

Newsletter #9 – September 2026



From the Saddle

Welcome to Spring

The arrival of spring brings longer days, warmer weather and—hopefully—a renewed sense of motivation across our riding community. The past month has been eventful, emotional and inspiring in equal measure.

Thank you to every rider, parent, organiser, volunteer and supporter who keeps our sport alive. MTB thrives because of you.

We hope to see you in full force at the KZN XCO Championships at Cascades MTB Park on 18 October, for some exciting racing, invitational races for those new to the XCO format and some incredible surprises. And keep 06 Nov evening free for our annual awards ceremony, details on this will follow.

Until next month—keep the rubber side down and your bodies healthy.

Andrew Mackinnon
Chairperson
KZN MTB Committee

email:
chair@kznmtb.co.za

Welcoming the New KZN Cycling President

We are delighted to welcome Mandy Preston as the new President of KZN Cycling. Mandy brings energy, experience and a deep passion for cycling. She also manages KZN Gravity and is a familiar face at the Super Classic Series events.

We wish Mandy every success in her new role and look forward to collaborating closely as we continue strengthening MTB, road, track and BMX across the province.

KZN Cycling also welcomes a new Recreation Commissioner, Simone Gagiano, who will be promoting cycling events and achievements throughout KZN. If you have news, stories or achievements to share, reach out to Simone via the online portal: <https://kzncycling.co.za/submit/>

Our Thoughts Are With Mike Foster & his family

The entire KZN MTB community remains deeply concerned following the dreadful accident involving Mike Foster.

As a close-knit family, we hold Mike and his loved ones in our thoughts and prayers, trusting that he will make a full and complete recovery.



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RSA World Championships Selections

Congratulations to all KZN athletes selected to represent South Africa at the World XCO Championships. Your dedication and commitment continue to make our province proud.

Some riders were unlucky to be caught in first-lap incidents that disrupted their races. Even so, every rider gained invaluable experience, and we hope the lessons learned fuel your determination to return stronger, fitter and even more race-savvy next season.

We also wish Daniel van der Watt all the best as he heads to Australia to compete at the World Gravel Championships from 10–11 October 2026. Fly the KZN and SA flag high, Daniel!



KZN Super Classic Series

After some data clean-up, the final results of the **2026 KZN Super Classic Series** can now be shared. Congratulations to all winners! The **top 3 riders** will be celebrated at our annual awards.

	Men	Women
Nipper	Remy Groger	
Sprog	Benjamin van de Winkel	
Sub Junior	Evan Grant	Sophie Bircher
Youth	Ryan Storm	Lucy Bolland
Junior	Luke Pretorius	Natalie Kluza
Senior	Daniel van der Watt	
Sub-Vet	Matthew Wilkinson	Jill Peach
Vet	Tyronne White	Nadine Nunes
Master	Mathew Goetsch	
Grand Master	Andrew MacKinnon	

Only riders who completed **≥ 4 Super Classic Series events** at the specified distance for their age category are included. Participation at the **KZN Marathon Championships (New Hanover)** was also required for Senior and older categories. Where no name appears, no rider met the criteria.

Good Luck to the KZN Primary & High School Teams

A huge congratulations to all riders selected to represent KZN Primary Schools and KZN High Schools at the National School Series Final, which will be hosted by Paul Roos Gymnasium in the Western Cape on 28–30 Sep and 1–3 Oct.

With over 600 riders often braving cold, wet and muddy conditions across our four KZN School Series races, our province has produced an exceptionally strong and resilient team.

We wish every rider the very best as they take on the final. Ride with pride, race with heart, and carry the KZN gees all the way to Stellenbosch.



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Spotlight on Sanctioning & the Role of KZN MTB

Recent media discussions around the Comrades Marathon's decision not to apply for sanctioning have prompted broader questions about the value sporting bodies add to their disciplines.

To clarify: **KZN MTB Committee members are volunteers**, not administrators. We are committed to serving our MTB community and safeguarding the future of our sport during undeniably challenging times.

Participation numbers have declined in recent years, and despite disruptions caused by the foot-and-mouth epidemic and rising fuel costs, we have seen encouraging growth at several events this year. This upward trend is vital as operational costs continue to rise.

What We Do for MTB in KZN

- Event planning – securing dates on provincial and national calendars requires extensive coordination and many hours of work.
- Rules & officiating – we train, test and certify officials to ensure fairness and safety.
- Safeguarding – we enforce a strict safeguarding policy, sometimes incurring investigative and disciplinary costs.
- Coach accreditation – we maintain a register of qualified, affiliated coaches.

- Provincial & national events – we organise and fund five provincial XCC/XCO events annually, plus a national event. Hosting national events in KZN reduces travel costs for our riders and showcases our world-class trails.
- Awards – celebrating excellence remains central to our culture.
- Representation – we attend national MTB discussions and KZN Cycling meetings.
- Cascades development – we continue to develop and maintain this iconic facility.

Event organisers shoulder the true economic risk and deserve immense recognition. Their work is difficult, often thankless, and frequently yields little financial return. We salute them.

If you feel we are falling short in any area, please reach out. Constructive feedback helps us improve and better serve our community.

