

This year has seen the club continue to build and develop. For those of you new to the club this year, the club was officially formed on October 24th 2005 and became affiliated to the British Triathlon Association in November 2005. Over the past year we have continued to establish a solid club structure, which continues to support a growing number of new members. This report will cover the achievements made by the club as a whole, racing achievements by its members, plans for the coming year and finally to thank all those that have contributed to the success of the club over the past year.

Club Achievements

We currently have 2 BTF level 1 coaches – myself and Alex Arrowsmith and 1 Level 3 coach – Brian Welsh. As the club continues to grow it is really important that we have numbers in the coaching team to assist with creating coaching sessions and helping administer the many training sessions we have on offer.

Alex and myself attended (as students) the coach-mentoring programme, which was run by the West Midlands region under Chloe Morley. There are 17 BT affiliated clubs in the West Midlands Region (which is a drop of 6 on 2006) over half of which are smaller clubs than our own. The BTF along with other sports governing bodies have to implement a plan that will increase participation within the sport according to the following 6 criteria - increase clubs, increase members, increase events, increase coaches, increase volunteers and implement a talent ID programme. As a club we are meeting 5 of these.

In early 2007 we successfully continued to use the Meadowside pool alongside Burton Swimming Club, the shared facility with Burton Athletics club began at Shobnall fields every Monday evening and we also began to use the pool at Burntwood Triathlon Club as a shared facility also on Monday evenings. The Sunday bike sessions from the Meynell pub was a total success and due to the successful application of the East Staffordshire Sports Council Grant of £650.00 we enjoyed a few spin sessions at Darley Oaks farm when the weather was too harsh. We also attended approx 4/5 Audax's as preparation for the season, these will continue in 2008.

A new improved kit was sourced and the first race under the new colours was I believe at the Stratford Sprint Triathlon on Sunday 13th May 2007.

The open water training facility had a successful second year and has enabled the club to grow and prosper from the training achieved and of course the revenue taken.

Although many members attended Ironman events all over Europe, the club organised an Ironman trip to Switzerland and thankfully everyone was safe. Most importantly everyone had a wonderful time and all members, whichever Ironman event they chose to complete experienced a day like no other. The club also attended various other triathlons en-mass including Bala, London, Stratford, Blithfield, Vituvian and of course we entered the first MVH team into the National Club Relays.

The second club honour and title was gained last month when we won and retained the relay event again at the Carsington Duathlon.

We held a successful fund raising BBQ event at Darley Oaks farm, which raised nearly £500.00 for the set-up of the junior section in spring 2008.

And to wrap up this calendar year we will have a great Christmas party and Awards dinner.

Race Achievements

The size of this section is testimony to the huge amount of racing that our club members collectively have amassed over the year. I will list a few of the achievements here rather than try to put words around it, but it makes impressive reading:

- 1 GBR representatives at European Duathlon Age Group Champs in Győr, Hungary: Grant McKinlay
- 3 GBR representatives at World Age Group Champs in Hamburg: Stacy Eccles, Brian Welsh and Steve Elliot.
- 1 Race wins at: - Carsington Duathlon - Nigel Elson - David Hollyoak – Grant McKinlay
- 12 Ironman competitors.
- I believe we also have gained 37 of greatest triathlon club members a club could every wish for!

Club Championship (prizes to be awarded at Christmas dinner):

Senior Championship

Men: 1st: Paul Jurczuk
2nd: David Hollyoak
3rd: Nigel Elson

Women: 1st: Rachel Hall
2nd: Sam Johns
3rd: Melanie Bridgen

Novice Championship

Men: 1st: David Hollyoak
2nd: Ben Starbuck
3rd: Paul Allsop

Women: 1st: Sam Johns
2nd: Melanie Bridgen
3rd: Kate Poxon

Plans for the Coming Year

As you are all aware the club did have a plan to have its own pool session and now we have, every Saturday morning.

The open water will start again next April.

We aim to hold 2/3 Duathlon's over the winter period.

We also aim to hold a bike maintenance course and first aid course over the winter period. Both courses will be triathlon related.

We have applied for a Sports for All grant (which is the lottery fund) of £10,000 and we are now awaiting the result of our application. The grant will be mainly used for funding the junior section and training of the coaches required, however the equipment to be purchased will be of use to most members. We are also applying for another ESSC grant.

We will achieve 'Star' Award accreditation by the end of this year.

We have now booked 4 (5th TBC) potential coaches onto their level one coaching badges starting in the next couple of weeks. We would like to have more coaches and the number will be reviewed on an ongoing basis and funds permitting. It will be great to see more members taking on this very important role as we are always looking for willing coaches.

We will of course now be holding two triathlons at Barton Marina less than 18 months since we first saw the potential at the site, when it was but mere waste land.

I would like to have the club attend another overseas triathlon event. As you are probably aware the success of the Ironman events this year has injected a great amount of enthusiasm for attending another Ironman in 2009 (as a club). Therefore the result of the vote taken to attend an Ironman in 2009 will be shared with everyone shortly.

The Christmas Dinner and Awards ceremony will be held on Friday 7th December 2007 at the Meynell Pub.

We will also ask for feedback from all of you before each of our committee meetings on any issues which you would like raised at these meetings.

Aside from these plans, we will look to continue keeping the good club spirit alive and through each of us and our active participation in club training and social activities maintain the momentum that has taken the club to where it is today.

Credits

On behalf of the whole club I would like to thank the committee for all their hard work and dedication over the past year helping running all the important functions that are essential to the clubs existence. I would like to thank all our out going committee members, Alex Arrowsmith and Pippa Simpson who gave us the wisdom of their experience in the development of this club.

Thanks to Clare for setting up this AGM this afternoon and I know she has been juggling these responsibilities with other heavy commitments. Thanks to Brian Welsh for his work on the coaching side of the club (happy birthday Brian – 50 today), Alex for setting up the open water swimming and for being the chef at so many BBQ's we have had this year, Rachel for continuing to be the link between the club and Barry Morgan who loans us the lake and finally, there are so many other individuals to thank for this fabulous season I could be here all day but thanks to all the club members. Each and every one of us have contributed to this fabulous season, we have made it a fun club to be a member of. By attending training sessions, racing, coming out to support others when not racing, and coming along to social events you are contributing to the existence of the club. We have been very patient with our 'so called' small club. This club now needs to daily attention at times whilst we all juggle our own busy private lives, however I believe it has been worth every minute so well done to all.

I hope you have all enjoyed the past year and take some time out to rest up before getting stuck into that all important winter training.

Many thanks.

Adrian Williamson
Chairman, Meynell Valley Hunters Triathlon Club