

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Triathlon England.

Held on Saturday 14th November 2009 at 2pm in the Gymnastics Seminar Room, Loughborough University.

Apologies

Jasmine Flatters - Chair, BTF Technical Committee

Welcome remarks

Lawrence green (LG), president of the Triathlon England (TE) Council welcomed all present and thanked them for their attendance at the Annual General Meeting. LG introduced the agenda for the meeting and introduced Jem Lawson (JL) Chair of the Triathlon England Management Board.

Minutes of the AGM 2008

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting of November 2008 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

Proposed: Dave Bellingham

Seconded: David Rigby

Board report

JL presented the Triathlon England Annual Review Document; stating that he would refer, in brief to a number of aspects of the Board Report, and that the 'Open Forum' item was likely to be the most valued part of the agenda.

JL thanked everyone for their attendance and confirmed that the meeting was quorate.

The change in the structure of TE was noted (see review pages 12 to 13) and the fiscal and financial reasons which led to the re-structuring. TE now operates as a division of the British Triathlon Federation (BTF). JL made clear that, though this was now the case, TE was still wholly responsible for all matters of triathlon in England and, specifically, remained the English membership body.

The Chair alluded to the TE purpose "To enable excellence and deliver the opportunities for everyone to achieve their personal triathlon challenges" and the work of the nine English regions. He went on to talk about the Council structure, and that the role of Council members is to supervise and appoint the

Management Board. This was done towards the end of 2007 and into 2008. JL then went on to thank all of those on the Council and the Management Board.

The chair went on to describe the events of the meeting between the TEMB, representatives of the regions, including the Council and selected members of BTF staff; this was facilitated by Steve Bentley from First Ascent (BTF's Learning and Support Partners). The group worked through concerns and leadership matters, identifying relationships and communications as priorities going forward.

Council report

JL mentioned the Council report which forms part of the annual review document (page 3), stating that any specific questions could be addressed by LG at the appropriate point of the meeting.

Staff reports

The structural delivery programme was mentioned, and changes to this, driven largely by Sport England as major funding partners following its change of strategic direction. Sport England with its 'Grow, Sustain, Excel' programme has changed the grant application process and how governing bodies can utilise funding.

The development report was highlighted and it mentioned that the first half referred to the previous funding cycle, the second half the current cycle. It was noted that the TE development team has consistently met and exceeded all KPI's set by them (annual review, page 4). JL also went on to talk about the different emphasis of current work, and picked out regional academies and the quality aspect of development work for particular attention.

The regional academies will allow talented athletes access to quality coaching and a consistent talent pathway from their region to central squads, a much more joined-up way of working. The quality aspect of development work refers to the necessity, not only to increase numbers, but to raise the athlete experience across clubs, events, etc.

A healthy membership increase was noted but it is the aspiration of TE to increase the membership considerably over the forthcoming years. TE is in the middle of a project to do just this, following consultation. There is also a considerable amount of work taking place to bring IT systems and capacity up to scratch, with the potential for rolling membership, better services and benefits to increase membership advantages.

Event numbers appeared to drop during the previous year however this was attributed to improved systems to monitor them and now only includes correctly permitted events. It is expected that numbers will again rise during 2010.

Financial report

Review of the financial report began with an apology. Due to some confusion over TE Regulation 100, full financial reports were not sent in due time. Whilst this is probably not a legal requirement due to the new structure of the organisation, the chair apologised and committed to having them produced by the end of the week following the meeting.

Del Grainger (DL) presented the brief financial report from the annual review (pages 13 to 15) for the members.

Items of special business

There were no items of special business

Open Forum

JL introduced an Open Forum, allowing those attending to ask specific questions relating to the annual review or activities of TE over the past 12 months.

Q1 – Steve Howes – Coventry tri

Questioned what would be the methods of measure if the focus of development was markedly shifting from quantity to quality.

Mark Barfield (MB) BTF director of development, talked about the satisfaction survey used by Sport England as their method of measure across all sports. He went on to talk about an 85% satisfaction rating from this survey as well as internal measures against what we feel will affect this including measures against events, clubs, CPD and coach education.

Q2 – Phillippa Mahiques – Coventry Tri

Asked about quality measures for events.

Alan Spelling (AS) talked about a number of elements that are currently coming together between officiating, officials and events to influence event quality. MB went on to talk about specific interventions that are currently being developed, including a race organizers qualification and a multi leveled, multi-faceted event accreditation system. Sarah Springman (SS) noted a busy calendar can bring its own issues, but accepted that everyone must be able to take part and that the quality of their experience was all important.

Q3 – Jack Birrel – Thames Turbo

Questioned whether race organisers actually required BTF approval and registration and asked what TE were doing to make sure they did.

JL stated that every event should take part under the umbrella of the governing body. Current government advice states that events must run under registration from the governing body. There is also work ongoing with organizers who operate outside of TE to understand their position of try to work with them positively.

Q4 – Andy Fardom – Man Tri

Asked for confirmation of the dates of the financial year. Answer: April 1 to March 31.

Q5 – Paul Dutton – FVS tri

Commented that a look to increase participation was important but also felt that it was important to convert numbers from participation and club membership, into TE members.

