

To the November 2020 Committee Meeting

As Director, I have, from the onset, had a great desire to see us develop as one, in terms of riding and having fun, as a Chapter.

Even before becoming Director, I spoke with members around the State about doing more things as a State, as one, rather than be regionalised.

As Director, one sees Members, Rides and Events go through ebbs and flows, highs and lows. One is always conscious that well intended ideas and actions can, albeit unknowingly at the time, create unintentional angst or anxiety to other members.

One thing I am, is direct, honest and consistent, with high moral and ethic values, aiming for team work. One thing I am not, is angry, aggressive or a sole rider trying to take over anything.

We have a great bunch of people on our Committee and I will continue to work to ensure we become more of one, than be recognised by Region.

My reason for raising this today, now, is that post our AGM, I was approached by around half a dozen Southern Members in relation to their "Lap of the Map" Annual Event.

Initially, I was shocked, horrified and totally surprised by what was said and what I was being accused of, or what was being thought.

In my Annual Report I referred to it as an Inaugural State wide event, in hindsight a bad choice of wording, but I simply meant it was the first time we had Northern riders, in numbers, participating in the event.

The "Lap of the Map" was initiated some years ago by a number of southern members and I learnt only very recently, contrary to prior advice (also from a Southern Member) that they made it a Chapter Annual Event soon thereafter.

In support of their event, as I totally endorsed it as a great event and believed more members should be given the opportunity to participate in "Lapping the Map", I added the North/North West starting point to this Southern organised event - same day, same times, but in a reverse direction.

This latter mentioned starting point was well attended, but it was perceived that I was taking over the event and taking it away from the South.

Believe me, nothing could be further from the truth.

I dwelled on what was said and what was perceived and after a few days, in a calm environment, I made the call to 100% support the South who instigated this event (as we expect them to support North/North West events) and therefore retract the Northern starting point.

Having said this, we reserve the right and have our Southern members support to run a North/North West, 1000+kms event at a different time, under a different name, most likely in an anti-clockwise manner to encourage more members to ride the 1000kms in one day!

I wholeheartedly apologise to those members who were upset by my actions.

It just never occurred to me that some would see it as me trying to take over the event – I was purely and simply, trying to encourage more riders to participate in this great event – a major achievement for all those who participate and finish the “Lap of the Map”.

Henk Van Zetten

Director