

TREASURER

Hannah Ormerod



I joined Chester Triathlon after volunteering at one of the Deva races and thought I want to do that! This inspiration has definitely stuck with me over the years and I will always be thankful for that.

In recent years I've been part of the kit team and have met the most friendly and helpful people through this.

Outside of all things Triathlon I'll be found spending time with friends & family or deeply engrossed in a good spreadsheet through my job as a Group Financial Controller for a Tech Services company.

COACH CO-CORDINATOR

Karen Collo



My introduction into Triathlons was not conventional...back in 2017 I met a lady at a Business Networking group, 8 months later I saw her again and she looked like a Million Dollars. Interested in finding out more, I ask what diet she had been on? "No diet, I've just got into shape and completed a Triathlon"... intrigued I did a reconnaissance on the Deva Diva's and figured I had a fighting chance of completing it.

So I joined the Chester Triathlon in January 2018, and with the assistance of some amazing coaches, I tamed my fears and managed to put my head in water; learnt to change a tyre; and gained some posture to run.. and I completed my first sprint triathlon in July 2018. Am I fast?.. No. Am I hooked?.. YES; and if I have the chance to pay forward the genuine skills; encouragement; patience and friendliness of the Chester coaches then count me in.

CLUB REPORTS 2020

Financial Report 2019/2020

The Club Business account looks after all the individual budget centers and runs the day to day club business.

Deva Tri account and Deva Divas account are managed by Dan and Sally respectively.

October invoices are not included as they have not been received to date.

	Club Business	Deva Tri	Deva Divas		Total
Receipts	£ 27,148.60	£ 29,153.95	£ 7,819.40		£ 64,121.95
Expenses	£ 29,874.40	£ 43,763.90	£ 2,132.00		£ 75,770.30
Net Movement	-£ 2,725.81	-£ 14,609.95	£ 5,687.40		-£ 11,648.36
Opening Balances	£ 18,011.47	£ 57,616.02	£ 11,810.06	£ -	£ 87,437.55
Current Balance	£ 15,285.67	£ 43,006.07	£ 17,497.46	£ -	£ 75,789.20

The Club Business account cash assets at the start of the year were at £18,011.47 and to date are shown at £15,285.67.

Club Revenue

Club Membership was down to £6790 compared to £8649 for 2019.

Kit section generated £1487

Juniors generated £420

5K on paper shows a profit of £923 but that is mainly due to entrants deferring their entries to 2021. This will make the 2021 event much less profitable and most likely will run at a small loss.

Club Outgoings

Swim section lost £8211 – coaching costs pre-Covid were approx. £1000, venue hire charges far outweighed income, although some of this was a late invoice for last year from City Baths

Coaching section costs £1352 made up of 2x Coach courses and maintaining individual club coach affiliation/membership to governing bodies.

Bike and Run section made small losses of £466 and £362 respectively.

Sundries were down to £1259 – these cover club admin, bank charges, club affiliation fees, website maintenance, plus this year a small donation to charity.

Details for the Deva Tri and Deva Divas accounts can be ascertained from Dan and Sally respectively and are not included in this report but the cash balance for the Deva Tri has dropped from £57,616.02 to £43,006.07 whereas the Deva Divas has risen from £11,018 to £17,497.

This is most probably explained by the fact that the Deva Tri refunded all 2020 entrants whereas the Deva Divas had a large number deferred to next year. Like the 5K event this will have an impact on the profitability of next year's event.

Summary

Undoubtably Covid has had an impact, and our total net reserves, inclusive of all 3 of our accounts, is down by approx. £12,000. In all probability, this would have been much greater and more readily seen within the accounts if entrants to the Divas and 5K had been refunded rather than deferred. I would therefore expect the club will be under increased financial pressure next year and would recommend a cautious approach to expenditure moving forward.

The more profitable the club the more we can subsidise club participation in the various sessions we provide and therefore keep membership fees low, but this year has highlighted the need for a shift in emphasis for next year.

The Club has members who are not Triathletes and are purely swimmers, runners or bikers and if we were to increase membership fees to subsidise section costs we run the risk of losing some them during a period when our membership has fallen from 450 to 387 (inc 48 Juniors this year compared to 75 last year).

I would recommend we maintain membership at the present level of £25 but feel we should review session costs when they restart to ensure we cover all venue hire and coaching costs.

RACE REPORTS

There is little to report for 2020, what with one thing and another. Despite that, a massive thanks and congratulations to Jacob, Nigel, Ian and the Aquathlon team for putting on our one event of 2020.

Deva Aquathlon Race Report 2020 – Jacob Waterhouse

As with everything, the Deva aquathon series was a little different this year. We originally had 4 dates confirmed for the 2020 series, in the same format as last year with one race every 4 weeks, from June to the end of August. Due to local and government restrictions, we unfortunately had to cancel the first 3 events. However, this gave us enough time to plan and prepare for last race on the 31st of August. With the help of Elaine Stanford, our Covid officer and BTF we were able to run a downsized 30 entry race, which went very well with great feedback from all competitors and marshals.