This was agreed by all

Q6 – Francis Riley – L&B tri

Questioned whether there were any additional areas that should receive attention that either currently don't or haven't been specifically mentioned. He used disability and minority participation as an example.

JL accepted the point and highlighted the current efforts in the areas mentioned. He highlighted the efforts of the paratriathlon officer and intervention, noting the Hyde Park event and an example of world class performance and organization. He also noted the desire to have the sport as part of the 2016 Paralympic Games. He also noted that we encourage all participants and wish to be as inclusive as possible.

MB talked about British Triathlon's position at the forefront of paratriathlon internationally and our prominent positions of both ITU and ETU committees. He also noted specific work in rehab centres and other areas to positively break barriers to participation. He went on to talk about positive action in the areas of BME and women's only projects that are currently taking place across the country. In conclusion it was also noted that a lot of our challenges are actually socio-economic above all else.

SS mentioned the Corus Kids of Steel initiative which addresses a number of these issues positively and how that during 2010 this initiative will grow extensively with 12 events in England.

Q7 – Jack Birrell – Thames Turbo

Questioned whether we could make a link with British Swimming initiatives for Muslim women.

JL agreed that this was a good idea and that work is already underway looking at triathlon being an exit route for swimming.

Q8 – Geoff Moyes – BRAT & Poppy Holmes – Southampton

Questioned whether using club members as a comparison against TE members could skew results as it does not take into account single discipline athletes, those using Triathlon as training only and indeed single discipline clubs with a smaller triathlon section.

JL agreed that this could be the case but that none of the figures would be addressed in isolation. He also went on to talk about the membership initiatives that are currently in place and introduces Jane Wild who has a portfolio for membership on the TE Management Board.

Jane Wild (JW) talked about the membership initiative and how parts of it are now moving forward including communication with members. She also stated that it was her intention to reform the membership sub-committee early in 2010.

Q9 – Jack Birrell – Thames Turbo

Stated that an aero helmet failed during a race he was refereeing, asking what was TE position if we feel equipment is substandard.

JL noted that it is not our officials' position to examine and interfere with equipment and our rules were quite specific on the quality they need to be.

AS confirmed that the standards are in place and this is not a specific concern of an official.

Q10 – Jack Birrell – Thames Turbo

As he is in charge of the compilation of national ranking points would members be grateful to have club and regional competition results in addition to individuals.

JL agreed that as an addition this seemed like a good idea

AS noted that there were plans to have an English national championships

Zara Hyde-Peters (ZHP) pointed out that whilst it might prove useful and popular it should be noted that should too much emphasis be placed on this form of the competition it may prove negative to the development of an athlete due to unnecessary and inappropriate competition.

Geoff Moyes felt that pathways are more important than competition.

SS noted that by making mini-olympians there comes the challenge of sustainability and that it is more important that an athlete be brought through the system correctly.

Dave Bellingham brought up the example of elite females and how they appeared to suffer greatly from injury and that by proper application of sports science and appropriate competition and training at an individual's own level should minimize this.

MB mentioned that guidelines for this appear in coaching guidelines and form part of event organization guidelines.

Q11 – Francis Riley – L&B tri

Asked for clarification on the new multi-levelled and multi-faceted accreditation systems.

MB talked about the success of the current club accreditation systems and how it was a very useful tool in club development. He went on to talk about how it was felt that this could be extended so as to introduce more clubs to the system increasing quality and indeed to better clubs currently within the system, allowing them to excel. He also talked about the changes so it is more interactive in its assessment and how it will provide for the inclusion of a talent club element. This also provides a direct method to affect satisfaction as measured by sport England.

Q12 – Andy Fardom – Man Tri

Asked that there might be documentation available to confirm insurance levels and what is and isn't covered.

JL agreed that this would indeed be useful.

SS Mentioned the confusion of competitors on the Gold Coast and the necessity for clarity.

ZHP talk about the review with current insurer and that said documentation has been requested as a priority. This is also part of a review of requirements of the insurers to make sure they are met. This review included insurance for events, clubs and coaches, etc. this was identified a priority for the organization and will be communicated via the web and e-mail to members.

LG identified the third party insurance benefits of the current scheme.

Q12 - Poppy Holmes – Southampton

Poppy was unsure of the current structures within TE, specifically at a regional level.

LG talked about regional structures and core competencies of these.

Q13 – David Bellingham – Leicester Tri

Wanted to know, how we know that regions effectively contact their membership base

LG state that as regions are semi-autonomous then this assumption is not agreed, however the Council and board at currently looking to facilitate this better.

Q14 – Steve Howes – Coventry tri

Asked for clarification on the new membership system as outlined in the annual review.

JL noted that this referred to the membership system not the actual membership

ZHP agreed with this stating that it was a new system to manage the IT associated with membership not the type of membership.

Closing remarks

JL concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for their attendance and work over the previous twelve months. In doing so he referred to the final paragraph of his introduction to the annual review document, in which he drew attention to the large and invaluable human resource enjoyed by the sport of Triathlon.

JL also voiced special thanks to Lawrence Green for his contribution as outgoing president of the TE Council.