



Tri2o Triathlon Club

AGM Minutes

24th October 2014

Attendees

The following members were present:

Martin Cook, Rob Harper, Ian Armstrong, Unity Speakman, Dom Dos Remedios, Linda Maule, Tim Challinor, Damien Ward, Colin Wilson.

Apologies

Apologies were received from the following:

Georgia Jackson, Nick O'Connell, Edwina McDowall, Greg Holloway, Tasha Skidmore.

1. Approval of minutes from last AGM

Minutes from the previous AGM in November 2013 were shared with those present.

2. Chairman's Report

First, please accept my apologies for my absence. Second, apologies in advance for the lengthy report, but so much has happened!

It was with some trepidation that I took on the Chairman role at the AGM last year, having never chaired anything in my life before and not really knowing much about triathlon. It was big learning curve for me. However, I have really enjoyed the last year, because it was handed over in great condition by the previous Chairman Steve, I have been supported by a fantastic committee, and because Tri2o is a great club with a growing enthusiastic membership.

As predicted by Steve, the committee has seen a lot of changes with both new faces and existing members swapping roles. However, the ethos has remained the same; to quote Steve last year "inclusive of young/old, beginner/experienced, male/female, sprint to Ironman" and I think that this ethos is the fundamental reason why the club membership continues to grow.

All the credit for the developments that have taken place over the last year must go to the collective of the committee.

Thank you so much to Colin for his organisational skills, drawing the up the agendas, planning meetings, reminding us when they are and producing excellent minutes. I think he is clearly a Chairman-in-waiting; watch this space! Ian has been a huge asset as race secretary (a really big, and pretty relentless, job), choosing races, keeping the club informed on an ongoing basis promptly of results and spurring on the friendly competition. I am very grateful to Edwina for rejuvenating the Ladies Captain role with her new ideas e.g. Captain's corner, the ladies' race calendar and for pulling together the ladies and leading by example. It is a great shame that she is unable to continue on the committee, thank you Edwina. I look forward to Callum taking on the Men's Captain's role, as with Edwina leading by example. I want to thank him for his longstanding commitment to the club as Treasurer, as well of course as one of the key club coaches, particularly at the Crosfields swims which he has made such a success. It is great that he will continue on the committee.

Martin has started the process of getting the club over to a no-cash system, by changing the club bank account to a single signatory with a view to moving to online banking. This is a priority in light of increasing membership numbers and therefore greater financial turnover and will be a big job, but I have the utmost faith in Martin.

One of the biggest roles, Communications, has also seen another new committee member in Tim and he has taken the role and run with it. The newsletters just keep getting better, in part due to his commitment to

encouraging members to contribute. The new website is a huge success, due to his hard work with Dom. Other notable communications achievements include the communications survey, acting on the results to streamline our Facebook presence, designing the membership cards, focus on the website and email contacts.

Linda has continued to provide support as membership secretary. Increasing membership has brought challenges and together we have managed to get a more robust system going, introducing the membership packs and cards and having a continuously updated shared file. To see continued growth in membership has been brilliant. Another new committee member Nicky has organised loads of great social events, as well as being a stalwart ride leader, and I am sure we are all looking forward to the Christmas party.

A sideways move from Communications to Kit for Pete; he has been a super-organised kit secretary and an excellent model for the new club swimming hats (as well as sourcing and ordering them in the first place). The separate "kit secretary" job is a new one, and Pete has set the bar high! We will be sorry to see him leave the committee after a long period of service. Orders have continued to increase and it has been fantastic to see so many club members wearing kit at races. It really increases the team feel of the club. The general support and presence at club championships, and other races, has been brilliant. We have also seen some outstanding performances by club members both locally and internationally.

