

Firstly this is a shortened down version as those who were at the AGM last year I was told I did go on a bit. Also I lost the longer version less than 24 hours ago which has placed me in a man sulk since then! Again, 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 again continued to establish and develop a solid club structure, which continues to support 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 5 level 1 coaches – 1 Level 2 coach and 1 Level 3 coach. 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.

There are 26 BT affiliated clubs in the West Midlands Region (which is a increase of 12 on 2007) over three quarters 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 all 6 of these. As a reminder, Chloe Morley (Regional Development Officer of the BTF and close friend of MVH), decided to leave the BTF and was replaced by Stephan Pearce.

In late 2007 we successfully moved into our own Meadowside pool session on Saturday mornings. The shared facility with Burton Athletics club continues at Shobnall fields every Monday evening and this has been extended to Tuesday evenings in conjunction with the BCAT club. The Sunday bike sessions from the Meynell pub were moved to our new home at the Barton Marina. We also attended approx 3 or 4 Audax's as preparation for the season, these will continue in 2009 starting this Sunday. The open water training facility had a successful third year and has enabled the club to grow and prosper from the training achieved and of course the revenue taken. The Junior Section was created this year but I won't steal Grant's thunder from his report.

More developments were made with the club kit and although there were problems with some kit, these are now resolved as the new kit has been developed with the feedback from MVH and this new kit will be released in Feb 2009.

We were again successful in yet another application from the East Staffordshire Sports Council who gave us a further grant of £314.00. This was only the tip of the iceberg as we also managed to win a grant from the lottery fund for £8,819.00 and a further £600.00 from the BTF for gaining the 'Star Award' accreditation.

Although many members attended events all over Europe and thankfully everyone was safe, the club did not organise an official European trip this year but due to the demand and disappointment of some members in 2008 the trip returns next year when we visit IM France. However, the club also attended various other triathlons en-mass in 2008 including London, Stratford, Blithfield, Vituvian and we also entered four MVH teams into the National Club Relays.

We had a fantastic BBQ in the summer and to wrap up the calendar this 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 representative at World Duathlon Champs
- 1 GBR representative at World Long Distance Duathlon Champs
- 1 GBR representative at European Triathlon Champs
- 1 GBR representative at European Long Distance Triathlon Champs who brought back a gold medal
- 2 GBR representatives at World Age Group Champs including one gold and one silver medal.
- 2 GBR representatives at the World Long Distance Championship
- 1 Race wins at: - Trentham Triathlon
- 17 Ironman competitors.
- I believe we also have gained 102 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: Nathan Hughes

Women: 1st: Stacey Eccles
2nd: Sam Johns
3rd: Melanie Bridgen

Novice Championship

Men: 1st: Ashley Hurdman
2nd: Ben Starbuck
3rd: Keith Dunn

Women: 1st: Helen Smith
2nd: Nicole Walters
3rd: Joanne Reeks

Veteran Championship

Men: 1st: Mick Skivington

Women: 1st: None due to any women over the age of 50 this year and most other members are on the 40+ category. This changes next season!

Time Trial Champions

Men: 1st: Paul Jurczuk (Handicap time of 26:45)

Women: 1st: Sam Johns (Handicap time of 33:15)

There will also be a Triathletes Triathlete Trophy which will be voted for and presented at the Xmas Party and Presentation Evening. This trophy is an annual trophy for the member who members feel has best represented MVH Tri Club throughout the season (this year being 2008). This is an open trophy and can be presented to anyone by the members. Only the members who attend the presentation evening can vote and only the members who attend the presentation evening can win it! Voting will be organised on the night of the party.

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. This may change in the next year as Meadowside is being closed for refurbishment so we will need a new home on Saturday mornings.

The open water will start again next April. Hopefully Keith will stick to holding the Wednesday night mini triathlons and Grant will continue with the Junior Section.

The 2009 Barton Marina triathlon will take place on the 7th June (Sprint & Junior Race) and the 9th August (Standard Race). The standard race date has been changed due to Blithfield Triathlon now taking place in July as it is now a World Championship Qualifier and these need to take place before the end of July 2009.

We also aim to hold a bike maintenance course over the winter period.

We will apply for further grants. The grants will be mainly used for funding training equipment, however any equipment bought will be of use to all members.

We are hoping to achieve the 'Clubmark' accreditation by the end of this 2009.

There are currently 3 new coaches going through their Level 1 coaching courses and I believe their assessment is this weekend). We also have 2 coaches booked to attend their Level 2 badges starting in January. 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.

I would like to have the club attend more overseas triathlon events. As you are probably aware the success of the Ironman events this year and in previous years has injected a great amount of enthusiasm for attending another Ironman in 2009 (as a club). I can foresee that attending a triathlon (whatever distance that may be) will be an annual event from now on.

The Christmas Dinner and Awards ceremony will be held on Friday 12th December 2008 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, especially Grant for his coaching time with the new junior section.

Thanks to Brian Welsh and Dave Nelson for there work on the coaching, Keith for helping at the lake and coaching, Des and Glenn for being the chef at the BBQ this year, Di Arrowsmith for allowing us to use her house for the BBQ, Mel for letting us use the BBQ itself (and transporting it), Rachel for continuing to be the link between the club and Barry Morgan who loans us the lake, also all those who helped marshal and volunteer at the Barton Triathlons 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. Someone from another club once said that MVH is a small social club. In return I say, so what! Long may it be a small club, I like it. However, this club now needs 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 & spring training.

Many thanks.

Adrian Williamson
Chairman, Meynell Valley Hunters Triathlon Club