



CYCLING NEW ZEALAND FEDERATION INC

CNZ National Championship Review/Discussion Paper

Background

A review document was forwarded out to centres and other area for feedback in December. An in-depth paper was circulated by Derrick Nelson of Canterbury in Jan/February. Derrick's documents included some focus on other matters outside the brief but have raised many important factors to be taken into consideration at a later date by the BikeNZ/CNZ Events team. The champ's manual is being worked on over the winter and should be available in a draft format shortly.

Champs are run by CNZ with BikeNZ assistance in some areas. It is not possible for BikeNZ to run the champs without the CNZ volunteer base and expertise.

Brief (as circulated 21/12/07)

"There are a number of factors to consider when looking at our champs – are we holding them at the right time of the year, are we holding them in the right places to attract publicity, are the facilities provided suitable for a National Champ event in the 21st century? Is the island-rotation of events still valid? There are many more things to think about; hence we will be contacting as many stakeholders as possible. Co-incidentally, BikeNZ is currently looking at ways to attract commercial sponsors for National Championship events (including MTB and BMX), so that is another factor that we will be considering."

We need to be conscious of the length of the champs which place considerable pressure of our volunteer and officials. If we increase the number of events then this will place pressure on existing funding available.

Current Championship Calendar

11-13 th January 2008 –	Elite/U23 Road Champs
Late Jan / Early Feb 2008 (tic) –	National Madison Champs
25 th Feb – 1 March 2008 –	National Track Champs
Labour weekend (Oct) 2008 –	National Club Champs
December 2008 –	National Criterium Champs

By way of comparison, the Australian model is as follows:

9 th -13 th Jan 2008	Open Road Champs (U23/Elite)
5 th -10 th Feb 2008	Track Champs
27 th -30 th March 2008	Junior Track Champs (U15/U17)
17 th -20 th April	Masters Track Champs
21 st -24 th April	Masters and AWD Road Champs
1 st -4 th May	U/19 Road Champs
5 th -7 th September	U15/U17 Road Champs
2 nd December	Criterium Champs

Possible Championship Calendar (based on 2008 feedback)

Mid January	Elite/U23 Road Champs
End February*	National Madison Champs
Early / Mid February *	Elite/U23 Road Champs Track Champs
Mid March	Junior and Masters Track Champs
April (school holidays) OR Labour Weekend	Junior and Masters Road Champs (former Club Champs) Refer appendix 1
December or other suitable date.	National Criterium Champs

*Refer later notes, Madison added back into the Elite Track Champs.

Elite/U23 Road Champs

Run for the first time in January 2007 on a club entry and in 2008 on a Centre entry. Timing and format appears to have proven successful and popular. We are able to have our top international athletes participating. The Men's and Women's races were at separate time of day to avoid the situation where the two races clashed on the course.

The 2007 CNZ AGM rejected the separating of the SM and U23M events. At this stage it is proposed to continue this as a combined event as separating would mean no UCI points for the U23 Men. These grades in almost all cases race together at all other events. It has a high attrition rate of riders. The large field justifies "the convoy" which may not otherwise be justified with smaller fields. The best riders will still rise to the top, as we see each year.

The name reflects the UCI category.

Entry will continue based on Centre entry, to allow proper team racing, giving riders, team managers and officials experience with this type of racing. The race will be run with a proper UCI convoy, including the use of cars rather than vans. It is expected that NZ trade teams will be introduced shortly and be able to race which will help develop the team concept further.

Team racing will be developing further with the National Road Points Series starting this year.

This is one of NZ's top cycling events and it is hoped that this event will attract more sponsorship and television coverage.

We propose that

- The timing of the Elite & U23 champs remain as is in January and to avoid conflict with other Australian events
- Hosting will not necessarily be on an island rotation, but rather looking for successful hosts, good courses, public viewing, top quality facilities, media profile and sponsorship opportunities
- With the potential of attracting a good sponsor this could affect future location which is likely to be in high profile areas. We need to be mindful that running in one spot for 2-3 years in a row will create considerable pressure on volunteers.
- Format to continue in similar lines to present. No intention to add U19 category as yet.

National Club Champs

These have been very successful since the change to club entry for 2002. They have been attracting a good number of entries, with the exception of some of the older Masters grades. Despite in the introduction of 5 year age categories for Masters Women, their participation has not been as high as expected.

There has been question from some quarters over the timing of these champs, with exams, variable weather and the need to train through winter months all mentioned as possible reasons for possibly moving them to another time of the year. Hosting the champs in autumn would give riders the benefit of daylight saving and warmer weather. For the "average" cyclist, fitness levels would probably be higher at this time of year.

With the introduction of the Elites/U23 Champs this has created some debate over that the SM/U23M and SW events now if required in the National Club Champs. This would have the added benefit of effectively removing 1 day from the event, reducing overall costs to both the organiser and the teams involved. Also reduce the call on volunteers to run.

With so many grades, they are becoming more difficult logistically to organise. Clubs have become reluctant to put their hand up to host these championships. It is noted some areas have not hosted for many years.

We propose that

- The timing of the champs be moved from October to April
- The Senior Men/U23 Men and Senior Women are removed from Club Champs – based on the concept of one national championship per grade per year.
- The name be changed to reflect participants "Junior and Masters National Championships"
- At this stage to retain the master's age groups as cycling statistics show this is a growth area. We need all to continue promoting these as such. The events are not cancelled, they're just amalgamated. The combined grades to be advertised as such – exactly as we do with Elite/U23. Suggest 3 grades Masters 1 & 2, Masters 3 & 4, Masters 5 +, until we get sufficient numbers to split the races. Separate medals for grades within combined races
- Continue with the present rules 3 riders from at least 2 Clubs for medals to be presented
- Event alternate as much as possible from north/south Island.
- Club entry to be retained, but the event name "upgraded" by removing the term "Club" – these will be National Championships

Counterpoint

There is an alternative school of thought that the current Labour weekend timing provides Juniors with a good follow up to the Schools Championships (North Island Champs in July, National Schools at Levin in August/September (?)) Junior riders still have after school daylight hours in which to train. There are also fewer clashes with the domestic Track season.

