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Dear Members,

At our annual general meeting this evening we are here to accomplish two tasks, to receive reports on the past year and to set the course for the next year and beyond.

First, the past year....

2010 was another very active year for cycling in Bermuda. The local race calendar was as busy as prior years with over 50 events in road and mountain biking across the 12 months. The pleasant surprise is the growing number of individuals who are coming out to race the road events and group rides. Certainly numbers are up for road racing and all indications are that 2011 will show more growth.

Our BBA programs with school-age students continue to attract new young riders, which in turn has created more visibility for the sport to such a degree that other schools and individual families regularly contact us about new opportunities. This is a good thing for all of us who like to race. The more visible our sport is in a positive light, the greater the acceptance by and support from the community.

In March 2010 we held a very successful Primary & Middle Schools Mountain Biking Championship and we are going to repeat this on May 8, 2011. From this event and the popular Tokio Youth Mountain Biking Series the interest in cycling is developing in our community.

The 2010 road season had several highlights, including a dramatic and wet Sinclair Packwood Memorial Race, championships for Time Trial and Road Race plus, for the first time, a Criterium Championship. These events were well organized and run by very dedicated individuals. This commitment to organizing events at a high level has allowed all of us to participate in quality races in a safe environment.

We chose to postpone the 2010 Butterfield Bermuda Grand Prix after bad weather for the original dates and lackluster interest when rescheduled for the following month. The event has been moved to April 15-17 as our 2011 season opening race and we hope that with this new place in our race calendar all of you will come out to race or volunteer.

The 2010 mountain biking season, which concluded over a year ago, was enjoyable for the competitors, but like the more recently completed off road season, did not see the growth in numbers we hoped for. Why this is the case, given the number of developmental MTB activities we host, is not yet understood but will be a consideration for those serving on the MTB committee and the Executive committee in the next several months. The numbers of racers does not suggest a lack of

enthusiasm on the part of the organizers or the racers and, in fact, there were quite a few new faces in the 2011 season. But there is work to be done here.

In 2010 the BBA and Bermuda were represented at the Junior and Elite Caribbean Cycling Championships. The flag was borne by Hayley Evans, Tre-shun Correia, Vason Cann, Mark Godfrey and Dominique Mayho in Aruba in August and then by Nicole Mitchell, Flora Duffy, Shannon Lawrence, Darren Glasford, Adam Harbutt, Mark Hatherley and Geri Mewett in Guadeloupe in October. You already know of the individual performances and the team successes at these events and we should all be proud of the results. These athletes, while enjoying the fame of representation and international competition, have dedicated their efforts to a level of performance that is worthy of these competitions.

All of these activities come with a price tag, some cash and some time. We can measure that cash value of these contributions and the BBA is extremely grateful to all those individuals and entities that added to our sport financially. And we should collectively recognize all those who have contributed their time to the sport of cycling this year. The gift of your personal time to the development of this sport is a most valuable contribution and we are fortunate to have this support. I need to mention Jeff Amaral and Charles Dunstan of Conrad's Tool & Accessories as I failed to recognize them at the awards dinner. Sorry guys. At our annual awards dinner in February of this year we honored Rick Craft of IBC as our Club Person of the Year for his support of cycling. I mention Rick again tonight as he has given both of his company's funds and also of his time to make the IBC series and the Criterium Championships outstanding events. We need to clone Rick.

To date the Government, through the Minister responsible for Sport and the Department of Youth, Sport & Recreation, has been very supportive of our efforts. While not receiving what a few years ago was referred to as "cricket money", we have been offered support when requested.

Let me at this time also thank the Board of Directors, the members of the Executive Committee, members of the Racing Committee, MTB Committee as well as our Membership Secretary (Sarah Jordan), BSADA (BCDS) representative (Heather Cooper) and Inventory/License Manager (Francois Bertrand) for their dedication to the BBA and cycling. Francois is stepping down this year after serving the BBA for more years than he may care to remember. From his role as eager parent to BBA President and experienced counselor, FB's willingness to support the BBA has been unmatched.

And so the future....

The Board and Executive have been working on the growth of our sport with a view that considers the ongoing "regular" local racing program that we have become familiar with and the developmental strategy. The latter takes into consideration programs such as the youth events, middle and senior school clubs, junior training and racing, and all the way up to international representation. These are not autonomous activities but rather a progression through the sport. Several years back we began with an effort to jumpstart the interest in cycling by initiating clubs at the senior schools. This appears to have been an effective route given the numbers and abilities of the students who became involved. As we work to push into middle schools it is clear that the only missing element is the availability of volunteer time. With half a dozen individuals we could be running after school cycling programs at

T.N. Tatem, Clearwater, and Sands 360. But we do not have those individuals now and are desperately looking for assistance.

And that, human-powered assistance, is what cycling in Bermuda needs most right now. Time to organize local races, time to assist introducing the sport to potential athletes and time to help mentor young cyclists in our sport. If you have the time and are willing to offer it we are eager to have it.

Thank you for supporting the BBA in 2010.

-Peter Dunne
President