

MINUTES OF MEETING

Meeting No: 94		
Subject	: Monthly Meeting	Date : 23-02-2026
Held at	: Club Macquarie	Ref. : HMBA- MOM - 938
Prepared by	: Laura Renshaw	Issue date: 3/3/2026

Attendees: Laura Renshaw, Dane Critchlow, Joshua Bridson, Melanie Hoffman, Phil Dunne, Steve Pryor, Dallas Barham, John Richardson, Mark Welsh, Rick Kehoe, Coleen Kehoe

Online: Leighsa Cox, Grant Jones, Landon Arthur, Mark Nelmes, Warwick Turnbull, Sarah Booth

Apologies: Evan Steverson, Bill Willis, Mick Bradford

- Legend** – For discussion at next meeting – add to Agenda
 To remain on minutes for future discussion if needed
 To be removed from next minutes

Item	Action	By Whom	Status
1.0	Minutes of the previous meeting		
1.1	January 2026 - Confirmed and accepted as a correct record	Melanie Hoffman	Complete
2.0	Correspondence and notifications		
2.1	Donald Blackman – Request for Special General Meeting with AusCycling <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow-up emails – still pursuing SGM Second email from Jack from Canberra Cycling Club – plus phone call – discussed current club issues and de-affiliation – agreed for HMBA to not be involved at this point as issues seem to not be affecting us in the same way they are affecting other clubs 	Joshua Bridson	Further info to be provided
2.2	Email from Dungog re Pedalfest on 17-20 September <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clashes with our XC/DH round Reply that we usually race on 3rd Sunday and our Calendar is published??? 		
2.3	2026 Club Forums <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Club Forum #1: 4 March – Project Ascent ‘32 Pathway Project: Wednesday. Club Forum #2: 1 April - Rollout of new membership products and platform Club Forum #3: 8 July - Topic to be set based on key club and strategic priorities closer to the date. Club Forum #4: 25 November - Year in review and 2027 priorities plan 		
2.4	Harper Nelmes qualified for Australian Representation in Enduro World Cup Series <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Congrats Harper!! 		

MINUTES OF MEETING

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club will donate \$1200 towards his expenses • Amount indexed up for this year • Warwick please to sort. 		
2.5	<p>Newy with Kids Facebook/Web Page</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laura to put together some words and will gather some pictures • If you would like to help, let Laura know 		
3.0	Monthly Racing reports		
3.1	<p>Cross Country Racing – 1st February</p> <p>Report Link: Hot, humid, fun racing. Some juniors up to D Grade.</p> <p>More communication if start will be down Jenkins Road.</p> <p>No. of Riders: 102 Registered Next Event: 15th March 2026</p> <p>Race scheduled at Awaba – Junior and Graded racing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rego - Phil Dunne • New Junior Grade policy in effect • Timing – Phil Dunne • Possibility of Kids timed race on the Development Track (Evan, Dean) • First Aid – Confirmed • Toilet – Onsite • Track Setting – Dean Kozlik • Junior Race 8.00 Start - Evan and Mark Confirmed • Junior race – U9/11/13/15's • Grade racing to start at 9.00am • Commissaire for official starts • Podium to be at the end of race day • Adaptive riders – 	Phil Dunne	Ongoing
3.2	<p>Downhill – February 1st 2026</p> <p>Report Link:</p> <p>Trailer issue, bolt gave way, Bolts to be replaced. Inspection each time used.</p> <p>No of Riders: 30 Next Event: 15th March 2026</p> <p>Scheduled at Awaba, D Grade Practice from Biraban</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Aid - Booked • Bus – Booked, will be there at 9 	DH Crew	Ongoing