National Criterium Champs

Additional age categories were added for 2007, following discussion at the AGM. However, there was not a huge support for the individual categories by way of entries from riders and most categories ended up being re-combined. The extra categories also place additional demands on organisers, particularly in terms of time required for road closures.

This event potentially can be one of our most high profile events. Success to date has been the staging as part of another event rather than as a standalone. Although some long standing events have proved popular in other areas. Some flexibility in the timing of this event is considered necessary to maximise the participation.

The event currently has a slightly lower status than other National Champs – no formal championship jerseys, entry criteria has been direct from riders

We propose that

- Successful applicant need to demonstrate a higher participation and profile.
- Entry is changed to Club and NZ Trade Team entry as opposed to individual entry as at present.
- Consideration given to a National Champions jersey for this event
- Grades return to only Open Men & Open Women and Junior U17 Boys & Girls
- Event awarded for 3 years to attract major sponsor and to raise profile

Track Champs

A number of new events are introduced for 2008, following direction from the 2007 AGM – U/19 Women's scratch and point's races (subject to sufficient entries), Women's Team Sprint and Elite Men's Omnium. Entries per Centre have also been increased for the Men's Kieren and Open Men's and Women's Points Races. The principle of allowing more junior entries was also introduced at the 2007 AGM.

Last year saw an increase in the numbers of Masters Riders, but 2008 saw numbers return to normal.

The effect of all this, (with the need to run heats) has seen the champs blow out to a full six days of racing. The shortest session is 3 hrs, most are over 4. This places huge demands on the host club, local and national officials and athletes. Most people also need to take time off work or school.

The positive about the timing is that our High Performance athletes will be participating in 2008. However, in 2008, apart from the Madison any UCI points gained at our Track Champs this year did not count towards our quota for the Worlds as the date we held them was later than the cut off allowed by the UCI which was 17/18 February this year. Next year tentatively scheduled for the 13-15 February. This could impact in the future on getting our High Performance athletes entry into World Cups and Olympic events. This was the reason Australia moved to early in February for their Elite Track Champs. We also had the clash with the Wellington Woman's Tour this year (after the UCI changed the dates), something we are keen to avoid in the future.

Oceania Champs, (which don't have a set date), but for 2009 Champs are scheduled for 13-15 Nov in Adelaide. It would be good if the Champs could be in their proper year.

Another event that will impact on the calendar next year is the Sydney Youth Olympics from 14-18 Jan – this involves 10 mainly track riders.

We propose that

- The Track Champs be split into 2 –
 - Elite/U23 Road Champs Track Champs early / mid Feb
 - Junior and Masters Track Champs Mid March
- The events generally alternate from north and south island and the events are staged in the opposite island to the road events in each year if possible to spread travel costs. This may depend on suitable facilities being available.
- Entries to continue to via Centres, with entry criteria for events as per 2008.

Madison Champs

A stand alone championship for the first time in 2008, the Madison was pulled out of the track champs due to time constraints and the fact that there is enormous pressure on riders with so many events in 2008. The Madison is a bit like the Criterium Champs that it needs to be added to another event to be successful. See also note re UCI points above.

With the possible splitting of the Track Champs then it is proposed to added back into the Elite/U23 Track Champs

We propose that providing the track champs are split that the Madison be added.

Counterpoint

An alternative might be to leave the Track Champs as one combined event as at present, but look at events that could be pulled out and combined with the separate Madison Champs to boost that event and shorten the programme of the "main" champs. Events such as the individual pursuits and possibly senior team pursuits and team sprints could be teamed up with the Madison for example.

Appendix 1

Autumn School Holidays and Dates for Easter and Anzac Day, 2008 – 2011

	2008	2009	2010	2011
Autumn School Holidays	21/4 – 2/5	9/4 – 27/4	1/4 – 19/4	15/4 – 2/5
Easter	21-24/3	10-13/4	2-5/4	21-25/4
Anzac Day	25/4	25/4	25/4	25/4
Proposed Dates for National Road Championships	October Labour Weekend as currently scheduled	16-19/4*	15-18/4*	28/4 – 1/5*

*1 Day less required if SM/SW/U23M removed from the programme (see paragraph 13)

Where to from here

Again, these suggestions are to trigger debate at rider, club and Centre level. Please ensure that all your members are given the opportunity to discuss the issues thoroughly.

We want Centres to co-ordinate the responses from their member clubs and riders – the logistics of handling feedback directly from riders to CNZ / BikeNZ is not something that is feasible.

Centres will be asked to feedback their co-ordinated responses via the Forum at the Annual General Meeting in on 17th May in Dunedin.

We encourage Centres to circulate their own viewpoints around other Centres prior to that meeting, so that when we meet in Dunedin, we can make the best possible use of the time and have a quality discussion.

Please keep an open mind to all possibilities – we appreciate that some of these proposals represent a shift in what has happened in the past and there are all sorts of "knock on" consequences in terms of Centre Champs and club racing programmes, but this an opportunity to review the current situation. Change is not being imposed – it may be that we all decide that the status quo is just fine, but at least we can say that we have explored all the options first.

Any queries about the proposals or the process, please contact:

Ivan Aplin - CNZ Councillor for Events

Karyn McQueen – BikeNZ Events Manager

Mark Ireland – CNZ President