



EDINBURGH TRIATHLETES AGM

Sunday 22 November 2020

Minutes

Welcome and Apologies

Sharon Grimshaw welcomed everyone to the first annual remote meeting via Zoom. There were no apologies.

Minutes of last year's AGM

The minutes which had been circulated previously were agreed and no comments were made.

Squad Update

Joel Enoch gave the following update:

ET Squad 2019-2020:

A year ago at the AGM, we set out some aims for the squad:

- Widen the inclusive nature of the club by providing a place for members who had more of an eye on growth and performance than participation.

- Establish a development pathway for members in the future

- Provide these members with professional coaching

- Reestablish ET as a club recognised for competing at larger/higher level events.

- Attract new members to the club through this, thereby increasing revenue for the club.

- Run the squad at no cost to the wider club

- Attract sponsors/partners who could benefit the wider club

- Prove the concept could work and establish a viable model that the club can maintain to benefit and support athletes long into the future to the betterment of triathlon and triathletes in Scotland.

Despite the obvious and frustrating restrictions, a year on and I'm pleased to be able to report that we have been successful in achieving not only **all** of these aims, but also in supporting ET Squad athletes to enjoy some remarkable personal success despite the impact of COVID on the season.

Before I give some more insight into the squad's year, I can't go any further without thanking the team who have made this possible:



Firstly, **Paul**, without who's vision and support, the squad wouldn't have happened. His impact and influence can't be underrated and the squad is in part a legacy of his time as President and he will be missed on the committee. The squad has meant a HUGE amount of work for **Jules** who seems to work tirelessly behind the scenes. When you're next enjoying a Saturday evening relaxing remember that Jules is probably in front of a computer doing some financial modelling for the squad!

JP has been a huge support to new members and is one of the few club members to come to a squad session just to see what we do.

Adam who has taken on a huge load of work keeping us right with covid rules.

As head coach, **Gav** also saw the vision and has been gracious enough to step back and let me run the squad.

And the whole **committee** (and Mike as new president) who have also consistently and positively supported the squad despite a difficult year.

Thank you to you all and to Richard Loudon at Simpson and Marwick for providing the financial support needed.

While only a small group, the squad bonded well and trained consistently over the winter. When COVID hit, all training moved online with cycle and S&C sessions moving to zoom and an increase in both online sessions (up to 11 sessions per week) and 121s with each athlete accessing a 121 phone call/zoom every week.

Over the summer support was also extended to the wider club with weekly Facebook and online videos covering a wide range of tri-specific content.

Many athletes chose to race virtual events and the squad enjoyed a large amount of success particularly in the Castle Series Events. Clocking up 21 performances across the series, including 16 podium performances at the Luck of the Irish event which won the Team Prize - for which ANY member of ET now receives 50% off ANY entry to ANY Castle series event in 2021 (it's a prize so good they changed it for the subsequent events!). Squad member Dave Tweedie also raced the IM VR event seeing him take on four races in four weekends. This series of races were the best he has ever raced, and he received a qualification for the 70.3 World Championships next year for his efforts. At the end of the season, some managed to race physically, with two 'podium' finishes as the Scurry Lochore Multisport event, while Simon Peltenburg and Rachel Fagan both podiumed at the Outlaw X event in their age-group (with Chris Allan showing his best performance to date and huge



gains across the year) there was also another overall podium at the Hever Castle Series event in Kent to round out the season.

This success has brought interest from other athletes and in 2020-2021 the squad has grown to 20 athletes (an increase of 9) across a new three tier membership system, designed to offer better support to athletes and ensure the financial sustainability of the squad for the future.

This will see 6 new members join ET proving we are attracting athletes to the club via the squad. With 7 of the squad also having been ET members previously we can also see the idea of a pathway of athletes in action.

The 2021 group sees athletes aiming for...World and European championships in aquathlon, sprint and middle distance events, with others focusing on Ironman, Alpe D Huez, Scottish or British champs and elite level racing in Superleague. We also have 3 athletes transitioning from national elite level in three other sports.

Continued sponsorship from Simpson and Marwick and new membership mean the future of the ET squad looks very exciting indeed and with more racing in 2021 anticipated, the ET colours should be represented across a vast range of races in the next 12 months by squad members.

I'm excited about the future. My aim was to develop a sustainable programme within a club that could support athletes for years to come. I feel very proud that as a club we have managed to make this happen, but I feel that the time is coming for me to pass the baton on to someone else.

We've built a legacy of support for dedicated, professionally minded amateurs in Edinburgh, but when I step aside, I wonder what the club will do with the opportunity it has been given and how it will continue to sustain this support for years to come?

I will do all I can to make sure that the squad can be preserved for the future and will work with any new coach to help them succeed in the job, but I wanted to make members aware that I won't be around forever and sooner rather than later, it will be for you to keep this wonderful thing alive.

Thank you to everyone for your ongoing support."

President's Address

Mike Brown gave the following update:



“My first year as president wasn't what I expected. This pandemic, from March onwards has turned the country and the club on its head. With disruption to training especially our swimming sessions, events and socialising, the club has had to adapt, but we've managed this together.

It was good to hear a positive update from Joel on the ET Squad and continued sponsorship by Simpson & Marwick.

Disappointing no warm weather training or Aberfeldy weekend this year, hopefully back next year.