MINUTES OF MEETING

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Trailer – inspection required ● Timing – Coleen to contact Landon ● Radios – Rick ● Riders Briefing at 8.45am – Rick ● Minimum 3 Marshalls – ● Shuttles start 9.00 - ● Riders to be registered by Friday to allow confirmation of bus hire ● Cut off 30 Entries 		
<p>3.3</p>	<p>G-Flow Enduro – February 28/March 1</p> <p>Report Link:</p> <p>No of Riders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 1 day race event – Practice on Saturday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 3 stages: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Biraban/Reverse Straw ▪ Rocky Corner/Reverse Straw ▪ Half DH/Faulk Off ● If Adaptive entry – Course will be set ● Halfway Downs A Line Close off ● Shuttles – Granted Ride (Sat 10, Sun 9) ● Same price as last year ● Numbers – capped at 100 ● New 'Officials' plates ● Mechanic – Cessnock Bike Co ● Photography - Sam SPC Photography ● Coffee Van – Serendipity Sunday ● Adaptive – no entries ● Volunteers ● 10yrs old and Under are not to race Gravity Enduro (as per Junior Policy) <p>** Age categories and entries **</p>		<p>Ongoing</p>

MINUTES OF MEETING

	<p>3 MOUNTAIN BIKE (MTB)</p> <p>Riders must always race within their age category. In circumstances where field sizes are small race organisers may combine categories or run multiple categories at the same time to simulate larger fields and promote development. When this occurs riders must not exceed maximum race durations for their current age category.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr style="background-color: #333; color: white;"> <th>Age Cat</th> <th>Age Span</th> <th>Max Race Duration (XCO)</th> <th>Max Race Duration (XCM)*</th> <th>Max Race Duration Gravity Enduro **</th> <th>General Notes and Considerations</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>U11</td> <td>9-10</td> <td>15 mins</td> <td>n/a</td> <td>n/a</td> <td>Mixed gender categories should be encouraged.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>U13</td> <td>11-12</td> <td>25 mins</td> <td>1 hour</td> <td>2 hours</td> <td>Mixed gender categories should be encouraged.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>U15</td> <td>13-14</td> <td>45 mins</td> <td>2 hours</td> <td>3 hours</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>U17</td> <td>15-16</td> <td>1 hour</td> <td>3 hours</td> <td>4 hours</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>J19</td> <td>17-18</td> <td>1.25 hours</td> <td>4 hours</td> <td>5 hours</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>U23</td> <td>19-22</td> <td>1.25 - 1.5 hours</td> <td>n/a</td> <td>n/a</td> <td>Separate U23 category is only applicable to XCO. Where there is a separate U23 category, riders may apply to AusCycling for dispensation to ride up in Elite when UCI points are available.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>*XC Endurance includes XCM, multi lap endurance events up to and including 24hr races. Time is the total time spent riding during the event. It is recommended that race organisers facilitate U13, U15 and U17 categories by encouraging team relay style racing in longer endurance events.</p> <p>**Gravity Enduro (GE) time is total time for the event including timed and liaison stages.</p>	Age Cat	Age Span	Max Race Duration (XCO)	Max Race Duration (XCM)*	Max Race Duration Gravity Enduro **	General Notes and Considerations	U11	9-10	15 mins	n/a	n/a	Mixed gender categories should be encouraged.	U13	11-12	25 mins	1 hour	2 hours	Mixed gender categories should be encouraged.	U15	13-14	45 mins	2 hours	3 hours		U17	15-16	1 hour	3 hours	4 hours		J19	17-18	1.25 hours	4 hours	5 hours		U23	19-22	1.25 - 1.5 hours	n/a	n/a	Separate U23 category is only applicable to XCO. Where there is a separate U23 category, riders may apply to AusCycling for dispensation to ride up in Elite when UCI points are available.		
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3.4	<p>National Series DH Round in 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ May 15-17 ○ \$15k grant funding from LMCC applied for – decision to be made 23/02/2026 ○ Contract with AusCycling – signed ready for email ○ Need to work out schedule ASAP ○ Downhill Meeting – 4/3/26 																																												
3.5	<p>Adaptive Race – HMBA will plan future Adaptive Categories – agreed on the need to gain greater support/commitment from local adaptive riders.</p>		Ongoing																																										
3.6	<p>2026 Calendar</p> <p style="background-color: #ff0000; color: white; padding: 2px;">Sunday 1 February – AWABA XC/DH Round 1</p> <p>Saturday 28 February / Sunday 1 March – AWABA G-Flow Round 1</p> <p>Sunday 15 March – AWABA XC/DH Round 2</p> <p>Sunday 19 April – AWABA XC/DH Round 3 - AGM</p> <p>Friday 15 May/Saturday 16 May/Sunday 17 May – AWABA AusCycling National DH Series</p> <p>Sunday 31 May – AWABA XC Round 4 - Marathon Style</p> <p>Saturday 20 June / Sunday 21 June – AWABA G-Flow Round 2</p> <p>Sunday 19 July – AWABA XC/DH Round 5</p> <p>Saturday 1 August / Sunday 2 August – AWABA AusCycling XC State Series</p> <p>Sunday 23 August – G-Flow Round 3 (venue TBA)</p> <p>Sunday 20 September – AWABA XC/DH Round 6</p> <p>October – No club events scheduled</p> <p>Sunday 15 November – AWABA Club Championships (XC & DH)</p> <p>Sunday 13 December – AWABA Social day & Presentations</p>	<p>Phil Dunne Coleen Boyes Dane Critchlow</p>																																											

