

Annual General Meeting
2nd November 2016 @ 20:00 hrs
Hoole Community Centre, Westminster Road, Chester. CH2 3AU

Guest Attendance:

Natalie Justice-Dearn: BTF Director of Delivery

Oliver Heald : BTF North West Regional Manager

Alison Brennan: club member & solicitor (DTM Legal LLP), advising on Club Constitution

Agenda

1. Minutes of 2015: Approval (Can be found on the club website under 'Our Club' menu)
2. New Constitution : questions and vote to ratify.
3. Review and questions re. the annual reports. (Attached for prior reading)
4. Annual membership fee.
5. Show of hands to ratify officers for the Committee where there is only 1 candidate.
6. Announcement of ballot votes for election of other Officers.
7. A.O.B.

Paper ballot voting for 2017 officers will take place in the library between 19:45 & 20:15hrs.

Please cast your votes when you arrive and then take a seat in the main hall.

The counting of votes will take place during the review of the annual reports.

Thanks:

The Executive Committee would like to thank all the following for giving up their precious time throughout 2016

- The active club members, their family and friends in providing support at our events
- All the volunteers who work unnoticed behind the scenes in their unwavering support in organizing, collecting and maintaining our kit & equipment,
- all club coaches for the sessions at which they work
- all section leaders for organizing sessions they put on and lead
- the committee for providing us with support in the administration of the club
- the event organizers for putting on 4 amazing events

Executive Report

2016 has not been the year that we anticipated or planned. In an attempt to be as open and transparent as possible, we hope that our regular correspondence has provided you with some of the background to the difficulties that we have experienced.

It is testament to the hard work and dedication of the committee, the coaches and the volunteers, that the general day to day activities have remained largely unaffected and why yet again the club has delivered four fantastic events, an excellent spring training camp and an upcoming, autumn one too.

Whether you have been affected by these difficulties or not, we would urge everyone to put them behind you and to leave them in the past, so that the whole club may move forward into a new year, fully united.

Out of adversity comes strength and out of strength comes success, so we believe that the club is now in a better and stronger position than at the start of the year. We have worked and will continue, to work closely with the BTF and the Sports & Recreational Alliance (SRA) to move the club forward, by upgrading the foundations on which the club is administered.

The Constitution has been rewritten, the Executive committee will be replaced by a larger elected Management Committee (assuming the new constitution is voted in), and new club rules have been developed. The New Year will see the SRA providing the elected officials with training and support in governance as well as providing the new Welfare officer with similar support. Further, we plan to develop the additional policies and procedures that a large club like ours requires, to function as smoothly as possible. While these are perhaps not tangible things, like new equipment, or new training sessions or extra parties – they are the solid foundation on which the club works. Those foundations were very shaky, and now they are fixed, we can make our focus for next year on a different type of club development. Goals for the immediate future and for the for medium term, can revolve around things like developing coaches, introducing some new training sessions and developing a hub for the club at somewhere like the Hoole Community Centre.

We are well underway with creating and launching a whole new website for the club, which will bring our information up-to-date, and be a vibrant and visual window for Chester Triathlon Club. We are also delighted with the club facebook page, which is now active and informative, and we would ask all members to join it, in order to keep up with the latest news bites.

Finally, you only have to read the weekly newsletter, to realize in what a huge range of races our members have participated this year. From small local events, to exotic far flung locations, from sprints, to Iron Man distance, from first-timers to European & World qualifiers.

We have them all at Chester Tri, and every race completed, is a valued achievement.

Financial report: Ian Jameson

The 2015/2016 season has been a strong one financially for the club. A combination of increased revenue and less expenditure has seen the end of year balance increase from £6,401.42 to £19,261.89.

Improved revenue has been generated from the increase in membership fees together with the events we run - all of which have returned a profit generating in total around £6,500 for the club.

Less expenditure has come about primarily through swim, which over the year has only run at a small loss (last year due to pool closures we lost around £9,000) and a more considered approach to how we spend money and to the way the club subsidises activities. Key areas are the removal of the cost of equipment storage (now paid for by the event organisers) and the proposed end of season party.

At the last AGM there was a vote to increase the membership from £25.00 to £40.00 to help put the club on a stable financial footing. This increase brought an additional £3,000 into the clubs coffers.

As Treasurer it has always been my aim to make the finances of the club as open and transparent as possible – after all this is your money! This not only offers clarity around how we spend money but also the accountability of those spending it and it is my belief that this has given us the discipline put us once again on a sound financial footing.

I would like to thank the people who do such a great job of collecting the money and in particular Nania who has to count it all over again, log it and then take it to the bank.

Race Reports:

Christleton 5k: Sean Simmons

Sean as debut race director, taken over from Aaron this year, after arranging it for the previous two years and previously from Chris Morgan.

