BMXNZ Newsletter Worlds Edition

Athlete pathway - RDP

Its great to see the enthusiasm for the athlete pathways at AGM, then even better see people have stood up & made this happen in their regions. Northern Region have set plans in place & have started the process to train and support riders. They have even asked Waikato for some inter-region tests. Wellington has now got Sam Cotton in place & she is working on benchmarks for her Region. Now I need to work with Central. the Naki & Mainlanders to spark up some plans.

Yes good things take time, but lets jump in the deep end & see what happens.

Calendar Year Series

As reported at the BMXNZ AGM The National & Dalliston Series have moved to calendar year timetables. This then solves the contentious issue of moving and integrating age groups over the end/start of the year. Plus it is easier to administer the data.

NQMs

Just to confirm, the season structure is the same as usual. (even with the changes above) So to qualify for Nationals you start accruing NQMs from the start of the 15-16 season. The first one being the Taranaki Champs 19-20th Sept through to the last on the 28th Feb at NAC or Mountain raiders.



BMXNZ NEWSLETTER ISSUE 7

The BMXNZ NEWSLETTER comes out three times a year, with news & updates from around the country. BUT we need your input, as the info needs to be from you, our sport. This detail could be looked at & possibly reused elsewhere in the country. The sport needs to be closer and the only way to do that is to communicate and share the wins & losses, so we can learn off each other to make the sport better.

So get your news into Caroline Fox at any time. We need more! To much news is a problem we would like to have, don't be shy. SHOUT IT OUT!



Next Issue December 2015

2016 Issues May 2016 Aug 2016 Dec 2016

Deadlines:

At the moment we have no deadlines we just need stories. Send them in as soon as you can to caroline@bmxnz.co.nz

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Megan Williams at Worlds

This year we travelled to Zolder in Belgium to compete. I had so much fun training on tracks around Belgium with the other NZ riders and loved staying at the Holiday park with 4 other NZ families. I had trained well leading up to the competition and all my races leading up to my final were perfect. Race day was really long with big wait times in the chutes leading up to my races. When the final came I was the top qualifier and I chose lane 1...the gate dropped and before I knew it I was 7th coming into the first corner!! I managed to get passed 2 people and finished 4th, just missing out on a spot on the podium. I was really proud of myself and had such a great time. The highlights of the trip for me were catching up with fellow Yess riders from around the world especially Ryan Martin and his family, watching all the other NZ riders compete and making new friends with girls in my age group.

Thanks again to all my supporters and remember in your riding to always look at the negatives, learn from them, and turn them into positives!!

NZ Yess Factory rider Megan Williams



RotoVegas to Zolder The Stevens-McNab Clan take on the Worlds

Lachie, Wyatt & Sterling

Our trips usually consist of approx. 10 days training/touring before we head to Worlds to ensure that the kids get some riding in (can't trust NZ weather!!).

This year we had the 3hr drive to Akl, a horrendous 29 hour trip to London (including 3 hrs in shanghai) followed by a 2 hr drive to Manchester to check out a few tracks and have a look around. IPads rule!!

We made some new friends and had a good look around the area no need to return! The kids LOVED the Manchester Indoor track though!

Next we headed over to Zolder seeing as the track was available for riding - an interesting concept to me - giving local riders a definite advantage!! We had 3 sessions there with loads of Kiwis with some tourist activities thrown in every afternoon. The next leg was the 'Sue Walker sourced tracks' around the Netherlands for Kiwi training which is always fun - jumping trains galore and the support of the kids for each other is awesome to see,,, followed by more tourist activities. Funnily enough - including biking around Dutch Villages!!

We then shifted into our Worlds accommodation at Zolder in time for the two days of training, followed by racing. As per usual - Sue got in there and sorted our training time for maximum benefit for our riders and the minimum number of laps any rider completed was 5 (except for the unlucky couple who had crashes!!) on day one (most got 6 or 7) and 4 on day 2 (as the whole practice time was gates which slows things down a bit!) This year was an interesting one! The format was a bit nuts in my opinion!

Having 5 to 10 year olds at the track from 6.30am for moto's, then 11 to 15 year olds from approximately 10.30am (no exact times just when the littlies finished). There was then a break for the opening ceremony followed by the 16th's, 8th's... for all ages. Racing finished at approx.' 9.30pm

I was tired! Poor wee 5-10yr olds!