MINUTES OF MEETING

	All races are at Awaba Mountain Bike Park. IMPORTANT: Dates are subject to change depending on fire, flood, falling flora, feral fauna, foolish folk forging flawed fall lines, etc		
Note	Process for postponing races - move it back one week then if not possible – cancel.		For review in future
4.0	Trail Coordinator Report – Park Status		
4.1	Build Day Report: 8 th Feb 2026 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dallas and Tony been on machine in Rock on Garth • Bridge to be finalised tomorrow (quote) • DH Crew – Kehoe Bridge repaired, Halfway downs repairs • Work on Skids for Kids • Out the back descent, the Markdown had work done 	Dallas Barham Rick Kehoe	
4.2	Next Build Day: 8 th March Downhill, 22 nd March General Build Day Trail Maintenance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laura has requested if work can be done on The Buttler corners, re-berm corners • Dallas to see if Brother is free? Future Projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finish “Rock on Garth” • Begin work on “New Camel Climb” and “Wild Polly Extension” • “Get Faulked” – pending successful grant application. • Car parks (lower and overflow) need more formalising • Overpass for start of Monkey Chase on Faulk Line, and similar for proposed new internal climb (i.e. over DH track). • Biraban - Longer term plan for bridges to be built in wetter section toward Thornton Heights. Trail work 	Dallas Barham Rick Kehoe	Ongoing
4.3	Awaba MTB Park Maps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other maps – DH and Development Trails <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ in process, Col and Rick to co-ordinate Signage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pump.Jump.Repeat – One side, other side coming. • Rick – Please move Biraban Donation Sign to PJR Area • Open/Closed sign at front gate to be installed – any update? 	Josh Bridson Dallas Barham Rick Kehoe	In process

