidy up of the Dick and Harry down tracks by contractors is planned with this funding. Local Board meet June 17th so here's hoping the grant funding application is accepted and confirmed. The council has contracted a consultant to work with Mountain Bike Clubs based on Council land in the Auckland region. Their plan is to work with us first to put in place an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) and then to take that template to the other clubs. The MOU is to include maintenance, signage, track grading and the agreement itself between the club and Council. The current Totara Park masterplan is outdated so Greg Simmons is working on a wish list of new tracks including some already promoted plus some others not yet scoped out. Once confirmed the tracks will be added to the plan as an addendum. The Tom, Dick, Harry and Log Cross tracks were not included on the Council's Asset Register when completed. Council is currently mapping them so they can be added and included in the maintenance schedule. As part of the MOU discussions with Council we're working through who will be responsible for doing different aspects of the maintenance on the track e.g. City Care to do weed control and tree pruning and the Club look after the track surface. After many years of requesting this MOU great strides are finally being made. By agreeing an MOU with Council we should be able to obtain much greater funding for the tracks as well as be able to contract our own specialist contractors to undertake the heavy lifting when it comes to the big maintenance jobs. This will be a huge benefit to the club and riding community once in place.</p>

<p>6.</p>	<p>Track Maintenance</p> <p>A particular big thanks to Karl who often does a lot of touch up to improve the tracks all around the park which is greatly appreciated.</p> <p>A recent working bee focused on improving the root section/corner on Pony Express. A more clay-based material has been used this time to surface the track which will pack down nicely after a bit of rain on it. This track material is purchased from a contractor by the Club and then billed to City Care. Future working bees will be scheduled in once a month on a Saturday with the occasional Sunday when extra work is required. The exit of DIC track will be the focus of the next working bee.</p> <p>Kelvin has applied to the local board for funding for Dick and Harry down maintenance as these tracks have suffered wear from the increased popularity of the tracks/park.</p> <p>By using the MyAuckland website you can report problems in the park such as weed clearance/control. Kelvin has been using this to report problems when he sees them and encourages others to do so also.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Health and Safety</p> <p>Working bees have had no incidents, accidents or near misses. At each working bee we have a council low risk assessment and have each volunteer sign it.</p> <p>A few ambulances have been called into the park for rider incidents. These happen all over the park not in one specific location therefore there is no place of specific concern to fix.</p> <p>Club members and members of public need to respect track closures as these are there for a safety. Signs and barriers are always in place to clearly show when tracks are closed. Any questions can be asked on the Totara Park Mountain Bike Club Facebook page. A question from the floor with regards to DIC being closed off earlier in the day. Attendees were advised this was a simple mistake by the Council Contractor. The block should have been a replacement for the log bridge barricade fencing, which is still in place at the Council's request.</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>New Tracks for 2020/21</p> <p>Until we have an MOU with the council future track builds have been temporarily put on hold. However, we have been working on the 'Challenger' track. A new area has been fenced by the council to protect the waterways so the club has taken the opportunity to work with the council to realign the current track to work in with the fencing. This also allows us to plan for some fun new trails within this area. Spraying of this area by council has just occurred and planting of this area will happen on Saturday June 26th.</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>Events for 2021/22</p> <p>The Club will endeavour to run a Winter and Spring race series again as the Covember Series was such a great hit.</p> <p>Greg has plans to try to run a reverse course night race and a dedicated E bike race as they are becoming so popular.</p> <p>The hugely successful summer series will be held again in February and March next year.</p> <p>The Totara360 will also be held again on Saturday 12th March 2022. For various reasons the plan is to always hold this race on the second Saturday in March.</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>General Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An attendee asked if the council maintain the upright such as branches etc? Kelvin replied that the Council contractor City Care has done some work on the trees beside the track, but once the MOU is in place this will be better delegated. • An attendee asked if the tracks were going to be fenced off. Kelvin advised no due to additional maintenance concerns. • Kevin Hawke asked if there is a plan to maintain the track 'Fatmans' as it is the entry track to the park and has some big grooves in it. The club plans to do work on this track, however first the drains need to be cleared to allow the water to drain away rather than it running down the track. Material has been placed close to track for a future working bee to improve some of the worst sections. The long-term plan is to get the whole track surface scraped to even it out. • Janet Stark sent an email to thank the club for their hard work in the park. She appreciates having a great facility to hold her coaching sessions at.

- Mike Small reminded the club of the Reserves Act 1977 Section 17 that states that 'recreation reserves are for the purpose of providing areas for the recreation and sporting activities and the physical welfare and enjoyment of the public, and for the protection of the natural environment and beauty of the countryside, with emphasis on the retention of open spaces and on outdoor recreational activities, including recreational tracks in the countryside.' He stated this is important when working with the council as this is something they need to adhere to with Totara Park. Kelvin informed attendees that at every opportunity the Council, be that staff or Local Board members are reminded that this park was purchased by the former Manukau City Council in April 1966 and gazetted as a Recreational Reserve for the community. This will continue to be reiterated throughout the MOU discussions.

11. Election of Officers

President – Kelvin Hieatt

Nominated by Marty and seconded by Geoff Leckie. Unanimous vote.

Vice President – Geoff Leckie

Two nominations were made for the role of Vice President. These were Geoff Leckie and Martyn Capstick. A vote was carried out and Geoff Leckie was successful with the majority vote.

Treasurer – Greg Simmons

Nominated by Kelvin Hieatt and seconded by Andrew Shallard. Unanimous vote.

Secretary – Megan Schultz

Nominated by Greg Simmons and seconded by Geoff Leckie. Unanimous vote.

Media Officer – Braden Schultz

Nominated by Greg Simmons and seconded by Martyn Capstick. Unanimous vote.

MTBNZ Liaison Officer/Membership – Braden and Megan Schultz

Nominated by Kelvin Hieatt and seconded by Andrew Shallard. Unanimous vote.

Club Captain – Greg Simmons

Nominated by Kelvin Hieatt and seconded by Braden Schultz. Unanimous vote.

Council Liaison Officer – Geoff Leckie

Nominated by Greg Simmons and seconded by Nigel McCreight. Unanimous vote.

Committee – Egbert Koekoek, Alan Zuppich, Marty Capstick and Andrew Shallard

All names put forward were accepted. No further voting was undertaken.

Meeting Closed – 8:47pm