I personally found it quite difficult to help the riders this year, as they were getting back to our pits area, having a quick drink and were then being called around to staging between 40 minutes and an hour before they went through to the second area of staging (where they got put into moto groups). The kids were in the heat and sun, so all we could really do was to give them water and direct them to shaded areas as much as possible.

As for the internet...let's not go there! It was impossible to check that our riders placed where they believed they had (along with my eagle-eye at the finish line) as we couldn't get the online results.



RotoVegas to Zolder

The Stevens-McNab Clan take on the Worlds Continues...

Luckily there were no protests required!

What a day... The same as any other Worlds really, with crashes, upsets, disappointments, surprises, goals exceeded (and no missed races!!:)),,, which is what we should expect when we bring the best in the World together! And what a cool group of kids with lovely manners (as per usual!). I met a couple for the first time, and caught up with loads that I've known for a while.

Seeing old friends and meeting new friends from abroad; and the Kiwi kids - Friends, and supporters of one-another with genuine care for all including direct competitors support for those that didn't meet their goals and elation for those that did. These things are always a highlight for me.

My only regret this year is that we left too early. We were so busy leading up to Worlds that we really didn't get to relax and spend time with the people around us... and I do wish that we'd stayed on to support the rest of the Kiwi contingent!! Next time!

Anyway,,, back to the barracks to pack for a 4am dash to the airport brought our Worlds to an abrupt halt!

Speed-boats on Lake Como, Nespresso with George in Bellagio, Rafting & Mtn Biking in Val de Sole and driving Ferraris and shopping in Milan before repeating the 36 hr hell-trip home to negative 400 degrees! Gotta love NZ Winter! NZ











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"I think after challenging that section of ground to a 60km shoulder charge twice in one day, it's fair to say I lost that fight... "

Trent Jones #279 Sweden SX







"I had my process and now to put it all into action"

Jessie Smith W1

Race Ready

I woke up feeling good. I said to mum I need to get my gate right -I had a good breakfast, got to the track for practice in good time and felt race ready.

Moto 1 lane 4 what was that? The worst gate I think I could have ever had.

Moto 2 lane 8 was better, felt I got a good line and even though my gate was not the best was confident I had speed on my side and the ability to jump when needed. **Moto 3** lane 2 so off my game, I have no answers.

1/4 final another terrible start and having to come from the back to a qualifying position of 4th was NO fun.

Semi-final could not be any worse and all I could do was aim to qualify for the final and that I did by finishing 4th. I was feeling at my lowest point and was digging deep for answers.

Final - At this point self doubt and disbelief had kicked in and I needed someone to set me straight and give me the lift I needed to ride this final and Sarah was there. It really didn't matter what result I got, as long as I tried my best and had fun doing it. I had worked so hard to get here and so many people have continued to support me. I didn't want to let anyone down. Sarah Walker #96 my mentor was able to talk to me, she spoke, I listened and I heard. She went through with me 'the process'

- Roll onto the gate
- set your pedals
- roll your wrists forward
- watch for the lights
- and give it everything...

Lane 8 was my lane choice for the final and I was confident this was the right choice. I knew that I was the fastest around the track, but I also knew that my gate wasn't the best. I had my lane, I had my process and now to put it all into action. The rest is now history. I am Jessie Smith, 2015 UCI World BMX Champion for 14 year Girl's.

Jessie Smith World #1



After the success of last

year's Worlds campaign, it made sense to follow the same plan this year. This time round I had some company in Scott Hazlewood though. We arrived in Europe on the Monday about a week before official practice started which gave us plenty of time to shake the jet lag and acclimatise to the European summer. I think we must have got lucky last year however, as on average the weather wasn't nearly as hot this year, with more rain than we expected thrown in as well. This was probably a good thing though, given that the Worlds were outdoors this year - racing in 30+ degrees wouldn't have been too much fun.

