

Note: The following is Matt Benassi's Feb.17, 2011 letter and copied to Steve Johnson

Andy,

After thinking about this a lot and then re-reading Kelly Lusk's responses to the cyclingnews.com article on the race I want no part in a UCI race--in fact I want no part in promoting any USA Cycling event. Complete fabrication on her part as to how the events went down and then she throws in we could've had so many more riders--has she ever actually promoted a race in her life or had to write the checks at the end of the day, what does she know about attracting rider numbers? You know as well as I, had we not done the stage race all the amateurs would've raced one day at \$40 (and then raced Winter Park) instead of three days at \$100 and we still would've lost money. She is impossible to work with when she doesn't get her own way and is totally unorganized. In fact the only reason we got three days notice when she finally told us to redo the technical manual for the stage race was because I was pestering her with emails as to whether or not USA Cycling was going to waive those fees and I basically begged her for an answer and she finally responded and then added the oh by the way we need an updated technical manual in three days--I went back through all of her correspondence and she never mentioned before then that she would need something more than what you had already provided on July 24th and that amount of time isn't reasonable for anyone to update a document like that--had she been better organized and let us know a couple of weeks out we could still be having a stage race. As to trying to work with the other promoters to help us with the date she forced on us, she did nothing as far as I can tell. USA Cycling could have squeezed Mountain States Cup but chose not to--she protected the East Coast US Cup Triple Crown race by not letting us run on that date in June and then threw us under the bus with MSC in July and did she ever even contact Winter Park or Downieville?

Why would I want to work with and promote an organization that is dysfunctional and petty as USA Cycling MTB is? The answer is I don't and I won't until Kelly is gone--maybe USA Cycling should've fired her instead of Vinson last summer, at least he was somebody you could work with and trust.

Sorry to drop this on you but her responses put the final nail in the coffin for me as to whether or not I want to go through the ass pain of helping run another UCI event. I just can't justify working with and promoting an organization that hires folks with such a lack of integrity and incompetence. Of course I'll give you all the preliminary course work I've done and I can give suggestions to your next venue director but I just can't be a primary part of this any longer.

Respectfully,

Matt