



## 2022-23 AGM MTB Sub-Committee Report

MTB Sub-committee members for the 2022-23 season have been: Robert Comeskey (convenor), Deb Sherwin, Wayne Hiscock, Marco Renalli, Pete Mitchell, Martin McCrudden.

SUPER Marshals/Supporters to whom we owe huge thanks:

Joel Healy, Leighton Beard, Mark Donald, Georgia Jennings, Jana & Michal Solc (+ their trailer!)

### Overview:

The 2022-23 MTB season was a bit disappointing in terms of members involvement in Cross-country mountain biking. After the covid disruptions of 2020-22, the committee expected participation numbers to rebound, but we had less riders in the 2022 Spring Series across five races than we had across the four races completed in 2021. This is a worrying trend.

The Health & Safety requirements grew very significantly in 2022-23. This was mostly noticeable with new TMP (Traffic Management Plan) requirements and where DOC required us to get (and pay for) an independent Health & Safety Audit. After a LOT of work mainly by Deb Sherwin & Wayne Hiscock, building on previous work by Pete Mitchell and Robert Comeskey (for the Schools MTB Champs) PNP MTB passed the audit and have been awarded a **ROSA Outdoor Safety Certificate**. However this has resulted in us having good, robust Health & Safety processes, which need to be reviewed on at least an annual basis.



In 2023 we branched out to having an 'old school event' at Tunnel Gully in Upper Hutt. The trails were a bit spread out and slippery underfoot. This was our least attended event (57 riders).

### Timing Systems

Again the 2022 Spring Series had the club try another electronic timing system, with us working with Jono of WMTBC to try the system they bought. This was a significantly different system with the riders wearing a small 'receiver' on their wrists, which picked up a time-stamp from the signal posts as they passed. We typically only had a signal post for the Start/Finish points, which were usually but not always the same point. The main findings of using the system were:

- Setup was not particularly easy, with Jono ending up setting up each event and needing to think hard about how many times riders from each Grade passed the signal posts.
- The setup relied on software + database installed on a WMTBC laptop. Acquiring the laptop for the event setup and configuration was difficult, so Jono did most of this, including publishing results.
- Results were very reliable, with the system being quite reliable with recording accurate time-stamps as riders completed laps, including the finish.
- Riders needed to 'download' results from their wrist-based reader into the system via a dedicated reader. This led to queues at the finish line and the risk that riders would not return their readers and get no results (and we get missing hardware). This also led to **significant time-delays in organisers knowing if all riders had finished racing**, with little knowledge on who had started and/or completed any laps.
- There was a delay in getting results out of the system as we were reliant on either getting a printout from Jono, or waiting for results to be exported out then imported into WebScorer for web-based access.

Ultimately it was decided to try find a system natively integrating with WebScorer so we have better feedback about riders while they are on-course. Investigations are ongoing.

### Health & Safety

The cost of providing On-site Medical assistance has become prohibitive. We were primarily using Medic One for most of the 2022 Season but were given short notice of them not being able to attend on a couple of events. Fortunately, we were able to get Dave Nendick to fill those gaps at short notice.