After getting some bike troubles sorted thanks to an airline or airport somewhere along the way, for the second year in a row (massive thanks to the bmx24seven.com bike shop for fixing it on the spot and refusing to charge me!), we were underway. Scott and I managed to get around to five different tracks in Belgium and the Netherlands in the lead up to official practice. Getting in some good training with a lot of the other kiwis who were out and about all over the place. I was a little tired after a busy week leading up to the trip and all the travel, but was feeling better and better as the week went on.

Official practice was Sunday and Monday, with the younger age groups racing Tuesday, and us older guys up on Wednesday for 20" and Thursday for Cruiser. After my experience of how busy practice was last year, I made sure to give myself every chance of as many laps as possible this year, and was the first one lining up for our practice session over an hour before it started! I managed to get six laps in, and on what was a far more technical track than what we have faced the last two years, wasn't feeling particularly comfortable at all. I wasn't the only one though. Out of those of us who hadn't ridden the track before, I think

The Full Report Adam Coker's Worlds

most of us were feeling pretty sketchy.

Practice day two, and I wasn't the first one lining up but I was close to the front which got me another five laps. Being a full size outdoor track this year, doing full lap after full lap in practice wasn't really possible, although I tried pretty hard to on day one! On day two I came in with a bit more of a strategy to attack the parts of the track that I was really struggling with. It certainly worked out better, building the confidence somewhat. Although I certainly wouldn't say I had the track dialled by the end of practice.

The rest day between practice and racing was spent cleaning the bike after a bit of rain during practice, and making sure everything was in order before race day. I knew this year was going to be different, with a big wide open first straight rather than the steep start hills and short first straights of the last two years, but I was feeling better than ever in the weeks leading in so the confidence was still pretty high.



Race day rolled around and fortunately the rain decided to stay away. Just like 12 months ago, despite being the defending champion, I was still pretty nervous heading into the first moto. Amongst a bunch of names, most of which I'd never come across before, I had no idea what I was really up against. From the first moto it was clear that this year was going to be different to the last two. I took a second and two thirds through motos, qualifying me third from my group. I felt as though I had good speed from the end of the first straight to the finish line, but as we all know the most crucial part of a BMX race is getting to that first corner first!

Qualifying third out of my moto I wasn't expecting a very good lane pick for the guarter finals, but somehow ended up with lane three. I got out of the gate OK but got a bit squeezed down the first straight which had me sitting in about fifth place. I went through the first corner quite low coming out in fourth. A few guys got tangled up and crashed behind me down the second straight which gave me a bit of breathing space, and I managed to pick up another place down the last straight to go through with a third. Again, coming out of the quarter final with a third I didn't expect a great lane choice in the semi, and ended up with lane five. I got out of the gate pretty well and managed to find a bit of clear air to have me sitting in third heading into the first corner. A Frenchie who came out of the one of the inside lanes managed to get underneath me however, and decided to put me on the pro section coming out of the corner. After slowing down to make it inside the white line and avoid getting relegated, I lost another place to a Dutchie down the second straight. I had some work to do and set about chasing them down to make the top four, and make the final to at least give myself a shot at defending my title. The Dutchman and I both carried more speed than the Frenchman down the third straight, and we both got passed him into and out of the last corner. So I scraped through in fourth place.

Final time and I figured I would be out in lane seven or eight, after fourth in the semi. Some strategic lane picks before my turn left me with either five or eight. Despite what would normally be a fairly easy choice I somewhat hesitantly took five. I knew the Dutchman who had gone into six was fast, and there was only one way he

The Full Report

Adam Coker's Worlds Continues

would be going out of the gate. But I still had to back myself to make it happen from lane five. The gate dropped and I got another good but not brilliant start. As I predicted the Dutchman out of six started to pull ahead, and with some quick guys coming from the inside, put me in a bit of traffic down the first straight but I managed not to get spat out the back completely. Fourth into the first corner turned into fifth when a Yank got underneath me and held me up a little. I did all that I could to hold my speed down the second straight and a Frenchie pulled up alongside. We were both after the Yank, and made ground down the third straight. Being on the inside I took fourth place into the last corner. A clean run down the final straight and I managed to hold the place to the line, just.

After the highs of the previous two years, I was certainly aiming for the win again. However, I probably got a bit lucky at times in the knock out rounds while battling mid pack, and along with the strength of some of the competition who did and didn't make the final, I couldn't be unhappy to pick up the W4 plate this year. With cruiser the following day there wasn't too much time to reflect on it all, and it was home to rest up before doing it all again.

