

President's Report – 2009

Dear Members,

We have now concluded another year of cycling in Bermuda and I hope that you will agree that in the last 12 months the sport has made some progress. I am constantly conscious of the need to meet the demands of the numerous constituents of local cycling and I hope that we have made some steps forward for all.

On the local scene the 2009 calendar was busier than ever with over 55 different events, including road races, crits, time trials, mountain biking, hill climbs, youth mountain biking and a few "other" events. And on December 27th we will have a cyclo-cross event for the first time. If you like to ride a bike in Bermuda then this was a good year to be a member of the BBA.

To run this many events in a volunteer organization is a major accomplishment and all those who contributed to the success of the season deserve your thanks. I would like to single out attention for two individuals whose personal commitment has made these events so enjoyable. John Whale coordinated all of the time trials almost single handedly and Jeff Amaral has reshaped the road racing scene in Hamilton and beyond.

For international competition we hosted the Junior Caribbean Cycling Championships in July when 44 riders from 8 countries contested the time trial and road race courses. Izabella Arnold took the bronze medal in the time trial, leading our team of 5 boys and 5 girls. All of our team put in plenty of training hours to prepare themselves for the competition and their continued interest suggests that 2010 and beyond will be good years for Bermuda's representation in this competition.

October saw our team travel to Barbados for the Elite championships and we were again well represented. Earning a total of 3 medals gave Bermuda second place in the team competition. Dee Thomson repeated her time trial performance of the prior year to win the gold, Flora Duffy took silver in the women's road race and Garth Thomson grabbed bronze in the men's time trial.

In the past year the BBA Executive and Board have dedicated their efforts to the long-term development of cycling and this process will continue into 2010. While we have had some initial successes with the senior schools clubs, one year does not make for a development program. This past September we started several other school clubs and hope to see this continue. The major shortfall is adult supervisors and we would hope that we could find a few more individuals who could dedicate some time to this activity.

The next step for the development of cycling in Bermuda is to create a master plan that clearly identifies and addresses the various steps of progressing individuals from novice cyclists all the way to elite national squad performers. I believe that the BBA has the individuals who can create this plan and

implement it but, as always, this will take more hours and considerable support from members, the Executive Committee and Board.

I would like to conclude by thanking all of our sponsors and supporters this year. IBC, Jim & Debbie Butterfield, RMS Construction, Bank of Bermuda Foundation, Barits, Butterfield Bank, Tokio Millennium Re, Conrad's, Winners Edge and Bicycle Works plus Bermuda Police, Corporation of Hamilton, St. John's Ambulance, Parks Department, Validus Re, Belco, and the Departments of Youth, Sport & Recreation and Tourism have helped us have a successful year. We appreciate all that they have done for us. And finally, thanks to the Board, Executive, Racing Committee and all members for their contribution to a successful 2009.

-Peter Dunne