

Submitted By: Jason Carter

Date: September 16, 2012

Comments & Updates:

Since the last Board meeting, the local cycling world has been very busy.

On the side of great news, both Chris Prendergast and Leah Kirchmann have been named to their respective World Championship teams. This is great news for two athletes who were made in Manitoba, and who followed the LTAD program before it was even recognized as such. Everyone wishes them the best.

Leah will be competing in the Elite Women's road race of 145km **on Friday, September 21, 2012 at 14:30pm (7:30am Manitoba Time).**

Chris will be competing in the Junior Men's road race of 129km on **Sunday, September 23, 2012 at 9:00am (2:00am Manitoba Time).**

As well, Jayson Gillespie was named as the head coach of the Worlds team for Junior Men. Not only is this an excellent credential for Jay, it is great news for Manitoba because it shows that we are moving into the top ranks for cycling development and coaching.

Unfortunately, discussions regarding a "Devo-Cross" and "Kidz Cross" program broke down due to some bothersome insurance issues. While everyone recognizes the need to attract and teach skill to new riders, insurance standards were imposed on the MCA long ago regarding the administrative arrangements that are required for such clinics. The insurance for clinics is expensive, as BMX has recently found out, but nevertheless found the cash. The organizers of the "Cross-lab" sessions refused to limit the sessions to MCA members only, refused to take out event insurance from Marsh, and arranged private insurance from IMBA/Oasis which protected the organizers, but not the participants. In addition, the release form used was for MTB events conducted in alpine terrain.

Contacting Oasis clarified that the Commercial General Liability insurance product they provide does not cover legal actions between riders. For example, had the accident at the first Lab been serious, rider A's son could have sued Rider B, but Rider B. would not have had coverage. While the club organizers are covered under the Oasis product, legal actions of rider vs. rider is not. Nor is AD&D insurance in place. It was also found out that a similar insurance problem existed with the Provincial ITT race – although contact between racers in an ITT is obviously remote.

The current CCC/Marsh solution is the "One Day Tryout". The One Day Tryout would make a new person a temporary club and MCA member, without requiring extra cost. The entire group would therefore be members, and would not run afoul of the CCC/Marsh rule that we're having problems with. However, the second time that person showed up for a clinic or Lab, he/she would have to become a MCA member in the normal way. A modified MCA release for the One

Day Tryout was prepared and provided to the organizer.

While the organizers chose not to follow this One Day Tryout process and run the Labs without insurance for the participants, it is not known whether or not the participants were notified of the lack of insurance for the clinic.

CCC has undertaken to negotiate further with Marsh in the hopes of creating a similar insurance product as is provided for Can-bike, as reported by Brett Stewart, the CCC Director of Finance:

We are working with Marsh and Sports-Can to extend the premium structure in place for CanBike and Let's Ride to include clinic activity [such as BMX and Cross Labs]. More broadly, we are trying to frame this as educational & instructional activity as a separation from event activity. I'm meeting with Marsh and Sports-Can next week in Toronto and will address this consideration. (Note: I will also raise the challenge you face with event organizers finding alternative event insurance at lower cost to the CC program).

For clinics, I think we try to mirror some of the format elements in place for CanBike and Let's Ride. For example: must be sanctioned by MCA or an affiliated club, not to exceed the 8:1 participant to instructor/coach ratio, instructor or coach must be certified and be a member, format is educational/instructional based.

Racing cyclists decided long ago, 1980 in fact by Mr. Oland Sr., that they were best served when they banded together in clubs and in an association to create a strong cycling environment. Group insurance was identified as a need by the members and also arranged long ago. Most people completely forget that it's there, until something tragic happens, like the death of Arne Johnsrud while on a club-approved and insured ride.

Of course it is always an option for a club to arrange independent insurance with Oasis or some other insurer. My objection is that the organizers must be up front with people by telling them that the MCA insurance they assume to be in place and have paid for is not there. And they should tell them what is in the insurance program that they negotiate from Oasis or other provider. People should not be surprised when coverage is denied when it's most needed.

Some objection has been received, of course, about the appropriateness of the MCA/CCC and myself to become involved in club matters. However, like all incorporated non-profit organizations, the MCA has a Constitution which is essentially an agreement among all its members. A person becomes a member, pays the fee, obtains certain rights with regards to the other members of the organization, and accepts the obligations (essentially a promise to all the other members) to abide by its bylaws, policies and rules – including the insurance contract that the organization negotiates on behalf of members. That applies to clubs too, although currently in the MCA Constitution it's implicit in the fact that a club cannot derive rights and obligations without individuals who are members.

On more a more productive note, Phase 2 of the Can-Bike video project - the finish editing of the remaining Can-Bike chapters – proceeds. The high definition video has been obtained from the original camera person, and has been evaluated by another video professional. A meeting with MHL will go over the next steps.

Even more time was spent with the ED regarding the audit of the 2011 (last season). The reports needed to reflect the budget structure and grants from Sport Manitoba. Although the 2011 figures are accurate and without concern, the cost of the audit is a major concern and will reflect poorly on the 2012 budget.

The Woodhaven Community Club has been secured for the Town Hall and AGM on October 20<sup>th</sup>. Although this is not the preferred venue, it is clean, bright, and more than adequate for our needs.

I attended Ciclovía and participated in the Tweed ride which was great fun for owners of vintage bikes. Some discussions were had with the organizers about expanding this ride, especially since there are a large number of vintage racers in Winnipeg, and since the first cycling club was formed in 1883! And a productive discussion with an organizer demonstrated their eagerness to hold a Criterium race at the Legislature, or a Cross race at the Forks. They are well aware of the MCA's race calendar process and should be contacted in January to firm up their intentions.

A tremendous amount of time has been spent on re-drafting the contract for the Provincial Head Coach, and to create the supporting documents for amendments to the Constitution.

I was asked by CBC Information Radio to follow up on a suggestion, made during Bike to Work Day, to take Marcy Markusa for a ride that would identify a few trouble spots for commuters. On one hand, this was a step forward as we've heard many instances of "ride-along" interviews for different types of traffic (trucks, taxi's, police) but never cycling. On the other hand, Ms. Markusa had not been on a bike for many years. A session in an empty parking lot was used to get her up to speed, and she proved an eager and skillful student, after solving some difficulties with a bike that was too big and a helmet that was useless. Of course in the park and some other areas the riding was enjoyable. However, riding in traffic and on some "bike paths" were far from easy. The piece should air on Sept. 18.

I attended Dark Cross, which was wonderfully organized and a fantastic event. We've not seen races of that scale and excitement in Winnipeg since the Cobblestone Classic. Some former racers mentioned how surprised they were to find a crowd actually watching a cycling race again. Bravo!