One of the UCI's more questionable rules had myself as defending champion, and world two from last year in the same cruiser moto, although that was nothing compared to some of the other moto draws from the week! I was finally starting to feel more comfortable on the track by the time cruiser racing started, and managed to win my first moto. Perhaps I was feeling a little too comfortable and in my second moto decided to jump the big step up into the second corner. After coming up quite short on the jump and sitting on the back wheel at the same time, the next thing I knew I was on the deck in the corner wondering what went wrong! It left me missing a bit of skin, but nothing that couldn't be patched up. I wasn't sure how I would pull up come the next race, which probably almost relaxed me a little, and the third moto was probably my best lap of the week so far, taking another win.

Both the quarter-final and semi-final played out in the same way. A good start in each had me slot into second place into the first turn. Holding position till the last corner, and making a move to take the win in each.

After the rocky start with the crash in moto two, things had taken a turn for the better and I was feeling pretty good heading into the final. Second lane choice put me in lane two, and I got what was probably my best gate of the week. The Dutchman who won 20", took the holeshot coming from out wide again, while I was in a three way drag race for second place. Being on the inside I took the position into the first turn and set about hunting down that title. I knew I had good track speed and was looking to create an opportunity down the third straight or in the last corner. Before I could do anything though, the Dutchman bobbled into the second corner and I took my chance, diving underneath to pull up alongside him out of the corner. Unfortunately this left me on the outside looking ahead to the last corner. Another mistake from the Dutchman and I was able to edge ahead half way down the straight. I thought I had him covered coming into the last corner, but he was closer than I expected and I had left him enough room to get back underneath. By the time I knew he was there it was too late, but I wasn't going to just give the title away. I tried to hold my ground, but at what I'm guessing is a significant weight disadvantage, I lost that battle and wound up off and over the last corner! Not realising a couple of guys had

gone down in the first corner, I got up and rolled over the line for sixth place. Six races. Four wins and two crashes. I couldn't tell you the last time I crashed twice in one day! Again, it wasn't the result I was after, especially after putting myself in the position to take the win. But it doesn't always go according to plan. Even though I came up short of the ultimate goal, I am still proud that I was able to make both finals in what was definitely the toughest Worlds of the last three in my opinion, and prove that I can still be in there mixing it up while not out front on a steep hill and short first straight that seems to have suited me quite well!

I can't thank Sue Walker and her team out the back in the pits enough for the hours and work that they do for us all. Scott for being an awesome travel buddy. Mum and Dad for coming over to support me, along with everyone else who was in the stands cheering, or watching on the internet into the small hours of the morning back home. My sponsors, Cyclexpress and pure delish the real food company. A massive thank you to you all, I do really appreciate the support.

If you made it this far, well done, and thank you for reading! Time to go away and rebuild for Colombia, where I have no doubt there will be plenty of Latino power to contend with!

Adam







I started off my journey based in a apartment in Copenhagen Denmark, riding with the local Danish riders on the awesome Copenhagen SX facility was unbelievable experience. A week prior the Angleholm World Cup we caught the train across to Sweden & rode the new track. Since it was a new track the event was a even playing field with no one having home track advantage which played into the hands of us from Australia & NZ.

It was an awesome experience & one that I took so much from & also ranking 11th in qualifying was a massive plus. Looking forward to some recovery & the next steps forward.

Michael Bias #901 Sweden SX

Back to the Future

A snippet into the History of BMX

Below are a few photos to show you how Licences and Rule books have changed over the last few years, from paper copies to now being found on the internet. As some of you are aware BMX NZ is in the process of collating and storing BMX New Zealand history. We want photos, paper clippings, club flyers and any other information that creates our BMX history and if anyone has anything that is of value to add to this history project could you please contact;