Thanks go to everyone involved in putting on the event from preparation and planning right through to the race itself including Queens Park High School, BTF, Chester West and Cheshire Council, and most importantly the support of many club members giving up their free time on a bank holiday Monday.

The main aim of the race was to show that Chester Triathlon Club can adapt to change and still put on a well-run race not only for the surrounding triathletes and Triathlon Clubs, but also for our own members who have had little chance to race this year. The scaled back race allowed us to trial new ideas and ways to organise key aspects such as contactless registration and a socially distanced transition, all of which helps test ideas that could be used next year in our larger events.

At this moment in time it's hard to say how next year will unfold, but we hope to run at least one aquathlon and hopefully a complete series, with multiple events throughout the summer months, with the possibility of expanding entries to more than 30.

Deva Divas – Sally Napthen

The 2021 race will be on 11th July 2021

The majority of 2020 entrants deferred their entry to 2021, with a small number of cancellations.

260 total as:

AquaBike 15

Quad 42

Triathlon

Deva Triathlon – Dan Craigen

Entrants to the 2020 were refunded 90% of their entry fee to cover admin costs.

2021 race will take place on 13th June – please make a note in your volunteering diaries. Entries will go live early November, with an initial limit of 750 across both Olympic and Middle distance to ensure that we can comply with any distancing requirements that might still be in place.

SECTION REPORTS

Coaching Update – Aaron Riley

I'd like to thank a few key people for enabling Chester members to keep people training through this difficult year both through lock down and getting some of our sessions back up and running post lockdown.

Earlier in the year Mark Taylor started Zwift group rides

Shaun Jackson persuaded a large number of members to enter the weekly Thursday team time trial. I had the pleasure of competing in a few of these and they were brilliant, though I am wearing rose tinted glasses now.

James Morgan and Jonathan Girvan are also adding more Zwift rides/activities each week. See newsletter for details.

Mike Waring kept the running up with the doorstep 5k

As we moved out of lockdown a lot of hard work went on behind the scenes to get sessions back up and running. Elaine Stanford was appointed as our Covid officer who put a lot of work in with Mike, Emma, Shaun, Anthony Brennan and Karen Collo ensuring we had risk assessments and provisions in place to ensure everyone stayed safe.

Swim sessions

Emma Sharpe put a lot of effort liaising with the various leisure centres to securing pool time to get members back in the pool. Unfortunately, due to various reasons we were unable to

coach all of the sessions. However, Sally Napthen was a regular who put a smile on most swimmers' faces.

Run sessions

Tuesday night runs enabled by the hard work of Mike Waring. Dave Taylor, Mike Waring, Sally Napthen and Gemma Kelly all lead the Tuesday night runs.

Wednesday Track was organised by Shaun Jackson and Dave Taylor with sell outs every week come rain or shine.

Training and development

Christine Paramore has completed her level 1.

Grant Carter Moore has completed his level 2.

Juniors – Nania Mason and Simon Greenwood

Current membership of Junior Triathlon Club as of 26 October 2020 is 51.

There is little to no information to give with regard to our section due to the current Covid-19 situation and the subsequent lockdown/s.

We are unable to hold any sessions at present as we have no facilities available to us.

We still have approximately 80 children on the waiting list and continue to receive requests for children to be placed on the list.

Our two events were cancelled. We have been contacted by the North West Series organisers to enquire whether we would consider holding events next year if it were possible.

Swim Section – Emma Sharpe

A year of 2 halves:

Up to March lockdown - Firstly a big thanks to Andy Howarth for looking after club swimming until earlier this year. Until March, we had 9 pool sessions available, with a spread across Christleton and City Baths pools, mornings, afternoons and evenings and combined squad/separate sessions for intermediate and advanced squads. About half the sessions were covering their costs, with the club subsidising other sessions quite heavily. Most sessions were coached, having introduced coaches from CoCSC in the previous year.

Post March - All change, when pools (and normal life in general) shut down for 4 months. While we were unable to provide club training, we focussed on supporting members who were trying to continue individual training with details of open water swimming options and dry land exercises to keep the muscles working. We were able to get the club back in the pool in August. New requirements and guidelines from Swim England, BTF and the pools meant that we had to limit numbers per session and per lane and times and locations were slightly different to the sessions we had been running previously. Following a survey of members to gauge appetite, we initially arranged as many sessions as similar as possible to the calendar before lockdown. After a trial period which saw some sessions with no one attending, we focused on the best attended. We turned all sessions into combined squad

sessions, with all swim abilities spread across the lanes. Monday and Friday evenings at Christleton have been best attended, mostly covering their costs after September.

Booking system – we introduced a booking system via Nifty Entries so that we could provide a record of attendance for NHS contact tracing. This has worked well and a big thanks to Dan for setting it up quickly and waiving Nifty Entries' fees and to Leigh for constant uploading of sessions and maintenance.

