



KZN MTB COMMISSION

ADDING VALUE TO MOUNTAIN BIKING IN KWA ZULU NATAL

July 2010

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KZN Mountain Bike Commission – P.O. Box 768 Hilton 3245

Charles Roberts (Chairman), Brett Austen-Smith (Vice Chairman), Brian Dinkleman, Johann Wykerd, Dellah Paul, Trevor Davids, (Commissioners) Kate Funnell (Secretary)



CONTACT.....8

1. OVERVIEW

The KZN MTB Commission is a volunteer organisation established in terms of the constitution of Cycling KZN, and is a subsidiary of Cycling KZN. Cycling SA reports to the Department of Sport and as such is accountable to the government of South Africa.

The KZN MTB Commission comprises a number of commissioners that strive to administer the sport in the province in a responsible and professional way. Our primary goal is to manage mountain biking in KZN in accordance with the rules and regulations that have been developed over time, while promoting and adding value wherever possible.

The ethos of the Commission is embodied in the slogan: “Sport run by people with passion that promote environmentally sound and socially responsible mountain biking” and the practical working of this can be seen in the continuous improvements that are made every year.

2. KZN MTB FINANCES

The KZN MTB Commission is legally a “volunteer organisation” which does not make a profit. All revenues collected are used for the management and development of the sport in KZN and to assist rider development. The finances are managed by the elected Treasurer and overseen transparently by the Commission at monthly meetings. All transactions are processed on an accounting package through an independent bookkeeper and the financials are audited annually by a certified accountant. All records are open to inspection.

3. KZN MTB STAKEHOLDERS

Basically everyone involved in Mountain Biking in KZN is a stakeholder. This includes the Dept of Sport, KZN Sports Council, UCI, CSA, CKZN, Sponsors, Land Owners, Municipalities, Affiliated organisations (e.g. EMBA), Clubs, Event Organisers, Cycling Shops, Cyclists, Guardians, Spectators, Media (print, radio, TV), Merchandise and Apparel manufacturers.

The network of relationships amongst these stakeholders is managed by the governing bodies, namely CSA, CKZN and KZN MTB, with regional matters resting with the latter. Strategic business thinking is applied in an effort to refine and improve every aspect of the sport. Agreements are drawn up to manage the relationships between parties. Day to day matters are handled by all members of the Commission as part of the process of managing mountain biking in the province.



4. AREAS MANAGED BY THE KZN MTB COMMISSION:

- Event Calendar
- Event Safety & Disciplines (Commissaires)

- Event Management
- Trail Management
- Risk Management (Insurance)
- High Performance Programme
- World Cup and World Champs
- Development Programme
- Communications
- Websites
- Results
- Discipline
- Constitutional Matters
- Race Organiser Interface

5. EVENT CALENDAR

The KZN annual MTB calendar, currently with about 75 events in 2010, is managed and updated by the KZN MTB Commission. For 2011 there has been an intensely co-ordinated project that has spanned many months in order to get a calendar structure that attempts to meet the requirements and needs of our various stakeholders

The calendar includes all information necessary stakeholders, such as dates, location, type of event and organisers' details. It can be downloaded from the official KZN MTB pages on the Cycling KZN Website at www.cyclingkzn.co.za.

All races in KZN must be sanctioned by the KZN MTB Commission in terms of the constitution and CSA regulations. Each Event Organiser has to make application (request for sanctioning) to hold an event which is then generally sanctioned with the issuing of a Sanction Certificate. The fees that are charged by KZN MTB are used for a national insurance fund that covers the landowners for 3rd party liability in the amount of up to R15 million on race day. Any event organiser that hosts an event that is not sanctioned would be liable for damages in the event of a rider or landowner suing for damages, hence the importance of the sanctioning.

The fees that are charged by KZN MTB Commission for races vary, depending on the category of race. Generally the race category is determined by the size, nature and importance of the event.

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Once the calendar is laid out, just managing it on a day-to-day basis requires a certain amount of dedicated administration resource that is provided by the KZN MTB Commission. We have a full-time secretary employed by the commission for all administrative tasks.

6. EVENT SAFETY

The Commissaires for sanctioned MTB events are provided by the Commission and adhere to the UCI MTB standards and the SA MTB Rules and Regulations, both of these documents are available for viewing on the CSA website.

The KZN MTB Commission currently has more than ten (10) trained officials who are trained under specially facilitated training courses over large event weekends. The KZN MTB Commission ensures that every race that is sanctioned has Commissaires to ensure that the appropriate safety standards and criteria are adhered to.

Commissaires are responsible for upholding rules and regulation on the day of events. They are also invited by the event organisers to ride/walk the course before the race to advise on course markings and to advise on dangerous sections that may have to be changed (or by-passed with chicken runs).

7. EVENT MANAGEMENT

Provincial: XC & DH

The provincial cross country (XC) and downhill (DHH) events are owned and managed by the KZN MTB Commission. These take the form of a series of events with one of them being the relevant discipline KZN Champs. Thus there are series winners (most points over the series) and KZN Champs (winner of the one-off event).

The event venues are selected to encourage participation with a view to developing these disciplines. Up to 2010, various clubs have “hosted” these events for KZN MTB and this is likely to be the same in 2011.

SA Cup and SA Championships

Up to 2010, these events were jointly owned by MTN (with a 3-year sponsorship deal) and CSA. From 2011 these will be fully owned by CSA but with sponsors – yet to be announced. The focus of the nationals will place even greater emphasis in future on grooming young athletes for international competition.

Many other sports that participate internationally in South Africa have very defined programmes and structures (and funding) that allow the teams or individuals to get medals at the various



international events (Olympics, World Games, World Cups, World Champs etc) and Cycling SA has embarked upon a strategic course of action to do the same for our promising young riders.

