

**Minutes of NQ Zone Meeting
Held on Saturday 21st November 2015
At the Holiday Inn Cairns Harbourside**

Item 1 The meeting was opened at 10:25am by the MQ President.
J. Feehely welcomed all in attendance acknowledging the travel that a number of attendees had undertaken to be here.

Present:

Jim Feehely (<i>MQ President</i>)	David Wilkie (<i>MQ Board</i>)
Ralph Freeman (<i>MQ Board</i>)	Brian Cordwell (<i>MQ Board</i>)
Lisa Fox (<i>MQ Board</i>)	Gary Ellem (<i>RRAT</i>)
Sigrid Hudson (<i>Ravenshoe MCC</i>)	Kim Walmsley (<i>Ravenshoe MCC</i>)
Kara Freestun (<i>Townsville Enduro Club</i>)	Jarrold O'Brien (<i>Townsville Enduro Club</i>)
Shannon Rigato (<i>Tully MCC</i>)	Joe Van Scherpenseel (<i>Ingham Dirt Bike</i>)
Matt Kiesy-Calding (<i>FNQ Road Racing Club</i>)	Ben Paggoli (<i>TERA</i>)
Selena Hall (<i>Townsville MCC</i>)	Christine Neven (<i>Townsville MCC</i>)
David Liddle (<i>Cairns MCC</i>)	Leah Plath (<i>Cairns MCC</i>)
Peter Gentle (<i>Mareeba MCC</i>)	Misty Wallace (<i>Mareeba MCC</i>)
Toni Jensen (<i>NQ committee</i>)	Noela Matthews (<i>NQ committee</i>)
Danielle Melhuish (<i>Qld Enduro subcommittee</i>)	Jason Allen (<i>Qld Supermoto subcommittee</i>)
Tim Hewitt (<i>Qld Road Race subcommittee</i>)	Mark Franzmann (<i>Qld MX subcommittee</i>)
Rob Salafia (<i>Qld Womens & Junior subcommittee</i>)	Tracey Grinham (<i>NQ committee</i>)
Mick Clarke (<i>Cairns MCC</i>)	

MQ Staff: Rob Ferguson and Kim Rowcliffe.

Item 2 Minutes of the previous NQ Zone Meeting held in Townsville on 25th October 2014.

Moved: J Allen	Seconded: D Mellhuish	CARRIED
Business Arising	Nil	

Item 3 Constitutional Amendments

J Feehely explained the process that was undertaken at the recent CQ Zone meeting (14 November), which doubled as an MQ Council meeting to accept the 'marked-up' amendments to Motorcycling Queensland Constitution that was circulated to all affiliated clubs by email on 25th September 2015, a copy of which is attached to this motion.

Key changes:

- appointment of subcommittees, rather than via election
- reconfiguration of subcommittees – Supp Regs Approval Panel, Marketing / Media Panel (promoting value for sponsorship dollar), review of the ongoing relevance of Womens, Junior and Historic subcommittees.

There were no concerns or issues raised with this process.

Item 4

Report on Motorcycling Queensland activities 2015

The Chair (J. Feehely) reported on the following:

- The MQ Boards **strategic priority** is to provide ongoing assistance to **Clubs**, thereby making clubs increasingly sustainable and more successful
- **Ridernet** – licensing component is 'live', events component should be ready to roll out early in the new year. Regional training and support will be provided. There will be inevitable restrictions and issue with the new system – please report these to the MQ office
- MQ was recently granted long term **lease of land at Willowbank**. MQ will look to develop and plan a return on the investment. This will be largely funded via the sale of Tivoli property Moreton Districts Club will be relocated to Willowbank.
- There has been mass **changes at Motorcycling Australia** with the recent appointment of a new Board and CEO
- There needs to be greater investigation / understanding re: insurance break-up within the sport
- There continues to be moves towards a stronger **alliance between MA and State Controlling Bodies**, including; potential rationalisation of staff, MA and SCB staff integrated, rationalisation and simplification of the rules, standardization of training, new cost / revenue structure.
- **Discipline** – there is a growing and trend in the abuse of Officials. The MQ Board want to know so this practice can be stamped out.
- The Board would like to see an increased instance of **Interclub events** to help engender improved community / club spirit
- Encouraged clubs to seek advice from the **MQ office** – MQ to develop a database of clubs leases for facilities (start / finish dates) and unusual conditions.
- Challenged clubs to think about capturing / providing **opportunities for the fringe** – ie those who don't want to comply to the rigors of being a competition licence holder
- Opportunities to focus on **unstructured participation** eg Nth Brisbane 'Dust Huggle'

Item 5

Come & Try Days

- Scrutineering: suggest subcommittees produce a short checklist of the 'key things to scrutineer'
- There is a differentiation between Come & Try Days and Practice Days