The race was in it's 29th Year, so 30 yrs next year and we'll need to do something extra special?!

Race limit is 400, and due to the high volumes of entries, requests for entries and a long waiting list we opened the entries up to 500.. Consequently next year I'm thinking of changing the race limit to 500 with the EA, its currently registered as 400 Max. with the EA and Chester West and Chester Council.

Race was sold out (500 runners) and full 12 weeks prior to the race, which shows the local pull and popularity of the race. Although, in the calculations we allow for a 20% drop out.

We had a minor social media frenzy a week before the race, due to leaked information that the course was too short and had been for years due to the incorrect measuring by the initial course measurer some years ago. But the course was actually re-measured by the EA the week before and subsequently corrected on the ground. It was 0.1% inaccurate, approx.. 10m

As a club we have to provide a level of cover for the course and hire the following including;

- ☑ 50 + Marshalls (Chester Tri Volunteers)
- ☑ First Aid cover (St Johns Ambulance)
- ☑ Christleton Sports Centre (Registration)
- ☑ Christleton School (Finish)
- ☑ Chester Law College (Parking)
- ☑ Amberon (traffic management and road closure)
- ☑ Course signing by Sean, Andy Hamilton, Phil Broster and Matt Parsons
- ☑ Price fund (£600) – Cash prize fund
- ☑ Christleton Village – Parish Council
- ☑ Local course letter drop for residents – Sean and Phil
- ☑ Photographs by Sports Sunday

New elements for this year included;

☑ Chip timing **included within the race number**, which saved collecting in or handing out chips to each runner. Thanks to Dan for providing these and arranging the timing.

☑ Catering (provided by Phil and Julie)

☑ Baggage Tent (free)

As indicated above there is quite a bit to arrange to make the event happen, even before the night and the race is over within what seems like a matter of minutes!!

The EA adjudicator (Richard Batterham) said the race went well and only flagged a few errors/issues on the night, no race license or Insurance detail was displayed in registration, a few marshall points didn't have enough marshall's as specified on the Risk Assessment.

I have to thank all the marshals and team leaders again for their help in arranging another great Chester Tri Race!
Looking forward to next year all ready! Which I'm happy to arrange again.

Deva Triathlon: Dan Craigen

Thanks to everyone who helped with Deva 2016, it was another great success.

Entry Levels

A total of 705 entries were received this year, 231 in the Middle Distance and 474 in the Olympic. This met the expectation set at the AGM in 2016 but was significantly down on 2015 due to the event clashing with the ITU race in Leeds. This meant we were unable to secure any qualification status from the BTF. I was really happy that we managed to get as many as we did and think the investment in facilities, equipment and marketing in 2015 was a major factor in our event being successful this year. Prior to us getting qualification status in 2012 we usually attracted a field of between 300 and 400 so shows how the event has grown in stature despite an increase in events.

The introduction of the Deva Middle distance race also played a part in shoring up the numbers, it was very well received by everyone I spoke to and the feedback after the event was really positive. We have agreed to put on the same event in 2017 limited to 300 entries. This ensures the event only runs for about 1 hour longer than our usual Olympic only event with a minimum additional commitment from a marshalling perspective.

Finances

The event had a total Income of £48.5k, with total expenses of £45k this year. There were no major one off costs this year which helped to produce a profit of £3.5k. A transfer of £3k has been made to the club account keeping the balance as contingency for 2017.

2017

The date for 2017 has been set for Sunday 4th June. This was one of two dates available to us from the Council which we submitted to the BTF in our application for qualification status, the 4th was chosen as the only viable date for a World Qualifier which we duly accepted. The 2017 World Championships will be held in Rotterdam on September 14th – 17th. We have a target of 900 – 1000 entries for 2017 which we hope will generate a significant profit for the club.

Volunteering

2016 was the worst year for volunteers since I took over the race, a combination of asking too late, people participating in the event and others participating or volunteering at the ITU race in Leeds or Ironman 70.3 in Staffs. Other local clubs and friends and family of club members filled the gaps but meant doubling up for marshals who did volunteer. This doesn't help going forward as it puts a greater burden on those who do volunteer and can sometimes be too much to ask.

In 2017 we have asked all those who participated in 2016 to help marshal on the day to allow others to participate. We have also started the volunteer recruitment already to help publicise the date. We would prefer club members to marshal at the event but understand the attraction of competing on home turf, therefore we would ask that anyone participating in 2017 to try their best to provide a friend or family member to marshal on the day.