Caroline Fox -caroline@bmxnz.co.nz or Daphne Teau - daphnet54@gmail.com

*Even if you have hard copy information we can organise to have it picked up



Belgium and Beyond

teamXOXOBMXracing Euro Adventure

Belgium & beyond 2015

So we headed back to Euroland within 12 months for a second time, this time though travelling light with 3 less mountain bikes! Flying into Paris, we picked up our van & headed to the coast of Belgium to visit friends we met last year at the Ostend BMX Club. We had been looking forward to catching up with our Belgian mates for some time, & they made us instantly feel at home. First ride on the bikes was meant to be an easy, spin your legs kinda practice, but Dion didn't seem to get that memo, having a huge stack resulting in a cracked helmet & an extremely sore hand, back & ribs. (Unbeknown to him, this crash resulted in a broken thumb, two fractured ribs & short term memory loss). This meant no more riding for him until official practice day one. Kids were in cruise mode, working mostly on practicing their gates. After a couple of days, we headed towards our base on the German border to train with the rest of the Kiwi team at Venlo & Nuland BMX.

World Champs was looming, so it was off to Zolder...



Jake's story: As we got closer & closer to Zolder, I started to realise how big the venue was. Giant stands towering above us & hundreds of gazebos dotted all over the place. We went up onto the stands to take our first glimpse of the track & take notes for practice the next day.

Day one of practice & picture this, every rider is in a frantic rush to get from staging to the line-up tent which has 10 chutes already overflowing. The marshals wait for a signal & then begin to let riders in, 7 riders at a time. After an hour of repeating this, practise was over.

After another day of practice, race day was here! My family & I woke at the crack of dawn, got ready & left almost immediately. The 10 boys was the first group to race that day, so I did not have time for a warm up lap on the track. Moto one: I was actually the first of the kiwis on the track & I was feeling pretty good. Great gate, keeping up with last year's W2, brain fade on the first corner & I found myself in 4th before more brain fade ended me up in a crash & a DNF. Picking myself up from that, I had a good 2nd moto with a 2nd, & moto 3 saw another silly corner resulting in 4th. On count back I had just qualified for the next round of 1/16th finals. Phew! The 4 hour break between motos & the next stage of finals was fantastic for me. I went out of staging to find my mum, relax & start fresh.

In the 1/16th final I finished 2nd, 3rd in the 1/8th final & 2nd in the 1/4 final. Unfortunately I ended up 5th in the semi-final missing out on the main final by one place. But after a pretty rough start to the day, I was very happy with my 10th place overall right behind fellow Kiwi rider Jack. Now, it was time to relax & enjoy the rest of our European vacation. Jake

Sacha's story: My 3rd BMX

World Champs are done & dusted! There were a lot of blood, sweat & tears in the 24 hrs leading up to get this awesome W2

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Belgium and Beyond teamXOXOBMXracing Euro Adventure

trophy. I knew I had to jump the 1st big double at Zolder if I wanted to be in contention, & I did it in my 2nd practice run. I did it 5 more times over the two practice days, better each time & then on my 6th & final run I slipped on the landing & crashed real bad (blood). Dion had to rush & buy a new wheel set the night before racing & had one warm up lap on my new wheels before going into my first moto. All went well for the first two motos (two 1sts) then in the 3rd moto I cased the jump a bit & blew my tyre out. I did manage to finish the moto with my flat tyre in 5th! More than just a flat tyre, I was now up to my 3rd new wheel (sweat). Then in the 4 hour gap between motos & the beginning of the 1/4 final I rode into a barrier in warm up giving me a very sore & swollen, black eye (tears) I did get to my gate in the end & won my 1/4 & semi-final. In the final I jumped my best 1st jump & ended up 2nd behind the Great Britain girl. I am very happy with the way I rode under some very dramatic circumstances & only 7 rides around that tricky track before race day. Definitely a huge experience for me & love how sometimes you just don't know what the day will throw at you. Very happy with my W2 result, it was a really tough day at the office. Onwards & upwards! Bring on Colombia 2016! Sacha xoxo

Dion's story: Well after my epic build up, I was keen the smash out laps at Zolder, but in reality things were quite different. Still quite sore, I just strapped up the damage, as the first jump needed to be overcome, then the deep & lippy big boy track needed to be mastered. After a riding like a complete noob in my first moto, I calmed down & rode my own race, taking three 2nd places. 16th's & the speed turns up a notch 3rd place & transferred. 8th's I get an outside gate, which was better to start from & squeezed into 4th at the end... Quarters, last pick & slotted right in the middle L5 between some big lads...Damn. Lights go, I gate as hard as I could, pedal pedal pedal... losing centimetres quickly as I move down the ramp. As I set up for the first jump, its decision time, just huck it & cause a bit of carnage, or brake & walk away semi healthy to enjoy the rest of the time in euroland... so I cross the tape in 6th, Worlds are done, an effort I am OK with. Maybe could have been better, maybe not.