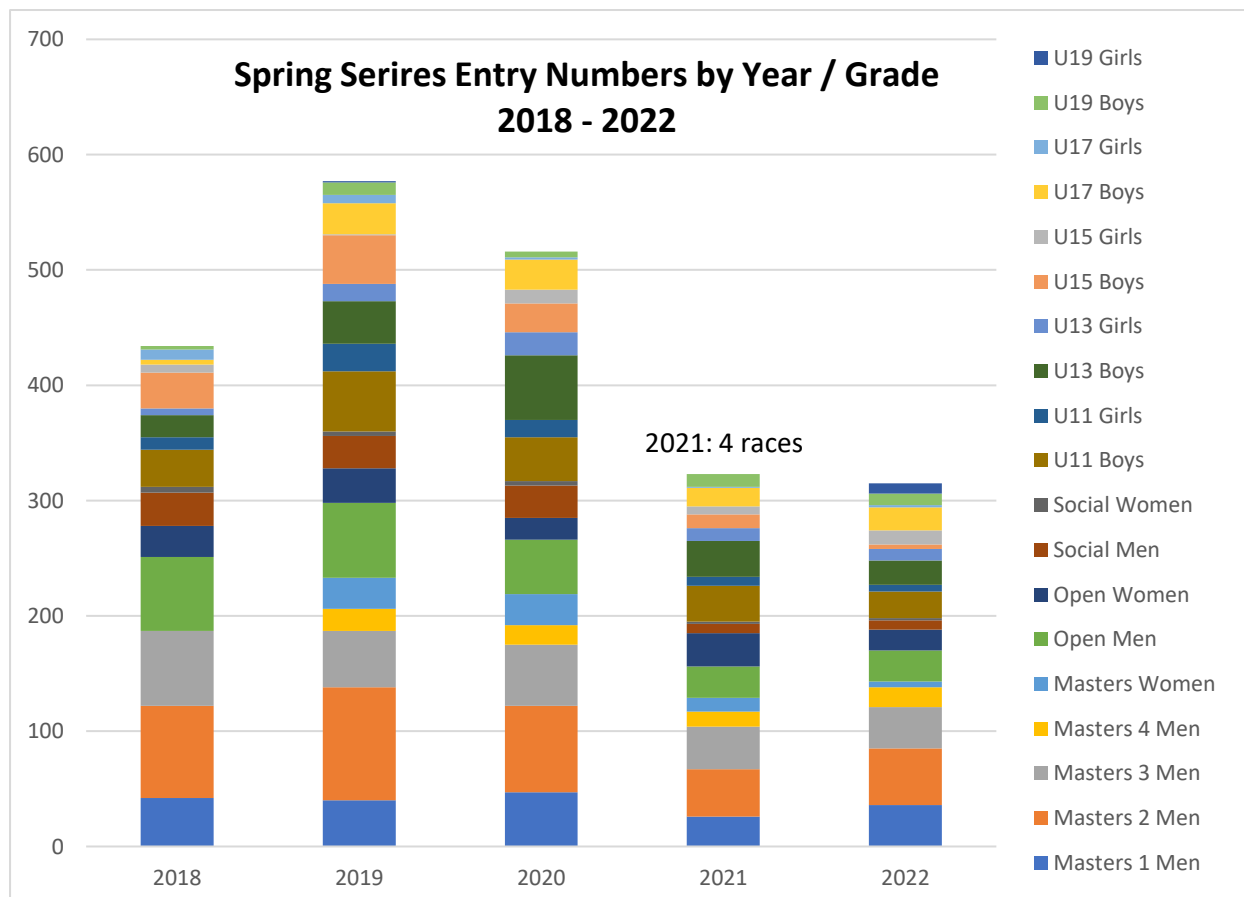
To address this issue, PNP MTB (Deb, really!) secured funding for about a dozen of our committee and regular marshals and riders to attend a 1-day Outdoor First Aid course focussed on safety around MTB events. With this training and some additional resources acquired, the committee feel more confident about self-providing first-aid assistance around the MTB events and calling for professional assistance at the time that the need arises.

### Rider Numbers

As mentioned in the introduction, the number of riders participating in the 2022-23 season dropped off notably. The 2023 Club Champs numbers dropped a bit with 55 entries in 2023, compared to 57 in 2022 and 83 in 2021.

The number of entries in the Spring Series 2018-2022 has been summarised in the graph below. Some notable points include:

- The Open Women group peaked in 2021, but some may have moved back into U19W.
- The U15 Boys category appears to have shrivelled, after a very interested group from a Seaton school seem to have drifted away.
- The two traditional 'powerhouse' groups of Open Men and MM2 have both dwindled a bit.



## Achievements

There have been some significant achievements by club riders including:

**Sammie Maxwell:** National Champion in XCO, XCE, XC Marathon; Oceania XCO Champion;  
More recently: World Cup U23 podiums and World U23 Champion

**Nate Beard:** Won the 2022 Whaka 50K race in Rotorua

**Millie Donald:** 1<sup>st</sup> in all 3 XCO National series races; 1<sup>st</sup> National Schools MTB U19; 2<sup>nd</sup> National XCO Champs U19; 3<sup>rd</sup> Female Whaka 50 (Open);

**Lara Comeskey & Millie Donald:** 2nd Open Women Team in Volcanic Epic

## Spring Series Results:

The winners of each section of the **2022 Spring Series** were:

Grade	Men	Women
Open	Nate Beard	Lara Comeskey
Social	Ben Adams	-
Masters1: 30+	Stephen Butler	-
Masters2: 40+	Gav Wheelworks	Jacqueline O'Hagan
Masters3: 50+	Jason McCarty	-
Masters4: 60+	Gary Moller	-
U19	Cohen Hiswin	Erin Anderson
U17	Lucas De Vera	Mikayla Perry
U15	Noah Mclaughlin	Sophia Weston
U13	Wilbur Weston	Rebecca Wallace
U11	Anthony Adams	Ellie Wallace

## Club Championships:

The 2022 Club Champions as per the Club Champs in Feb 2023 were:  
Nate Beard and Lara Comeskey

The numbers attending the 2022 club Championships were again down, but with no apparent hinderances to people attending this year (and great weather).

## Future:

Despite some marketing directly to schools, XCO rider numbers continue to fall. This is making the holding of official racing events more difficult to economically achieve.

New committee members could boost both the enthusiasm and innovation factors and are strongly encouraged. For example, PNP MTB could look to foster a more 'club event' social XCO riding scene particularly with younger riders, building on the young rider base established by WORD - possibly in conjunction with them.

Robert Comeskey  
Convenor MTB Sub-committee