Item 6

Tracks & Track Guidelines

- D Liddle expressed his concerns about local MX tracks meeting MA's Track Guidelines
- There is an opportunity for MQ to arrange a 'NQ travelling roadshow' to inspect all NQ / FNQ Track sin a single 'hit'
- MQ to develop a central database of club leases, track designs / plans, etc
- J Allen suggested use of QTOPO – A Qld Government mapping resource

Item 7

Report on North Queensland club activities 2015

Supermoto subcommittee – Jason Allen

- Two round state championships (Mareeba and Proserpine)
- Not big numbers within the discipline
- In 2016 FNQ will host Australian Supermoto Champs
 - Doing well with sponsorship for this event
 - Investigating transport companies to assist riders
 - Tentative commitment from some international competitors

FNQ Road Racing Club – Matt Kiesy-Calding

- Club to host Australian Supermoto Champs in 2016
- Recent drop off in number of road racing competitors, but increase in Supermoto competitors – equilibrium is coming back
- The club has some come & try bikes (buckets)
- Regularly undertake cross promotion with good results
- Strong use of Come & Try Days

Townsville MCC – Selena Hall

- Turbulent year for the year (lots of politics)
- Aiming for turn-around in 2016 (and beyond)
- Focusing on training of new officials
- Club cooperation between the different disciplines is ok (but not 100%)
- Townsville club regularly help FNQ clubs with officials, we'd like to see some of that good will returned
- Medical costs are the single biggest cost associated with running an event
- MyLaps query for 2016

Tablelands Enduro Club – Danielle Melhuish (*currently seeking affiliation)

- New Enduro club based in the Atherton Tablelands
- Ken to work closely with other NQ Enduro clubs on running events / series
- A lot of MX riders interested in having a go at Enduro
- Plans for an NQ EnduroX event in October 2016

Townsville Enduro Club – Kara Freestun

- Newly formed and affiliated (August 2015)
- 70 members
- Club wants to focus on families – get the young kids 'in'
- Currently relying on private landowners
- Sourcing new venues is time consuming
- The club has had good backing from local businesses
- Mayor of Charters Towers participates in some events
- Strong support from media

Ravenshoe MCC – Sigrid Hudson

- Held 2 Come & Try Days during the year
- Round of the FNQ Development Series was very good
- Good financial position
- Seeking more officials training opportunities
- Keen to access grant
- More advertising to encourage local spectators

Tully MCC – Shannon Rigato

- Double header events work well
- Introduced pre-nomination, all riders who pre-nom go into a 'luck dip', this has been well received
- Great Come & Try Day
- Gumboot Classic was well attended, but disappointingly no rain!
- Good TNQ MX and FNQ Development rounds
- Success grant for an equipment shed
- No mains power to the track = increased workload for committee (of 6 people)
- Holding of practice days is hit and miss
- Usual issues of lack of volunteers

- The proposed Natural Terrain Track at Tully has been 'shelved' – Too hard... Action: suggest get in touch with MQ GM. Tom Long may be a good contact, also make representation to local Councilor.

Cairns MCC – David Liddle

- 2015 was a good year
- Good round of TNQ MX Series & FQ Development Series
- Held a Come & Try Day
- NO club days held in 2015
- In August the club commenced the building of a new track, anticipated to be ready for 2016
- Engaged services of a grants officer who has heled the club achieve some successes (new Bobcat, extra Tractor)
- New Track we anticipate will equal increased corporate support
- Good turn-out at committee meetings
- Recently adopted a new constitution
- Working towards a variety of club templates = good governance = easy transition
- In 2016 we are aiming for 4 club days, including a 2 day club championships 'Feature Meeting'
- Investigate TV commercials to promote club days
- The club is currently driven by a very strong recreational base
- Council have contributed \$100k towards construction of a new track
- Would like to re-visit the 'gentleman's agreement' currently in place in NQ re: use of venues so as not to cause negative clashes with other local events

K Rowcliffe: provided historical context to the agreement re: running of events in NQ, this was borne out of last year's NQ Zone meeting and the desire to support local NQ competition events. It's not a 'gentleman's agreement' it actually exists in writing.

R Ferguson: suggested use of the 'My Community' resource

J Feehely: suggested the Defence Force might be a good place to source volunteers in north Queensland

Ingham Dirt Bike Club – Joe Van Scherpensel

- Calendar issues
- Hosted a successful TNQ MX Series round including Presentation Night
- The club had a bad experience with a grants writer
- Successful application for a Tractor (unfortunately it 'died' during the year)
- 2015 we mainly had practice days
- Council is assisting the clubs with a Master Plan, to include burn-out pad, Gymkhana
- Talking to Townsville Rally Club
- Currently paying off a toilet block / showers

Mareeba MCC – Peter Gentle

- Hosted 4 club days, a round of the FNQ Development Series and a TNQ MX Series during the year
- New committee in 2015 = steep learning curve
- \$3k grant for shade sails
- Recently confirmed for \$10k for new fencing
- Club has a number of grant applications submitted – waiting to hear
- Adopted new constitution – ½ membership up for election
- 12 December – Motorcycle Expo, apparel / bikes (Sat/Sun night)
- Strength is in the 65cc and 855 classes thanks to the FNQ Development Series
- Most members aren't Mareeba locals – come in form out of town
- The 4 clubs in FNQ are a strong support network for each other
- We work in with Speedway club who are our neighbors