Overall it was fantastic to be part of the New Zealand team, being involved, helping out & share the highs & lows of a frantic few days. The mental toughness needed to compete at these events is such a huge step over any other event at home, so my respect goes to those that just sort it & ride. Onwards now to our adventure through Europe, before we head back home to winter. Dion

With the 2015 BMX World Champs & the business side of the holiday complete, now it was time to get rowdy! Road tripping in the van & a history lesson through ancient Roman Gaul towards the south of France, boating in Marseille & swimming in the Mediterranean Sea. A visual symphony of architecture, culture & tapas in Barcelona & EPIC mountain biking in Andorra. A space odyssey in Toulouse, wine tasting in Bordeaux & experiencing opulent excess in Versailles. Love, love, love this BMX life.

@teamxoxoridesbmxsometimes Dion, Anna, Jake & Sacha Earnest



EO's Word

The start of the season is upon us, with the first race meets only weeks away. The lead up to this from my view, has been an interesting few months, with AGM, Worlds, Cycling NZ (CNZ) news & off season happenings around BMX in NZ. AGM happened in July, with reps from all clubs attending. A new Board was elected with two new members, New season formats were

advised, a Strategic Plan laid out as well as an Athlete Pathway. All big keystones that will help us all get on the same track to success.

Worlds was again full on, with lots highs & lows. NZ showed once again that we can play on the world scene with success.

CNZ has had some success finding a major sponsor, which in turn allows them to offer benefit to BMX. BMXNZ is working closely with CNZ to define what these plans are that make a difference to BMX then we will roll these out to the sport as soon as we can.

Being off season things are quiet & restful...or not! Its seems thing are happening non stop here in NZ. Regional training plans are underway, Dalliston teams are training & general riding with winter series meets & gate sessions non stop. Its great to see everyone loving BMX!

See you on the tracks people

Dion Earnest

2015 Worlds

Just the facts man...

The worlds is a unique event to most New Zealanders, in its size & level of focus & stress that builds up to one day of racing. As told by riders here many things are thrown into the mix, missing bikes, dropped chains, damaged bikes & silly off track accidents... But they all front up & give their best. BMXNZ congratulates all those that set their mind to a goal & competes on the other side of the world in their black & white NZ jersey. Well done to all the finalists whose huge effort is rewarded with a top 8 ranking. To top it all off two of our riders really shone on race day, both focused yet calm, both did themselves proud. Congratulation to Leila Walker & Jessie Smith we are all proud of you.

Final World ranked Riders

Name	Class	Final
Leila Walker	10G	W1
Jessie Smith	14G	W1
Wyatt Stevens-McNab	9B	W2
Sacha Earnest	9G	W2
Lachlan Stevens-McNab	11B	W2
Kaly Harcourt	14G	W2
Jessie Smith	U16 CR W	W2
Jeanette Davies	30+ CR W	W2
Lily Greenough	8G	W4
Megan Williams	11G	W4
Adam Coker	25-29M	W4
Bennett Greenough	12B	W5
Tess Bates	30+ CR W	W5
Sam Cannon	8B	W6
Adam Coker	25-29 CR	W6
Ruby Laidlaw	12G	W7
Cailen Calkin	13-14 CR	W7
Paul Luttrell	45+ CR	W8

Others close to the line were the eight semi finalists, well done. Jack Greenough Jake Earnest Rico Bearman Cailen Calkin Shakira Mirfin Maynard Peel Jason Kelly Kurt Bagby

Numbers from Zolder at WC 2015:

Number of participants 2878. Number of cancellations in advance: 16. Number of not started: 88. Number of DNF in moto: 127 Number of DNF in finals: 11 Number of races: 1679 1254 Motos 60 x 1/16s 103 X 1/8s 148 X 1/4s 76 x1/2s 38 finals

And that was that, next stop Colombia, South America. Plan now, work the season, save your money & go for gold!!