Huge thanks go to Dom for his unfailing support of the club and committee, including through the life-changing event that is baby Max. Thank you so much for continuing as lead coach. He has big ideas going forwards for the club, and is always thinking of how to improve the training that we offer for our members. This has been a big project this year and his sensible approach and ability to get things done have resulted in renewed vigour for the club rides this winter. The club coaches have continued to help provide members with excellent training opportunities and it is particularly encouraging to see the coaches leading the club rides this winter as well as leading the swim sessions.

Thinking ahead to next year we have some big plans and ideas. We must continue with our under-pinning objective to be inclusive to all, as this is what marks us out from other clubs. However, trying to have a "squad" or team to send to races is something we are seeking to develop. The plans for a training camp in Mallorca, tied in with 70.3 IM Mallorca, in the spring are underway and if successful could become an annual club event. This year's Fish'n Chip ride to the coast was very popular and will hopefully continue annually, with plans afoot already. We should aim to become cash-free in the coming year and also think about the financing of the swims to enable online accounting. Seeking Star Mark accreditation with Triathlon England is also a potential goal for the club to be discussed in January, and another key topic which needs very careful thought is the name of the club and whether we seek to change this to reflect our location.

That's quite enough from me. I think I may have one more year left in me as Chairman! Thanks again to everyone, and I am sure I have missed some key things!

3. Treasurer Report

The club is in the process of changing bank accounts and signatories. As a result, we were unable to fully review the state of the club finances during the AGM. A statement of the club's accounts should be available for review during the Committee meeting in January.

4. Welfare Officer Reports

There have been no welfare concerns to report. The possibility of opening the club more widely to juniors has been discussed but a decision was made to keep the club predominantly for adults. We do have a small number of junior members but these are all teenagers and are always accompanied by a parent to all training sessions, who take full responsibility for their children. The implications for having junior members were felt to be too onerous for the club at present.

5. Membership Secretary Report

1. We started off with around 80 people after renewal period.
Around 30 members did not re-join from last year
We now have 130 members
47 new members this year, some of whom have left and re-joined for various reasons.
Mix of people training for first tri right up to those training for IM, going for world champs etc.
Majority are active in training.
38 women – quarter/third of the overall membership
2. Fees structure as always - £25 for first year, £20 thereafter. £10 after September. £5 family discount.

3. Membership cards and packs have been issued this year – keeping track of growing number of people. Info about the club seems to have been well received. Tim has 'welcome to new members' section in newsletter.
4. Membership numbers – haven't really changed over to the number system yet for payment etc. Will discuss in the New Year.

6. Coach's Report

Overall, 2014 was an excellent year for the Club as we continue to expand and improve our offering to members.

Swimming - Our Club swimming sessions continuing to grow and regularly attract 25 swimmers both on Monday and Friday. I would recommend the committee consider very seriously a third club swim session each week, perhaps on Wednesdays.

Cycling - We have re-established the Club weekend cycle sessions with up to four groups at different speeds heading out each weekend. This is a great credit to all those who have volunteered as ride leaders. The intention is now to maintain these through the winter and into the summer next year as well. We will also explore the possibility of a Club turbo trainer session in the week. Tim has mentioned this and is investigating it.

Running - The Club running sessions have been disappointing with sessions at Christchurch Meadow in Caversham and Palmer Park Track failing to attract more than one or two attendees consistently. This is in part due to the difficulty of travel by car in Reading and also the ease of doing a run session from home for our members. I would recommend that we investigate a similar arrangement as has been successful for the cycling with running groups heading out from different locations on days and at times to suit volunteer run leaders. As a side note, I am personally also planning to offer technical running sessions to club members but on a less regular basis. These may not be official club sessions but would provide an opportunity for some structure running technique training.

Coaches - We continue to benefit from a good number of coaches within the Club, most of whom are keen to increase their level of qualification. Our level 3 coaches are Clive Alderson and myself, our level 2 coaches are Jennie Jones and Harriet Chettleburgh and our level 1 coaches are Callum Hughes and Kevin Evely. Ellie Gosling is also a level 2 coach in the Club but has stepped back from Club coaching to focus on her business and family. Tim Challinor has also indicated that he will look to qualify as a coach.