We managed to have a successful NYD race, this was our 25th year and sponsored by RockStar North. This event would not be the success it is without the work of Race director John Whittaker and all the volunteers. Unfortunately there was no Gullane this year and the NYD race has also been cancelled but hopefully they'll both return in 2021-2022.

2020-2021 club development plan, due to the pandemic there are no updates, however we will be having a club survey in 2021. Our last one was 2018.

Committee changes:

A number of people are stepping down from the committee:

Paul as Partnership Manager, Bruce Wilson as

Communications coordinator and myself as coaching coordinator.

I would like to thank Paul and Bruce for all their hard work on the committee.

Last of all I would like to give a big thanks to our coaches over the past year, especially during lockdown as without their input we wouldn't have had any on-line training sessions. They've worked hard to keep the members active and involved with on-line training sessions and zoom turbo training.

Hopefully some time next year we can get back to some normality for the club and looking forward to a positive 2021.

Thanks for listening.”

Membership Report

Jean-Paul Vitry gave the following report:

“A few new things this year:

- We have introduced a rolling membership via our club website since November 2019,



- We now use Mailchimp to streamline our communication to club members,
- To be COVID compliant, manage numbers and to be able to Track and Trace members after training sessions, we introduced an Online booking system via the club website in September

A few words about our numbers:

- With 192 members this year and 203 last year, we are quite stable in terms of numbers, especially knowing that we did not have any new members between April and September,
- We have a very similar number of new members this year with 58 new members (59 new members last year) on November 1st but had a few more since.
- It's also important to note that we had a good bunch of new members from the Squad.

All in all, we still have a quite stable base of members despite a very special year but most of our members signed up before the crisis. The real impact on our membership will be clearer next year, I guess.

Anyway, we are really pleased to introduce many new members and are all looking forward for some social event to get to know everyone better.”

Treasurer's Report

Jules Blanc had previously circulated the accounts to the members and gave an update on the financial year including the end of year position.

Note 1 – Reporting Period

The FY20 financial period runs from 25 September 2019 (end of the FY19 financial period), up to 8 November 2020. The financial period is determined by the date of our Annual General Meeting, according to our club's policy.

Note 2 – Membership Income Membership income increased in FY20. The primary factor is the inclusion of the ET Squad within the club structure. The associated impact is £16,200. Other contributing factors include the increase in membership fees set at the 2019 AGM and the difference in the length of the financial reporting period. As indicated in Note 1, the FY20 reporting period being over 2 months longer than the FY19 reporting period.

Note 3 – Race income and race expenditure Race fees perceived in the financial period are made up of £17,351 of NYD 2019 income (including £4,000 of sponsorship from Rockstar North Limited). The remainder relates to early revenue from the Gullane 2020 race totalling £1,463. Due to the cancellation of the Gullane 2020 race, the entries were subsequently reimbursed. The reimbursement of these entries and associated administrative costs are recognised within race expenditure. Race expenditure include £24,700 in relation to New Years Day 2019.



Note 4 – Donation In FY20, Edinburgh Triathletes received sponsorship from Simpson & Marwick.

Note 5 – Training expenditure Training expenditure are composed of letting expenditures at the various locations used for our training sessions, primarily swimming pools. COVID-19 had an impact on those costs with most payments stopped from May 2020 up to the end of the financial period. The balance remained stable despite this, which reflects an overall increase in those costs. This increase is primarily due to the inception of the ET Squad and associated additional bookings, but also to a general increase in letting rates. The difference in length of financial reporting period also led to an increase in these costs.

Note 6 – Coaching expenditure Coaching costs increased due to the inception of the ET Squad and their use of paid coaching. Other coaching costs remained stable.

Note 7 – Administrative expenditure In FY19, administrative expenditure included significant costs in relation to the website development. There are no such costs in FY20. FY19 administrative expenditure include website maintenance and other expenses to support the running of the club, such as AGM costs. Due to the AGM being run remotely in 2020, those costs have also decreased.

Setting of fees for FY21

Edinburgh Triathletes aim at providing affordable training to its members. The Committee agree the current fees allow for both affordability to members and club sustainability. The Committee agreed to keep the fee levels currently in place.

NYD

Jules and John Whittaker discussed the financial position of the races and more specifically the New Years Day 2019 race. JB clarified that while in the FY20 accounting year there were more race expenses than race revenue, the races still generated a profit for the club. The deficit shown in the accounts is due to a large part of the New Years Day 2019 revenue being recognised in the prior year's accounts.

Election of Office Bearers

The proposed committee positions and volunteers who had offered to take posts had been previously circulated by Sharon. The meeting agreed to the proposed people taking up the posts.

AOB

Gavin Calder mentioned Tiers and current Covid restrictions. He read a list out of the proposed pool training times that would be available to the Club once restrictions had lifted.



Awards

Catherine Garner said that we had a selection of merchandise to give away and there had been a good response to the request for nominees. Between them Catherine and Abbie Hewitt handed out the awards which was done by asking the attending members to pick numbers, each of which represented a nominee for each category.

Achievement of the Year award - Marlene Orth for her solo Ironman

Funniest Moment of the Year award - Anna Henly for her "thriller" impersonation

Coach of the Year award - Adam Szymoszowskyj

New Member award - Ruth Forster

Close

Sharon thanked everyone for coming and wished them all the best for the coming year.