MINUTES OF MEETING

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cars not to drive to S-Bend road for Biraban pick up. Signs to say last pick up point at Downhill Finish. 																	
4.4	<p>Trail Sponsorship signs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email hmbaweb@gmail.com if interested in sponsoring the park. Update? 	Josh Bridson	In Process															
4.5	<p>Trail counters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development Trail: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This months average 24 riders per day Last month average 36 riders per day Trail head: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This months average 40 riders per day Last month average 48 riders per day Dane and Dallas can help with trail counts each Month (please inform secretary prior to Monthly meeting) DH Trail: No reader on track 	Dane Laura	In process															
4.6	<p>Container Security – Key Register:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">1 - Josh</td> <td style="width: 33%;">2 - Phil</td> <td style="width: 33%;">3 - Steve</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4 – Mark N</td> <td>5 – John</td> <td>6 - Dean</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7 – Mick / Dane</td> <td>8 – Rick</td> <td>9- Dallas</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10 -</td> <td>11 - Mark W</td> <td>12 -</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13 -</td> <td>14 - Mel</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	1 - Josh	2 - Phil	3 - Steve	4 – Mark N	5 – John	6 - Dean	7 – Mick / Dane	8 – Rick	9- Dallas	10 -	11 - Mark W	12 -	13 -	14 - Mel		Committee	Ongoing
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5.0	Finance Report																	
5.1	<p>Club account balance as at 27/1/2026:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;">\$5000</td> <td>WBC Trail Maintenance Account</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$54,486</td> <td>WBC Community Solutions Account</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$500</td> <td>PayPal Account</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-top: 1px solid black;">\$61,486</td> <td>Total Cash at bank</td> </tr> </table> <p>Rocket, Crofto and Watagan's Takeaway outstanding.</p> <p>NOTE: \$12,800 set aside from e-bike raffle for a new trail.</p> <p>Payables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$13,000 Went to East Coast for DH Maintenance <p>Upcoming Outgoings: Signage from Coleen for plates etc</p>	\$5000	WBC Trail Maintenance Account	\$54,486	WBC Community Solutions Account	\$500	PayPal Account	\$61,486	Total Cash at bank	Warwick Turnbull	Ongoing							
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5.2	<p>Club Merchandise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Socks - \$20 for active committee – maximum 2 per household for this order - \$25 for general public Shirts – updating Monkey stock and new colour HMBA logo on black shirt coming (\$30) – will be advertised this week for orders, plus stock items 	Josh Bridson Melanie Hoffman	In process															

MINUTES OF MEETING

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jerseys: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ XC Race Jerseys – \$50 – new order in process – there will be some spares ○ Trail Jerseys - \$50 (SS) / \$60 (LS) • Limited number of Monkey Bucket Hats - \$25 • Hoodies – some extras available, clear old stock at \$40 each and then update to new logo • Beanies - \$25 each, \$20 for Committee? (Club may buy ~30) • Bottles? Options to be explored 		
6.0	Special Projects Report		
6.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant Assistance Program Proposal - Club Builder • Currently in process for Club Grants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Large grant for facilities – about \$205,000 for Get Faulk'd – has been resubmitted ○ Smaller grant for equipment - \$5k – timing gear – no word on decision • Infrastructure Grants coming up x 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Undercover areas for car park ○ February 2026? • Responsible Wood Grant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Successful with \$10k for TNT trail – beginner/intermediate timber feature trail ○ Grant and Dane – update 	<p>Josh Bridson</p> <p>Evan Steverson</p>	
7.0	Advocacy / Adaptive Report		
7.1	<p>HMBA needs a new Adaptive Coordinator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andrew Hardy did a great job previously • 		
8.0	General Business		
8.1	<p>Junior academy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On hold • Consideration is how to do this and have participants covered for insurance – use Come and Try Days combined with Free Trial Period 	<p>Joshua Bridson</p> <p>Sarah Booth</p>	Ongoing
8.2	<p>How to have HMBA successfully link people back to the club for support and marketing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed 'Hall of Fame" board in the park somewhere? 	<p>Mark Welsh</p>	Ongoing
8.3	<p>Defibrillator update from John R</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weatherproof Case built, will be installed on back of the container with Post-Code lock 		
8.4	<p>Mount Faulk Road update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No further news on drainage • How is it running – ok 		
8.5			

MINUTES OF MEETING

	Points for next committee meeting Agenda.		
	Meeting concluded at 8:56pm		
	Next meeting will be Monday 9th March 2025 – 7.00pm at Club Macquarie Argenton and then:		

Recorded on behalf of HMBA: Laura Renshaw

Date: /2026

MINUTES OF MEETING

Further expanding on our previous emails, HMBA will continue to support our junior racers this year and will be re-aligning our XC race grades to better accommodate junior riders within the senior grade racing structure dependant on their age, in accordance with AusCycling guidelines

Based on this, the following Racing Grades, laps (based on a course of approx. 5-6km length) and age limits will be utilised from the start of the 2026 season.

