

## Committee Meeting Minutes: Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> October.

### Attendees

Anthony 'pack leader' Heaton Jones (AHJ)

Frankie 'multi-tasker extraordinaire' White (FW)

Lee 'internet expert' Macklin (LM)

'VO2' Max Sauter (MS)

Chris 'show me the money' Gunn (CG)

Caroline 'one day I'll send a circular email to the club without an error' Haywood (CH)

Nick 'ran like the wind (in the 80's)' Smith (NS)

Lorraine 'super swimmer/coach' Ayres (LA)

Stu 'hedgehog hair' Collins (StuC)

Chris 'you can call me coach' Perring (CP)

Paul 'newbee' Partington (PP)

Gill 'apple cake provider' Smith (GS)

Stephen 'see you at Blackbrook A' Wray (SW)

Liz 'new Development Ride leader' Williams (LW)

Mike 'Kilimanjaro conqueror' Southway (MikeS)

Sian 'lovely lady' Gallacher (SG)

Martin 'speedy park-runner' Staples (MartinS)

Nadine 'lovely lady 2' Prouse (NP)

Welcome to the highlights (?) of the Somerset RC Tri committee meeting.....

Numerous (18) wiley old-timers and a number of fresh faces descended on the moderately overheated room at Wellsprings leisure centre and introduced themselves in a fashion conspicuously akin to an AA meeting (not that I would know...). There was a sense of anticipation for the revelations ahead.....or was that indigestion post cake consumption?

Mr Heaton-Jones stepped up with a run through of the ACTIONS that needed to be acted upon after the last meeting. These were as follows:

**Development Ride Volunteers:** Gills offered to lead the Development ride once monthly. LizW and FrankieW also stepped up to the ride leader role once monthly. A further conscript / volunteer is needed to ensure provision consistently throughout the month.

ACTION: AHJ will raise the subject at the Club Social event in November as inebriation may assist volunteers to step forward.

**First Aid Course**: AHJ noted that there is a BTF cycling related first aid course. NickS advised BTF course is more expensive (£85/pp). LorraineA suggested it maybe better to choose a cheaper non-specific first aid course. StuC agreed that the BTF first aid course was probably over priced and out of date in 3 years anyway. MaxS noted coaches have first aid certificates, do we need any other first aiders in the club? StuC advised that benefit of superfluous first aiders maybe limited. SC remarked being a non-trained muppet is a suitable defence for performing first aid badly, and even first-aid trained individuals are not immune to muppetry. A good dollop of common sense in these situations may be more appropriate. AHJ agreed we only need to have coaches as valid first aiders.

DECISION: Train coaches as valid first aiders only.

**Spinning**: 42 members signed up and 2 on waiting list. Two blocks of 10 weeks. £2.50/hour of suffering in a darkened room with questionable air conditioning. Bargain!

**OW swimming**. ChrisG: OW made a loss this year. Account balance was £550 at the start of the season but reduced to £287 by the end, possibly not helped by the algal invasion during the unseasonally hot summer we experienced leading to diminished participation. MaxS: Costs involved include: £200/month for the lake + £30/week for kayakers. LA: possibly not viable? Do we need kayakers (on a muddy puddle)? FW: We could increase OW swim to £4 to reduce losses? Lake offers newbies a safe environment and early season swim convenience. NS: Huntspill is free to use and monies gained could help supplement pool swimming fees.

AHJ: keen to use 'paysubsonline' system for OW swimming rather than collect money on the night. NadineP would prefer to pay higher price as an 'ad-hoc' basis rather than weekly as she cannot make it each week. MaxS to discuss with members regarding OW and decide on way forward with the coaching committee.

ACTION: MS to discuss with the puddle inhabiting members and other coaches to decide the way forward regarding OW swimming next year.

Coaching committee meeting: MS advised minutes are available on the website.

Facebook administration: LM advised Emma B now FB administrator. 100% increase in administrators on facebook and all tickety-boo.

## **Current agenda discussions**

1. **New club coaches:** MS advised we need new coaches as 3 of the current coaches may stop coaching in the near future. Club members interested should apply for coach training via email (max\_sauter@somersetctri.co.uk), once approved applicants will be given the go ahead to book the course and will get reimbursed by the club. Level 1 Tri course £350, Swim course £300.

NS advised that coaches need to step up and help out when 'normal' (it's all relative....) coaches for a session are unavailable. LA noted Monday night has 3 coaches on one session, could a couple of coaches spread themselves around to help out on different sessions? MS has discussed this with coaches on Monday night and those coaches not inclined/able to do other sessions.

StuC and TanyaL keen to become swim coaches.

CP booked in for level 1 Triathlon training course.

**Pool swimming increased to £4/session.** It was suggested that the hiring of pools ceases over christmas and summer holidays to save money. FW advised there is a demand from members all year round and hopefully the increase in swimming fees will cover costs.

2. **Club accounts:** CG advised he's not up to date with the club accounts.

Approximately £4400 in club bank account. Some frustration within the committee regarding the club accounting as bills to BETTER (formerly known as Tone Leisure) had not been paid and FW had had a final demand/ultimatum for payment or risk losing our pool time (and be deemed bad debtors!). This was particularly awkward especially as club members have close links with BETTER. CG advised that Taunton School pool bills had been paid.

