



# City of Chester Triathlon Club



AGM 2014 Minutes  
Wednesday 12 November 2014

Square One Youth Centre, Thackeray Drive, Chester CH3 5LP

## In Attendance:

Aaron Riley	Claire Sutcliffe	Jan Rogers	Magnus Walker	Sally Napthen	Tony Dooley	
Alan Cronin	Colin Wilson	Jenny Broster	Mark Price Jones	Sean Simmons	Traci Shipley	
Andy Hamilton	Daniel Craigen	Jo Harding	Michael Gandy	Simon McAllister		
Anna Pope	Dave Bottoms	John Andrew	Michael Waring	Stephen Spall		
Chris Hulse	Dave Taylor	Kate Litherland	Nania Mason	Sue Hubbard		
Chris Malpass	Diane Duret	Kenny Begley	Nicola Perrins	Susan Fourie	Non-Members:	
Chris Morgan	Dominique Miller	Kirsty Seddon	Philip Murphy	Susan Haslam	Lucy Cowgill (BTF)	
Chris Standidge	Emma Sharpe	Leigh Jenkins	Philip Broster	Tanya Southern	MariaSalcedo	
Ciara Murphy	Janet Morgan	Linda Worrall	Rob Monk	Toby Shipley		

## Apologies:

Alison Leavens	Bree Sutcliffe	Jane Sharpe	Jim Barrow	Peter Timson	Simon Greenwood	Sue Ellis
Amy Gittins	Cara Fishburn	Jean Ashley	Kelly Crickmore	Rebecca Holland	Sue Bottoms	

2013 AGM Minutes approved by show of hands.

## Matters Arising

Storage facility at Square 1– Not progressed as the handover of Square 1 from the Chester Council to the Parish Council took longer than expected so the Club has now rented a unit at an establishment in Ellesmere Port.

Boat – Issues related to where it would be stored and access to the Dee could not be resolved and it has now been sold to a third party.

Club name change – Has now been recognised by British Triathlon and UK Athletics.

## Captain's Report – Jan Rogers

No changes to the Exec allowing good continuity.

Excellent individual performances locally, nationally and internationally. We have had National Age Group Champions at Middle and Standard Distance and World Age Group Champion in Quadrathlon. There have been a high number of pb performances and a significant number completing their first triathlon. Great to see all these results in the newsletter each week.

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As a Club, there have been excellent performances in the team events with the men's team finishing in 7<sup>th</sup> place in the Multi-Terrain and the ladies topping the league in 1<sup>st</sup> place. For the second year running, we did not have teams at the National Triathlon Relays. We would like to rectify this but it is reliant on volunteers to organise at a busy time in the race calendar.

Swimming continues to be the most popular of the training sessions offered. City Baths has now been closed for over a year but we have managed to provide extra sessions at Christleton and now the University pool, including an early morning session which is proving popular. City Baths is expected to reopen in January 2015 and the swim sessions will be reviewed. Some sessions are underutilised, such as the technique session, at times and this will be taken into consideration.

Running continues to improve with both the Track and the Tuesday night runs being popular. We are affiliated to UK Athletics (England Athletics) and a number of cross country leagues. Some problems this year with runners competing under the club name, without having paid their membership to EA due to the changes to how you join. Reminders will be sent out to encourage people to re-join in April 2015. Due to the reduced number of affiliated members, we have fewer places for London Marathon this year.

Bike Lead, Alison Leavens, stepped down in July after 3 years in the role. Thank you Alison for your commitment to this. Amy Gittins has stepped up. Bike rides offered this year have been a Ladies only ride, Monday and Thursday evening rides and now through the winter months, a team of navigators will be assisting with weekend rides for all abilities. We continue to organise sessions at the Velodrome in Manchester when sessions are available.

Training Facilities – Good use being made of our access to Square 1, for meetings, training sessions and through the winter, the turbo sessions.

2 training weekends. Both were a success with a different emphasis for at the start of the season and the end.

Coaching- Five additional Level 1 coaches and one Level 2. The Club still needs more coaches and will support/fund the necessary BTF training. Please see the website for the criteria and commitment involved.

Development plan – Last year, the Exec defined their objectives. This year, the plan was rolled out to the Committee members and has been a successful way of monitoring progress. Some have been achieved, some have not which allows us to focus on certain areas and drive the Club forward.

Races – We are privileged to have excellent race directors and have put on 7 excellent races this year. Most notable was Deva, having won the BTF Event of the Year in 2013. Diva Devas has recently been awarded the North West Event of the Year and goes forward as nominated for the Triathlon England Event of the year. Christleton 5km and Bolesworth Duathlon both posted good fields, with sunshine at Bolesworth for a change. Unfortunately, Bolesworth will not be running in 2015 due to changes in the management at the estate but it is hoped we will be able to revisit it in the future. The Dee Mile was also a success, with a full entry on its change from Wednesday evening to a Saturday, which was seen as a positive change.