From a KZN MTB perspective, the KZN leg of the National Championships is held at Cascades in Pietermaritzburg as this has proven to be a superb venue for a number of reasons, not the least of which is the amazing terrain on which to build world class XC and DH tracks.

So good is the area, that in 2011 Cascades will once again host the World Cup XC, DH and 4-cross at the same venue in the same week. This is a remarkable achievement and one that the KZN MTB Commission is proud of.

Seeding System

KZN MTB Commission manages a seeding system that is used to determine your starting position in super classics and marathons and is determined by past results and participation.

8. LAND ACCESS AND TRAIL MANAGEMENT

Without access to land, there is no mountain biking and it is a major focus of the KZN MTB Commission to engage land owners at all levels to allow riders to enjoy the wonderful natural forests that we have, while satisfying a lot of legal requirements. To this end, the KZN MTB Commission has recently appointed a Commissioner from the Forestry industry, who is dedicated to handling the Land Access and Trail Management portfolios.

The KZN MTB Commission also facilitates the training of IMBA (International Mountain Biking Association) trail builders in special workshops to ensure that trails in KZN are built and managed to the proper international safety standards. So while Mountain biking can be considered an extreme sport, we are doing what we can to ensure that the trails and all the obstacles that are encountered are either built or managed in a safe way.

For trail riding within the greater Ethekeweni area see www.emba.org.za and MTB riding in the greater Karkloof area, visit the www.howickmountainbiking.co.za

MTB is inherently a dangerous sport and although KZN MTB can do all in their power to provide a safe riding experience, due to the nature of the sport it is virtually impossible. Therefore it is incumbent on the rider to act in consideration of all that participate in the sport of MTB.

9. RISK MANAGEMENT (INSURANCE)

Landowners generally have public liability cover in place as a formality as they want to allow the public to enjoy using their land for riding, while at the same time protecting them from unnecessary publicity following a potential cycling accident on the land.



Event Organisers are covered on race day with the KZN MTB insurance policy and CSA is in the process of preparing non-race day cover for all CSA registered riders. This is a good reason for taking out a CSA licence.

Thus KZN MTB is in ongoing discussions with the landowners and trail builders in the KZN forests to create an equitable arrangement where all parties are satisfied.

10. HIGH PERFORMANCE PROGRAMME

The High Performance Programme is managed by a special sub-committee on the KZN MTB Commission and has designed a programme that takes riders from school to world champions (we already have 2 world champions from KZN).

The programme is a holistic one that takes athletes the KZN Cup series (XC and DH) to the KZN Champs, to National Cup Series to the National Champs. In 2011 this programme is going to extend downwards to High Schools and even to Primary Schools as the KZN MTB Commission is gearing up to appoint commissioners who will be dedicated to managing these layers of activity.

Just to show the success of the KZN Hi Performance programme, 2 of the 4 junior cyclists selected for the Youth Olympic Games in Singapore in August 2010, are from KZN. Furthermore, 8 out of the 15 cyclists representing South Africa at the World Champs in Canada in September are from KZN.

CSA have put a lot of focus on winning medals at the 2012 Olympics in the XC (Cross Country) elite men and women categories and one of the KZN MTB commissioners is responsible for managing this.

On top of that, SA MTB are focusing on winning medals at the 2011 and 2012 World Champs in the men and women XC and DH junior, U23 and elite categories, plus the men's and women's marathons. Once again this is being managed by the one of the KZN MTB commissioners

KZN MTB is also focused on winning medals at the 2011 & 2012 SA Champs in both men's and women's XC and DH youth, junior, U23 and Elite categories. Focus is also being put on the men's and women's marathon series.

KZN MTB is also embarking on a programme to get Clubs to be more active in working towards their members achieving medals at Provincial Champs in all disciplines and categories.

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11. DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Cycling KZN, the governing body in the province, has a Development Commission that is dedicated to development of all disciplines (road, track, BMX and mtb).

Notwithstanding that, the KZN MTB Commission has formulated a Development Programme that will be a 3-pronged program encompassing the following areas:

Academy:

KZN MTB are in the process of establishing a Mountain Biking Academy at the Cascades facility in PMB. This facility will offer an introduction to MTB to the general public in a safe and controlled environment and will provide a place to safely store and maintain bikes for use by historically disadvantaged individuals. The historically disadvantaged individuals will receive training and tuition at the Academy.

Over time, we wish to build this into becoming a centre of excellence for mountain biking with an auditorium, recreational area and offices with full time staff. As this requires the involvement of the Msundusi municipality, the discussions for land access are still in progress. We are also in the process of securing some sponsorships for the programme.

School Series:

Primary School Series:

Currently the Mongoose Series offers scholars the opportunity to compete against one another. The series will be expanded and the marketing thereof improved.

High Schools Series:

Spur Steak Ranch sponsors an interschool series specifically aimed at high school students. This series is similar to the Primary School Series with the main difference the length and technicality of the courses.

12. COMMUNICATION

KZN MTB is in the process of establishing a database of all KZN MTB riders that will allow the commission to communicate directly with these riders via email.

The commission also has pages on the CKZN website (<http://www.cyclingkzn.co.za>) and is in the process of developing its own separate site with links from the CKZN site.

The commission also has a Facebook page where some news and pictures are posted (search for “KZN Mountain Biking” on Facebook).



In KZN, ROAG (Race Organisers Admin Group) is the largest on-line portal that offers on-line entries, race information, seeding and general communications for riders in KZN. Currently there are over 6000 KZN Riders registered in this database and growing all the time. Because ROAG effectively covers the riders with general race updates and information, the KZN MTB will use its database to cover other information to the riders, such as matters relating to land access, legal matters, calendar matters etc.

The KZN Database is set to be live at the end of July 2010.

13. CONTACT

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