Deva Diva's Triathlon: Sally Napthen

- 238 Finishers
- Times ranging from 1.15.42 to 2.51.59
- Race referees report received - All Excellent
- 100+ marshals - All happy and smiling!
- Many appreciative emails received from entrants

- Great article in 220
- 2017 Open - 30 entries to date
- Profit of £533.42 - Staying in Divas account (mainly due to £500 support from Aaron & Partners towards swim hats)
- Total cost of race £10,722.33

Dee Mile Swim: Ciara Murphy

The Dee Mile swim took place on Saturday 30th July. We had record entries of 420 with 354 participating on the day. The format remained the same with 1km and 2km swims both downstream and finishing at the suspension bridge on the Meadows side of the river.

New this year we had Selkie swim shop on site which was a great addition. They provided the prizes and were popular for all open water swim related purchases. Fresh Caterers provided a fantastic service to competitors and marshals, also serving hot chocolate after the swim in memento mugs which was popular with swimmers.

Deva Canoe Club provided 20 volunteer canoeists without whom the event could not have been safely run. We donated £150 to their club as a thank you.

Press coverage by Dave Taylor had a really positive impact and the numbers of spectators along the river was wonderful. Feedback has been positive.

We are already looking forward to 2017 with 5th August provisionally booked. The date being later in the summer was a success with large entry numbers and only one person treated for mild hypothermia.

For next year we are considering signing up to the Global Swim Series list of iconic races. The support from members on the day with people helping out in true Chester Tri club style was fantastic. I would love to see more members joining in the fun of marshalling next year.

The cost to run the event including safety cover, hats, timing, mementos etc was £6,171. After all bills have been paid we are left with £1,965 in the account. I am looking forward to 2017!

Section Leader Reports:

Swim: Chris Malpass

After having a testing year in 2015 with pool closures and having to significantly re-structure the swim offering, I thought that 2016 would be less challenging. Unfortunately not! With losing our swim coach, we've managed to put in place a really successful swim program with most of the swim sessions covered. Feedback is positive about the new swim sessions and we will continue to monitor how these going forwards.

We've managed to think more around swim sessions this year from a financial point of view (by cancelling sessions at certain times of the year and monitoring attendance levels) and now are managing to run the swim sessions on a level playing field. It's a careful balancing act as we try and offer a session for everyone, right from novice swimmers to swimmers who compete at a much higher level. Most of the time, we are very successful at this and I'd encourage anyone with ideas on how to improve this to put forward these ideas. We do now meet as a swim team to talk through the swim program, plan sessions and talk through everything swim related.

I'd like to thank all the swim coaches who've put their time and effort in this year and encourage anyone who'd like to get involved to come and have a chat to me about how you can be involved.

Bike: Dave Press

Winter weekend rides ran from 10 October to 1 May and Thursday evening rides have run every week from 12 May to 1st September. Thanks go to all those who have volunteered to lead them: Kathy Frankland, Andy Hamilton, Nicola Perrins, Mike Waring, James Morgan, Paul Heath, Karyn Jackson, Andy Howarth, Laura Sayer, Jon Carter. Alan Needham, Shona Simmons, Sue Ellis, Andrea Mageean, Bree Sutcliffe, Charlie Walton, Amy Gittins, Jo Morris, Tony Dooley and Angie Green. Winter weekends will start again in October. Volunteers to lead welcome to contact bike@chestertri.org.uk

We've joined cycling uk (ex CTC) as associate members and this provides third party insurance for group leaders, conditional upon having sign on sheet for those joining group rides.

On 15 December 2015 there was a very successful session for the club at the Velodrome, thanks to Nicola Perrins for organising. We're hoping to repeat this year. Nicola organising it again, waiting for a slot in November or December. Lesson from last year is that we should be more confident about filling places from club members.

We've held monthly day rides June, July and August. 25 members entered Rise Above Sportive and through discounts and volunteers we raised £130 for club funds. Once again we are expecting a Cavendish signed Chester Tri jersey which we will once again raffle for club funds.

Turbos ran on Thursdays last winter and will start again on Thursday 20th October.

Run: Kirsty Seddon

The Wednesday track sessions have continued to be very well attended with excellent structure and coaching provided weekly.

The Tuesday night Total Fitness runs have been as popular as ever, with runners of all abilities being made to feel very welcome and supported by all the coaches and run leaders.

Thanks must go to all the coaches and volunteers who keep these sessions going week-in, week-out throughout the whole year.

In the 2015/16 Borders League the club enjoyed mixed success, with the women's team finishing top of Division 1, having gained promotion from Division 2 the previous season. The men's team finished in 7th place in Division 1, resulting in their relegation to Division 2 for the 2016/17 season.

The Cross-Country fixtures within the North West Sunday League were poorly attended and it is our intention to return to the Liverpool and District League for the 2016/17 season.

Thank you to everyone who has been involved in coaching, leading runs or representing the club at team fixtures over the past year.