Coaching – initially BTF introduced a requirement for coaches to be Level 2 or above, which limited the pool of coaches we could draw on. Many sessions have therefore had to be uncoached, but they have still worked well. Big thanks to Aaron for writing all the swim sets and Sally for coaching on Mondays and Fridays.

Future – we had arrangements in place to return to City Baths in November, which have been put on hold due to the national lockdown in England. When the pools reopen, the intention is to continue Monday and Friday evenings at Christleton and to move the Wednesday morning swim from Northgate to City Baths. We will re-introduce more sessions when attendance numbers can justify. At the moment, our biggest challenge is cost. Until we can increase numbers in the pool, we need to fill sessions to cover the cost of pool hire and lifeguards. We are considering options such as pre-booking a block of 6 weeks ahead, in order to guarantee the costs can be covered and we can book the pool. Prices may have to rise slightly, but we aim to keep the costs competitive and below what it would cost for a public swim session or to swim with other clubs.

Run Section – Mike Waring and Gemma Kelly

Last winter's Cross-Country season was back to a proper mud fest after the previous season's exceptionally dry conditions. We continued to attract more first timers - 10 this year and if the L&D Champs hadn't had to cancel, it would've been even more. Overall numbers of women were similar to last year with a solid general turnout. A great consistent team performance in the Liverpool & District XC League races saw us once again equal our best finish of 5th place overall out of 14 teams. For the second time, we managed to attend all of the North West XC League races, with our Women's team producing their best ever overall team results - coming a very respectable 9th out of 25 teams. In total we had 44 Chester Tri runners take part in XC over the season with special mention to Rosemary Symms and Steve Collyer with the most race attendances.

The 2019/20 Borders League ended prematurely with race 6 and 7 having to be cancelled, but we had a fantastic result with Charlotte Towers coming 1st Woman overall in the league. Our Women's team came 5th overall in Division 1. Our Men's team recovered superbly from a bad start in the first race, coming back from the bottom of the leaderboard with increasing strength of numbers and new talent, achieving 4th position overall in Division 2. A total of 47 Chester Tri runners took part over the season.

Our Club Vest Championships saw over 100 club members take part and fly the flag for Chester Tri in local races. The overall winners and Age Cat winners between them raced nearly 70 times. Well done to all, superb racing and team camaraderie.

The summer's Multi Terrain Series was cancelled due to Covid and the 2020-21 Borders League has been cancelled too. The 2020-21 XC leagues seem unlikely to go ahead either, the only hope being a couple of championships may take place early next year.

During the 6 months from April to September the Doorstep 5K run series proved very popular, helping people stay motivated and focused. Over the series of 25 events, 90 runners completed 707 runs between them for a collective total distance of 3535km. Many new PB's were set, some of those being (unofficial) All-Time PB's. Special edition Doorstep 5K's are planned over the future months.

The club training runs, which had been cancelled since March, saw a successful return in September with Tuesday night runs currently going out from Lime Wood Fields and track sessions back at the EPSV.

As always, thanks must go to all the coaches and volunteers who keep the training sessions going week-in, week-out.

Thank you to everyone who has represented the club at team fixtures over the past year.

Bike Section – Dave Press, Jonny Girvan and James Morgan

The year started optimistically. Rachel Hollins took on the role of co-bike lead and took a lead in organising weekend group rides, which successfully continued until the country was locked down in March.

Rachel negotiated a great discount for members to enter the Cheshire Cat Sportive, but it was a casualty to the virus.

The Club's Winter Segment Challenge was completed with only marginal impact from coronavirus, with Sue Ellis winning the women's General Classification, QOM and Sprint competition and Mike Waring winning the men's General Classification and Sprint competition and Jonathan Girvan winning KOM. A total of 40 members recorded a time in the challenge.

As we entered lockdown Dave hoped that we would still be able to take advantage of the discount we'd been given for the Tour de Mon in August. What optimism!

The lockdown has stimulated alternative activities. Thanks are due to Mark Taylor for organising Zwift group rides and Shaun Jackson for organising Zwift Team TTs.

The summer segment challenge attracted participation from 63 members with Mark Benson winning the men's competition and Hannah Owen winning the women's.

A new winter challenge started in October.

We had planned to start winter weekend group rides with Covid safe measures considered, then lockdown 2.0 happened, these plans are ready to be utilised. Whenever the time is right.

Thanks to Rachel for her very valuable contribution, but pressure of work has led to her stepping away from the role. In pursuit of a new bike lead we had 2 step forward in James Morgan and Jonathan Girvan, this led to Dave also feeling it was time to step away from the role. We are very grateful to all Dave has done as Bike lead over nearly 6 years (I believe) Thank you Dave.

James and Jonny have been liaising about potential opportunities for the role going forward, in the short term it is all about keeping the wheels turning through lockdown again.