Grade Description	Number of Laps	Age at 31st December of current year
A Grade Men	5	19 years and older
A Grade Women	4	19 years and older
B Grade Men	4	17 years and older
B Grade Women	3	17 years and older
C Grade Men	3	15 years and older
C Grade Women	2	15 years and older
D Grade Men	2	13 years and older
D Grade Women	1	13 years and older
E Grade Men	1	11 years and older
E Grade Women	1	11 years and older
E Bike Open	4	15 years and older
Junior Under 9	2 (Separate junior course)	7 or 8 years old
Junior Under 11	3 (Separate junior course)	9 or 10 years old
Junior Under 13	4 (Separate junior course)	11 or 12 years old
Junior Under 15	5 (Separate junior course)	13 or 14 years old
Adaptive Open	Dependant on each race course	Dependant on each race course

Nb: HMBA recognises that some junior athletes may demonstrate skills, endurance, and race craft beyond what is typical for their age and has therefore established the following framework to identify and approve exceptional cases for grade progression from the 2026 season and in the future.

This policy is designed to support athlete development while maintaining safety and competitive integrity.

Progression to a higher age or grade division may be approved via one of the following three pathways.

Pathway 1 – Prior HMBA successful grade riding competency

If a junior rider has raced in HMBA grades above the age limits in the table above for at least two races prior to the 2026 season and would like to continue riding in the same grade, they may submit a written request to the club. Following review of their previous results in that grade, approval to continue riding in the higher grade may be granted if the club is satisfied that their results reflect that the rider has the necessary physical, technical and emotional maturity for the higher grade.

For all other riders from the start of the 2026 season:

Pathway 2 – Accredited coach endorsement

MINUTES OF MEETING

Where a junior athlete is currently training under an AusCycling-accredited coach, the coach may provide a written letter of support to HMBA confirming that, in their professional opinion, the athlete has demonstrated sufficient:

- technical riding skills
- physical endurance
- race craft and tactical awareness
- emotional maturity to compete safely

Pathway 3 – Performance-based trial assessment

As an alternative to coach endorsement, HMBA may approve progression using a performance-based trial process as proposed by AusCycling.

This method uses objective race-time comparisons calculated via a spreadsheet model and requires the following criteria to be met:

- the junior rider must compete in a minimum of two HMBA events (events do not need to be consecutive)
- in each assessment event, the junior rider's grade must be run on the same course and at the same time as the proposed higher grade (ie: course layout and race conditions must be comparable)
- the junior rider's predicted race time for the same number of laps in the higher grade must be within 5% of the fastest JUNIORS time in the next higher age group / grade division. For Example, an U15 riding 2 laps in D grade must have an estimated 3 lap race time that is within 5% of the leading U17 or U15 already riding in C grade (who may not necessarily be the overall C grade race winner)

The 5% "performance factor" of the older age category is used as a benchmark to ensure the younger athlete has all the underpinning physical, technical, tactical and psychological skills development to support entering the higher category. If the rider demonstrates this performance standard across the required events, they will be deemed eligible to progress to the higher grade.

Where progression is approved via this pathway, HMBA will strongly recommend that the rider and their family consider engaging an AusCycling-accredited coach to support further development of race skills and long-term progression.

All requests to support junior racing advancement under any of the three pathways above should be submitted to xchmba@gmail.com

We believe that this policy provides a clear, evidence-based mechanism to identify exceptional junior riders while remaining aligned with AusCycling guidelines and HMBA's commitment to rider safety, fairness, and sustainable athlete development.

We will also continue with the dedicated junior races from 8 AM prior to the main cross-country rounds, with plans to explore incorporating skills development into these sessions as well.

Regards,
HMBA Committee