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Some changes to the Committee this year. Kelly Crickmore (Head Coach), Alison Leavens (Bike Lead) and Kate Litherland (Press Secretary) have all stepped down. We thank them for their commitment and hard work whilst in post and wish them well. We welcome Amy Gittins (Bike Lead) and Leigh Jenkins (Press Secretary). As yet, Kelly has not been replaced due to it being a more challenging position. Kelly has done a fantastic job of developing the coaching program, as did Clare before her and we thank them enormously for this. This is however an enormous task for one person. A team approach is now being considered to lead the coaching program.

Over the past 12 months, I believe we have made good progress and would like to take the opportunity to thank the other members of the Executive team and the Committee for all their help and enthusiasm.

I would also like to thank the members for supporting our events and for racing and for putting Chester Tri well and truly on the map. I said this last year and it remains close to my heart. We have over 500 members and the challenge going forward will be to embrace the changes needed to improve the Club whilst maintaining the personality.

## **Vice Captain's Report – Andy Hamilton**

Kit – Has now been moved to the eCommerce website and has been live for 7 months. The triathlon race kit was put on initially in May 2014, with the addition of the cycling kit in July 2014. The winter cycling kit is expected any time now. The delay has been caused by it being shipped from Italy > USA > UK. The hoodies are now live. Members can get them personalised once they are received. Most purchased are for more than one item at a time. Sales are at £850 of kit/month. £6000 worth of kit has been sold so far. The Club does not make a profit on the kit. It is sold at the price the Club purchase it for. The sales have incurred PayPal fees of £200 to date. There is over £15,000 worth of kit available at any time. There have been some issues as this was a new venture for both the Club and the provider. The lack of a formal returns policy has been problematic. The distributor has gone to efforts above and beyond the agreed conditions but now feels it has become unmanageable. All returns have been the Bioracer race kit, with sizing being the issue (ie too small). The Club will be securing sample stock from Bioracer, which will not be in the club colours for members to try at the Friday swim sessions. Once this is available, the Club will no longer cover the financial cost of returns incurred due to postage and admin.

*Comments from the floor:*

*Concern raised that there was a problem due to the manufacturer mislabelling a product. Returns would be funded in this instance.*

*Question raised as to why the Club does not cover these losses but accepts the financial losses made by the swim sessions? It was explained that the swim and kit losses were agreed at AGM. There will be a full review once the kit has been online for 12 months.*

*Comment made that it is to the Club's benefit to have its members in club kit.*

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*Question re whether utilising a process eg Collect + might be feasible but considered to be logistically too complicated. It was proposed that the kit manager could do this but the point of the website is to avoid this level of commitment on the part of one individual.*

*Further queries regarding returns were explained by the Club incurs a £5 handling fee.*

*It was asked why the sizing wasn't resolved prior to ordering. Response is that too few members took the opportunity to try the samples when they were available.*

*Winter cycling kit availability was queried. Response, £10,000 of race kit was purchased plus £5000 of cycling kit. May prove possible to reduce the race kit and increase the cycling kit. The intention is to maintain stock levels on a rolling programme, in order to maintain the kit levels at appropriate availability. But this is still a learning process and will be looked at in the 12 month review.*

*Could a feedback comment board be included on the webpage to advise tha the sizes come up small? Will be considered.*

*Will the kit be sold off at a reduced price when it changes? Response, yes but there are no plans to change the kit at this time.*

## **Secretary's Report – Diane Duret**

Change to the constitution proposed:

To include the role of Vice Captain. Approved by show of hands.

To change the Club account signatories from just the Treasurer and Secretary to any 2 members of the Exec. Approved by show of hands.

Confirmed that the voted for Club name change has been actioned and recognised by BTF and UK Athletics.

Confirmed the Committee changes to the Head Coach, Bike Lead and Press Secretary positions. Thanks on behalf of the Exec team and also from the remaining members of the Exec to Jan Rogers as Captain as she too is stepping down.

## **Treasurer's Report – Alan Cronin**

The Club should and does remain committed to supporting the kit as the bank balance is very healthy. Deva Triathlon and Deva Divas are major contributors to this.

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Swim Sessions – Do make a loss of ~ £5000. Of which, £2800 are subsidised sessions (Coaches/Committee members/Volunteers) plus £2200 due to costs. Considered acceptable as valuable training and a social link for members as there is no clubhouse.

Many thanks to Linda, Nania, Jen, Phil, Jan Morgan and Gary Munsey for their assistance with collecting the money at the swims.

*Ciara Murphy asked about the coaches t shirts. The costs have been agreed but the invoice has not been paid. Confirmation given that it would be.*

## **Dee Mile – Chris Malpass (CM)**

Some changes this year. Moved to a Saturday which presented new challenges due to the increase in river traffic, hence 5pm start, which was an improvement. The race made a small profit. Not intended but nice to see. Date for next year is Saturday 30 May 2015. Tides are an influencing factor to the date selection. Historically, it is before the Deva Triathlon. The earlier date may cause the river to be a few degrees cooler but in discussions with the other river users for an earlier start. Some changes to the layout are planned, involving a marquee to be put at the start for changing /bag drop. Will mean getting in and swimming 100m downstream to the start. Also hoping to construct a purpose built pontoon to assist with the swim exit at the finish.