7. Kit Secretary Report

The club has placed one order for kit this year with Endura, with 20 members making purchases.

Endura have recently changed their minimum order requirements, meaning that as a club we now have to order at least 3 items of each type of garment, and 15 items total to place an order. This means members may not be able to order the kit that they would like. It has been proposed that we find a new supplier, which Rob Harper, who is taking over as Kit Secretary for 2015, is taking forward.

In March the club purchased 150 club swim hats. Sales of these (at £3.50 per hat) have been very slow so far. A decision needs to be taken with these going forward as to how they will be distributed.

8. Communications Secretary Report

Website:

Successfully launched the new website and I've had some great feedback so far. Dom put in loads of hard work writing the content. Hopefully we can build from here and add more.

Costs are:

\$99 annually: subscription

\$13 annually: to connect an additional domain name.

\$x for the two domain names (waiting for Edwina to confirm)

Newsletter:

The members have been providing excellent content and that has made it very easy to fill. Sometimes they will need a little nudging but that's fine. It's easily filling a monthly edition. Thought about producing more regularly but time constraints mean it's just not feasible.

Facebook Group:

The Group is going from strength to strength, with over 100 members now. Everyone seems to like it and there's lots of activity daily.

Need to check how many non-members are in the group

Facebook page:

Just gets left as is, content will need to be updated from time to time, but not a lot of time required. It gets the newsletter posted there and is a way non-members can find us.

Emails:

We have two lists setup in Mail Chimp. One list for the newsletter that includes everyone who has subscribed to it and one that includes members only. Happy to send any content out, if required, just need to content and target audience.

9. Race Secretary Report

A great year of racing for Tri2o members.

A number of fine individual results in races nationally and internationally. We'll done to all.

Club competitions this year started with the final few races of the winter running competition. This competition is growing every year and hopefully with the new format more will be encouraged to take part.

Male winner was Alex Warner and female winner was Georgia Jackson.

Again this year we ran both the Club championship and summer TT competitions but with the emphasis on age groups, this proved to be quite good and added a little extra competitive spirit.

A total of Forty six members turned out for the championships and at Reading Triathlon 32 competed in either the Sprint or Olympic distances.

The winter running competition is back again in two weeks' time with more races, distances and terrains to cater for all tastes. Hopefully we'll have a great showing of members to all events.

10. Social Secretary Report

Review of the 2014 social events:

- Quiz night pre-season was great success with approx 25 members attending
- Mid-season evening only had approx 4 people attend
- The end of season event was really well attended with approx 40 members
- The "fish and chip run" was well attended and has been referred to by members as the "event of the year"
- We will be repeating this again in 2015
- The Christmas party is scheduled for 12th December at Zest in GreenPark

Other events/ideas

- A mountain bike/ shooting biathlon was suggested, which had a bit of interest but not enough to run the event. We need to send separate communications several times via multiple mediums to get people to notice
- A trip to a Velodrome (London or Calshot) is being planned for 2015

11. Men's and Ladies Team Captain Reports

- Ladies Team Captain – Edwina McDowall not present
- Men's Team Captain – Callum Hughes not present

12. Elections

The following persons were elected to committee positions:

Chairperson: Georgia Jackson

Treasurer: Martin Cook

Club Secretary: Colin Wilson

Communications Secretary: Tim Challinor

Membership Secretary: Linda Maule

Race Secretary: Ian Armstrong

Head Coach: Dom Dos Remedios
Men's Team Captain: Callum Hughes
Ladies Team Captain: Tasha Skidmore
Welfare Officer: Unity Speakman
Social Secretary: Nicky Rumsey
Kit Coordinator: Rob Harper

13. Any Other Business

- There was a discussion on a potential change of the club name. It was agreed that this warrants further dialogue within the committee and subsequent communication with the membership.