

# ORIENTEERING AUSTRALIA 2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

## 8.4 MOUNTAIN BIKE ORIENTEERING REPORT

### Recommendations /

- Need to get more Australians accredited as **MTBO controllers**.

This could be addressed by subsidizing an IOF expert such as Sandor Talas to run a course in conjunction with a major event in Australia in March/May 2018.

- **OA website** needs to have Mtbo pages link visibly accessible from the front page rather than hidden.

Help is needed for NOL event organizers to have **Australian Sports Foundation MTBO donations** added to their Eventor sites. Who should this be?

- Publicity & Promotion – Some funds from OA are sought to support the **Facebook “boost”** option on the MTBO Australia page for NOL rounds. Target 18-60 year olds within a certain radius and with adventure racing interests

- **State financial support** for MTBO NOL elite riders would be advantageous.

### Changes implemented / sought

- -Pedal assist E Bikes with a power limit of 250 watts to be allowed on any course “non-competitively” during 2018. . After this trial, if sufficient interest, we could introduce specific EBike classes. This innovation is aimed at our older and injured riders but could attract more recreational riders too. (Kathy Liley is updating the rules to include this)

- A “MTBO Australia” Facebook site was established this year & extensively utilised for promotion.

- Guidelines for use of SI at National Events – it was agreed that organisers of Australian and State Championships be strongly recommended to use Sport Ident AIR for contactless punching.

- National Series & State Champs Classes for 2018. Discussion was held on the labelling of classes for consistency across states. Agreed to use the basic Foot O classes, So: M/W14, 16, 20, 21, 40, 50, 60, 70, and 80.

### Background

#### **MAIN POSITIVES**

#### **International success.**

- **JWOC performances** by our 2 juniors Lucy & Fergus Mackie were outstanding. 19 year old Lucy placed 2<sup>nd</sup> & 16 year old Fergus placed 9<sup>th</sup> respectively in the middle & Lucy was a close 7<sup>th</sup> in the long. Glen Charlton made his international debut in WOC & was beset by

mechanical problems but showed great promise. Ricky Thackray (injured) & Angus Robinson (uni commitments) were both selected but were late withdrawals.

- Marina Iskhakova made her international mtbo debut at the **European Champs** in France & did well and is aiming at WOC in 2018.

- Australia was well represented by 15 riders In the **Masters World Champs** in France. Medals were won by Carolyn Jackson (3 x silver); Kathy Liley (1 gold, 1 silver, 1 bronze) & Leigh Privett (1 silver, 1 bronze).

Aussie results in the 15 race **World Masters Series**: Gold –Tamsin Barnes (W45); Carolyn Jackson (W60); Leigh Privett (M70); Silver Kathy Liley (W70). Bronze- Kay Haarsma (W60)

-**Australian MTBO NOL Events.** Three well organised rounds were held in VIC; QLD & NSW. The latter saw a record participation of 176 riders at an excellently organised Australian Championships around Wingello. Two of these events were also part of the 2018 World Masters series.

**2018 NOL venues** this gives two rounds before the World Championships.:

- VIC – 17 & 18 March - Creswick, Victoria. Vic Champs & Australian World Champs selection trials
- QLD – 19 & 20 May - Sunshine Coast, QLD Australian Champs
- ACT - 13 & 14 October - Canberra - ACT Champs

**-The Aus v NZ Challenge** was successfully held with the Australian Championships with NZ winning 23 points to 12. More classes were conducted than ever before including 2 junior women.

- The 2018 challenge will be held April 24-26<sup>th</sup> in South Island, NZ.
- On behalf of OA Mtbo I officially approached NZ Orienteering in October with the offer to incorporate any Woc / Jwoc riders into our overseas training & travel plans. This would be an advantage to both parties and some interest from 3 Kiwis has been shown for 2018.
- Victoria still leads the way with **schools development** as its annual interschool event attracts 150+ riders. St Philip's College in Alice Springs conducts an annual MTBO event as part of its co-curricular program.
- MTBO will again be showcased in Alice Springs with 1 event (as well as 3 foot O events) as part of the **Alice Springs Masters Games** from October 13-20<sup>th</sup> 2018.
- 2019 Australian Championships** 26-27 October in Victoria. Probably Maryborough area.

### Issues

- Need to get more Australians accredited as IOF MTBO controllers.
- Although 5 states ran state championships numbers were relatively small in 2 of these.  
Also would be good to have championships run by TAS & NT.
- States could look at promoting MTBO through tendering for projects through the OA/ ASC participation funding program.
- Given the change in IOF fees for World Ranking List events we can look at hosting such events in 2019.
- States are being encouraged to run relay (either solo, 2 or 3 person teams) and mass start events to give international riders practice of these formats.
- Need to diversify the format of state events to attract different riders –such as utilizing score events and allowing pairs in non-Championship events.
- It would be handy to have a map database for MTBO maps, such as Omaps but ideally this would require a national approach.
- MTBO Controller Accreditation. Program was submitted to OA in June 2017. Awaiting feedback.
- MTBO Coaching Accreditation... Craig Steffen, Kath Liley & Kay Haarsma are working on this.

### **MTBO WORLD CHAMPS RESULTS -LITHUANIA**

	Sprint	Middle	Long	Mass start	Woc men's relay
<b>Jwoc</b>					
Lucy Mackie	16	2	7	DNF	16 <sup>th</sup> – 80mins
Fergus Mackie	19	9	25	35	12 <sup>th</sup> – 64 mins
<b>WOC</b>					
Glen Charlton	61	67	Mechanical	Mechanical	17 <sup>th</sup> – 79mins 16 <sup>th</sup> - Team

**Kay Haarsma MTBO Coordinator.**