*Request for non-wetsuit swimmers to be in the 1<sup>st</sup> to avoid getting cold. Canges have been made to the start which should resolve this.*

## **Deva Triathlon – Dan Craigen (DC)**

932 entries this year, down from 1473 last year but 2013 was a World Championship Qualifier event for London. 8 waves rather than 10. Good times were posted due to the high caliber of competitors.

£47,000 of income with a race profit of £4500. Disappointing but the council had re-graveled the paths in the park, requiring the installation of carpeting.

Some issues with car-parking. The University withheld access to their car parks despite having agreed to allow it.

The free photos were very popular.

230 marshals. Thank you to Phil for organizing them but lots of last minute volunteers. Thanks to everyone for helping but please volunteer earlier!

Fantastic feedback.

## **Deva Triathlon 2015**

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June.

We have secured £28,000 in sponsorships and grants from the Council. Hoping to increase this to £46,000 to cover the cost of television, which may come from Triathlon England Major Events division.

Plans to put on a race prep talk on the Saturday evening.

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Those who sign up to marshal early will receive a free race hoodie.

*Comment raised that on the ITU website, we appear as Deva Triathlon Club. Could this please be corrected?*

## **Bolesworth– Sally Napthen**

- 118 entries 105 starters 95 finishers
- Weather was good for a change!
- One entrant taken to hospital but is ok
- 52 marshals. Very heavily marshalled in order to avoid competitors getting lost(as happened in the 1<sup>st</sup> year)
- Bolesworth 2015 will not be held due to estate management changes but hope to see it on in the future.

## **Deva Divas – Sally Napthen**

- 297 entries 251 starters 249 finishers
- Advertised as a novice race but attracts a range of athletes. The winner is a European champion
- Divas is not just about race day, there is a lot of work put in to the pre-race seminar, the training days and Kate's bike skills sessions so thanks to all who help with that
- 75 marshals
- NW Event of the Year 2014
- Divas 2015 is on 26<sup>th</sup> July at the Meadows again
- Race for Life Chester is on the same day but will not be a problem

## **Christleton 5km – Aaron Riley**

- 443 entries 334 runners
- Chip timing was introduced
- New female course record
- Big thank you to Alan, Dan, Kenny and Anna for their support
- Date for next year is 15/05/2015

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## Juniors – Alan Cronin

- 55 Active members
- Thanks to Nania, Megan and Si for their support and consistent coaching input, which is really important for the juniors.
- Appeal for more people to get involved with the Junior Section, please contact Alan
- 2 successful events this year, the Aquathlon in April and the Triathlon in September
- Entries have to be limited due to space but it remains the most popular NW event attracting competitors from all over.
- There will be selection trials for 8-9 year olds in December 2014

## AOB

- Sally asked if anyone would be interested in taking over the role of Race Director for Deva Divas. Please contact her directly
  
- Historically, membership fees have been reduced by £5 for those who rejoin before the end of January. This year, it is proposed that the fees be held at £25 and move to a rolling membership so you renew after 12 months from when you joined. This would reduce the huge workload for the Membership Secretary to have to manage all the renewals all at the same time.

## Passed by majority show of hands

- It was suggested by Colin Wilson that membership fee increases are always introduced from 1 January, having been set at the AGM.

## Passed by majority show of hands

- Chris Hulse expressed his thanks on behalf of Andy White and himself for the Club and members support for Chester Marathon.
- Sue Hubbard proposed that the Club becomes affiliated to ASA, so that members can compete in swimming galas. Seconded by Andy Hamilton and Chris Malpass. Chris will investigate how the club proceeds with this and feed back to the Committee.

## Passed by majority show of hands

- Request for information as to which sessions might be available at the City Baths. All interested parties have been invited to submit requests for pool time. We have requested

Saturday am 7-9am    Saturday pm 5-6pm    Wednesday pm 8-9pm

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- Affiliation to British Quadrathlon requested.

## **Passed by majority show of hands**

- Outgoing Exec to retain their posts until the following January in order to support the incoming post holders, for continuity

## **Passed by majority show of hands**

## **Election of Officers**

Jan Rogers steps down as Club Captain for the coming year. Andy Hamilton has been proposed and seconded so takes up the role.

Mark Jones has been nominated and seconded for the role of Vice-Captain

The other Executive positions were unchallenged and the current officials are willing to remain in post.

Club Captain - Jan Rogers

Vice Captain – Mark Jones

Treasurer – Alan Cronin

Club Secretary – Diane Duret

Thanks to all for attending.

## **London Marathon Entry Ballot**

Several members produced rejection letters for the club allocated places so names were pulled out of a hat.

Good luck to Kenny Begley, Kirsty Seddon and Magnus Walker.

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