

Against the motion

Good evening and thank you for attending this important meeting. In the interests of keeping within time constraints I have prepared a response that I will read to you. Please bear with me as the message is very important.

I will start with a very brief history of our foundations and the constitution.

I have been involved since before inception

It was started by a bunch of us Old Papas Sunday morning riders back in 2003/4, chewing the fat over coffee and wanting to aim at some sort of event (not racing) and put something back into cycling

Hence two initiatives, the Henk Vogels CF charity and Cyclo Sportif events were born

The Original constitution was concocted by us founders. For all of us it was our 1st time putting a sporting club constitution together; we didn't have a lawyer in the group and so we wrote something up and had a friendly bike riding lawyer do a freebie for us.

That constitution got us started and served us OK in the first two seasons. It was however found to contain ambiguous clauses and we could see that it would have significant problems in serving the organization that was developing.

That resulted in a review being done professionally in 2007, whereby the constitution became clear and simple, and was unanimously passed at the AGM April 2008, with not one objection

At the AGM in April 2009, some small alterations were made to comply with a review carried out by Consumer Affairs. Once again there was not one objection to these alterations.

I urge you to strongly reject this motion..... Why?

Because for starters, the current objects are serving us extremely well.

From day 1 our Committees objective, in line with the objects, has been to strive for the organization to become self sustainable. That means it is financially viable, with a strong membership base and a great offering to recreational cyclists. To do that we must have... interesting and varied, value for money participation events, and a great value membership offering

The existing committee has done a superb job in delivering this. It is unprecedented in WA bicycling. The membership growth has been phenomenal; we now have over 1500 full members and over 7000 friends, last year over 7000 riders participated in our events.

I will quickly mention some of our other achievements under our existing objects

-we have run 6 fantastic Cyclo events per year

-we ran a highly successful event for the Mandurah bypass opening with a healthy financial surplus

-we have assisted HVCF, Amy Gillett and a number of the racing clubs.

-we have supported FBH & GPBR and in the process supported the underlying charities.

- in conjunction with WA Track Cycling and as a part of our Midland Cyclo event, we developed a track cycling event to a significant scale attracting international olympic standard riders

- we supported 2 times WA world cycling champion Cameron Meyer, a great talent and possible future Tour de France winner

-last year, after protracted negotiations, we secured a fantastic membership package including the best ride insurance in Australia, real insurance with legal support, a magazine, better web site etc. We negotiated the membership package and other costs at well below what would be achievable for an organisation our size. We have also used our extensive business contacts to secure lots of freebies for our Cyclo events.

- Our professionalism has assisted us in attracting Corp sponsors which subsidises our Cyclo event entry fees by around \$30k for the 6 events. That translates to \$10 per entry fee per event

- we ran behaviour change programs r2w & r2s, both self funded

- we have negotiated net funding from a major WA ride organized by BV, gwabr 2011 with 70 % of the net surplus to be given to us to put into campaigning for safer cycling in WA, something for nothing?

It is interesting to note that large sub groups are forming under our membership umbrella and it could be possible that these in fact form into participation style cycling clubs. There are also a number of small businesses in cycling that have established and fed off our growth.

The Committee has only and will only act in the members best interests, we represent the membership

The current committee has donated way above “normal” time to put the organization on this path of sustainability. In the future we need to have more employee infrastructure to substitute this, so that the committee longer term is more governance, strategy and decision making. To governance well, I estimate it is around 500 committee hours per year. The current committee devotes around 4,000 hours per year

The difference is 3,500 hours which translates to 2-3 full timers of which funding sources must be found. The solution is to generate event surpluses and grow membership

The Committee is absolutely committed to Cyclo Events. We all enter them and thoroughly enjoy them.

The fact is Cyclo events are becoming more and more expensive to run. There are 3 main reasons, traffic management, venue costs and catering.

We must have the option to cross subsidise. For example, last year we were predominantly underpinned by a healthy surplus from the Mandurah Freeway opening ride and Healthway sponsorship. Healthway is the only government type funding we have been able to access. To retain and expand this funding in future we must be seen to be broadening our reach for cycling in the community.

We are a not for profit predominantly volunteer organization and whilst it could be better, our consultation with members has surpassed most other organizations I have ever witnessed or been involved in (profit or not for profit). Our e news, our surveys, our focus groups, updates during lunches at events, team managers meetings, responses to member queries.... the list goes on. The BWA strategy was communicated to members with at least 3 significant communications before introduction. The committee only received one indirect verbal negative comment.

In regard to representing our members interests of safe cycling on our roads, it is a natural progression. WA lacks any focused effective campaigning for cyclists, in particular our members

Who here wants to feel safer on the roads when training, commuting or having a recreational ride?

Our membership numbers will naturally give us political influence. Do we not use it? It is not our core activity but is a great additional member benefit.

The quote in the one page for argument is offensive, it suggests that the committee just wants to quote "hob nob with Ministers". The current Minister for Sport and Rec is an old school colleague of our Vice Pres Ian Sandover. The opposition shadow Minister for Transport is one of our members and has written to me offering assistance and a meeting if we desire. To take advantage of these opportunities to garner support to promote safer cycling, is that hob nobbing??

This committee is passionate, dedicated and is full of very talented doers who have and are delivering unprecedented offerings and benefits to you, our members. And yes, we do want to get "more people cycling more often"

Vote yes to this change and you could well destroy the magic that has been the key to our success. These new objects are extremely restrictive and unclear

5 Dams could be challenged, it is not strictly a team ride

Mandurah Freeway ride would be an absolute no, no. The \$20k surplus gone!

The option of cross subsidising Cyclo events with surpluses from other types of events will be eliminated

Our ability to leverage our membership numbers to influence positive change in cycling infrastructure and education is virtually gone

And most importantly, the existing committee will be demotivated with a likely outcome that most, if not all will resign. I for one will resign immediately. Have the proposers got a plan in place to replace those 4,000 hours with similar business experience and expertise? And by the way, about 3 of the 4,000 hours have been spent on so called hob nobbing, the rest is spent on events, sponsorship dollars and product, membership communication and benefits and organization administration and governance. Good luck!

People make things happen and you have a really great committee functioning under a clear constitution delivering fantastic benefits to you.

If there is one flaw in our constitution it is the fact that one member can collect 9 member signatures in a membership of 1500+, and growing, and cause this very time consuming and destructive process to occur. This sort of divisive action has lead to the demise and disarray of the racing clubs peak body, Cycling WA. Don't let it happen to us.

I strongly urge you to VOTE AGAINST