FW advised we pay £70/hour to BETTER and use for 7 hours = £490/week. This means total swim pool hire costs are £2800/month for swimming. 1<sup>st</sup> October increase fees for members so income £2500/month against current level swim set up.

**ACTION:** Make sure invoices are paid in a timely manner. Printed summary of accounts prior to each committee meeting to ensure transparency and clarity for the membership.

AHJ advised going forwards there would be a committee meeting late Jan/early Feb and then the club AGM in April. AHJ asked for a statement of accounts for the Jan meeting. CG offered to get accounting up-to-date by the end October

ACTION: Up-to-date summary of accounts to be provided by the end October by CG

**3. Swim Marathon Relay:** NS organising for new year (February). 2 hour slot required so likely to be a Friday eve 7-9pm.

ACTION: NS to organise Swim Marathon Relay

**4. Junior Aquathlon.** FW advised 65 competitors (same as last year) runs from 8.30-12. FW and AE will be running event. MS in charge of pool shennanigans, NS will be monitoring transition. Caroline Lewis retired from Queens- no longer around to run event.

**5. Club Kit:** NS advised that proposed external kit provider (Stagsports.com) make kit in the UK. Buy individual items from website. If you go to their website and search for our club within their shop then the items to be sold will be branded with our logo and name. Can specify items in shop and place orders individually. Did we mention it's all MADE IN THE UK (no Brexit quandry here:).

CG advised the club made a loss of £1100 on club kit in 2017 (due to holding items in stock and ordering items that did not fit). AHJ advised may need to obtain samples from Stag Sports re sizing so that people can try on items before buying. Also need to clarify returns policy if items don't fit.

NS: Colours of club kit has been changed and a large number of members would like to colour to go back to dark blue.

ACTION: Change club kit colour back from light to darker blue.

ACTION: DaveT to clarify returns policy for inappropriate sizing. DaveT to get samples to take to club social to try on/ ascertain sizing for members.

NadineP asked about current order club kit- she's paid half fee and not had anything in return (yet). CG advised Kalos has got the order but nothing dispatched yet.

ACTION: DT chase order. (n.b. Has now arrived! Happy days!)

Lee Macklin suggested linking the website to our own if agreed on utilising Stag sports.

**6. Website updates.** Rob Swan wants to make updates to the club website. JC agrees. LM doesn't agree. CG advises we pay £24/month to Rob Swan for hosting the website. Would cost more to update it. LM estimates approximately £300. Agreed that current website isn't the best.

ACTION: Find out costs for website updates. LeeM to liase with Rob Swan re costs.

**7. BTF and SRC Tri membership payment for coaches.** Previously the BTF and club membership payments have been subsidised for club coaches as a thank you for their time and efforts. Currently only 3 coaches have claimed this back (Paul Shergold, Richard Brown and Nick Smith).

NS: needs to be clarified whether coaches get this benefit or not. FW: yes, coaches that are active coaches should get fees back. AHJ: remuneration happens but for ACTIVE coaches only. Over 1 hour a month.

ACTION: Continue to pay for club coaches BTF and Somerset RC Tri membership. Payments should be made in a timely fashion once reimbursement requested.

**8. Grant Butler Memorial ride:** AHJ advised Tara (as the previous winner of the Grant Butler award) has been very busy and had difficulties finding the time to organise this event. AHJ requested it be linked to the Blackbrook Saturday morning ride this year. NS thinks it would be wise to couple it with a pre christmas ride. NS will choose date and post on line.

ACTION: NS to organise GB ride this year on a regular Saturday morning ride leaving from Blackbrook, possibly close to Christmas.

ChrisP wondered whether next year the GB memorial ride should be part of the ride 100 (first 50 miles). All agreed this would be a good idea. AHJ advised he would need to speak to Mark Baker regarding this.

ACTION: AHJ to speak to MB re GB memorial ride next year

**9. Grant Butler Award:** NS suggested that we start accruing nominees for this year as will need to choose winner by 10<sup>th</sup> November (club social)

Good egg award. It was decided not to award a good egg this year.

MaxS: Fish award still going strong.

ACTION: CH to draft a nomination request for the GB award to go out to members. Replies to go to JoC - mark subject line in email.

**10. English Athletics Affiliation.** SusanneC has requested we look into this for the club members. FW advised some races need EAA to compete. StuC advised previously we had been rejected for EAA due to Taunton AC persuasive powers. StuC advised maybe worth looking at again.

ACTION: SusanneC was volunteered to look into the requirements for EAA. ChrisP noted that we would need to have approved kit- our kit isn't approved. We could produce a running vest with a suitably positioned stripe to placate EAA.

ACTION: SusanneC to look into costs of EAA and demands (thanks Susanne!)

**11. Club Social:** TanyaL and ChrisG discussed club social. FW needs a paragraph about the club social from Tanya to email to the club. FW advised payment can be taken by 'paysubsonline'.

ACTION: Lee M to pin club social event in November to FB page

**12. AOB.** MS advised a sponsor had been secured for next year's races. University Centre of Somerset (aka SCAT) is stumping up the funds. Matt Tudor /JC are in process of sorting details.

ACTION: AE to release triathlon date and entries to be open as soon as possible. BTF website open for next year already!!

At this point we were told to leave by a mildly irate member of BETTER who said the leisure centre closed 5 minutes ago and we should all depart.