Tropical MX Series – Tracey Grinham

- Currently finalizing 2016 Series dates
- 6 rounds run in 2015, rider numbers down, tracks were well prepared, online nominations was a 'hard sell' with riders still nominating right up until the day of the event
- Don't currently run the Shell MX Series system of equal profit distribution amongst the promoting clubs, but will consider it for 2016
- Fees unchanged, offer Series discount
- 100 surveys handed out, only 34 returned. Results: riders want more double headers, stronger Facebook presence, a Natural Terrain event as part of Series (rejected for 2016), a 7 round Series
- Mt. Isa keen to be part of the Series. Mt. Isa riders need to support 2016 Series to be considered for a round in 2017
- T Grinham receives personal 'flack', 'big' decisions need to be made by NQ committee / MX subcommittee
- T Grinham tabled letter from NQ Clubs requesting a dispensation from using MyLaps system for 2016 Series

J. Feehely: MyLaps is not mandated for Zone Series, however he did reiterate that ultimately riders are supportive of the system, sometimes its administrators and event promoters who are hesitant.

- Jason Allen is available in NQ to conduct MyLaps training
- B Cordwell offered the NQ MX Series use of his trackside gear at no cost for 2016
- Riders need to invest in their own transponder and not continue to rely on an indefinite arrangement to hire them
- J Feehely offered an explanation of the system that will be implemented for the 2016 Shell MX Series allowing riders who enter the Series to pay off a transponder and effectively own it by the end of the Series. Riders who only enter individual rounds and don't end up doing the entire Series have an option to pay the difference and own the transponder

There was a commitment given by the NQMX Series to strongly consider using the MyLaps system in 2016, and MQ will support where / as much as we can.

Road Race subcommittee – Tim Hewitt

- Main facilities are Suncity (Townsville) and Mako Trac (Mareeba)
- In 2016 we introduced short course Qld Championships – there are more short circuit in Queensland long
- Have seen a decrease in participation
- Fly In Fly Out impacts on number of participants
- Pleasingly Supermoto and Road Racing cross promote and work together
- We have a limited pool we want to provide them with the best experience
- Clubs are developing their own 'signature events'
- MQ's proposed rationalisation of subcommittees is a good thing

Road Racing Association of Townsville – Garry Ellem

- Conduct 2 Come & Try Days and 3 closed to club events in 2015
- Three interclub events (Mareeba, RRAT and Whitsunday)
- This years Townsville attracted 73 riders
- A grant application has been submitted for 10 new junior bikes (150cc)
- Would like to see Whitsunday realigned into NQ Zone
- Financially the club is doing well

B Cordwell provided a brief explanation regarding the changes to major MX Series in 2016 and the rationales for these changes.

Item 8 Club Governance and Management

R. Ferguson presented a short session on key club governance and management topics including: succession planning, finance and budgeting, AGM's and meeting procedures. All clubs represented were provided with a USB with various templates on these topics.

Item 9 Grants Programs

The meeting was briefed re: current and upcoming funding opportunities available to clubs:

- Community Benefit Gambling Fund (round close 31st November)
- Dept Social Services Volunteers Grant (closes 9th December)
- MQ Club Development Funding Program – program to be released as of 1st January 2016.

The MQ office is available to assist.

Item 10 U21s Training Program

K. Rowcliffe reminded clubs re: 2015 U21s Elite Training Camp. Nominations close Friday 20th November 2015.

Item 11 Calendar

K. Rowcliffe tabled the draft 2016 events calendar – with unanimous acceptance of dates / events currently listed.

Confirmation that the National Come & Try initiative will operate again in 2016 under the same format as 2015.

Item 12 Ridernet

J Feehely and R Ferguson provided an update regarding the roll out of the Ridernet system, licencing is currently live online, with events the next area will be next to be launched.

Item 13 MQ Awards Night

K Rowcliffe advised the meeting that Noela Matthews has been chosen as a finalist in MQ's Volunteer of the Year award, and we look forward to seeing her at this year's event for the announcement of this and other award recipients.

Item 14 Ralph Freeman

Ralph Freeman advised the meeting of his intentions not to seek re-election to the MQ Board next year after a considerable length of time on it. The meeting was genuinely thankful and appreciative of the significant contribution that Ralph has made to the organisation in this capacity.

Item 14 The meeting closed at 4pm. All were thanked for their time and input into what was a good positive meeting.

Summary of key action items from NQ Zone meeting:

MQ to investigate the need to conduct a travelling road show to insect tracks in North Queensland

Prepare an action brief re: launch of Ridernet utilising - facebook, Ride! eNews, MQ website, etc

Assist NQMX Series with the implementation of MyLaps system for 2016 Series

Engage Jason Allen as a potential trainer of the MyLaps system in North Queensland