**Triathlon England South West AGM 2023**

**Item 7 - Report from Regional Officials Co-ordinator**

The 2023 season opened with a flurry of events registered with British Triathlon, which was a good sign. By the end of the season we had 86 events listed across the South West region, which was only slightly down on the number for 2022. However, as the current financial turmoil and cost of living increase continues, the number of competitors signing-up for and attending these events is still lower than the pre-COVID numbers. On average, the competitor numbers are down, and by as much as a third. This has unfortunately led to a small number of events being cancelled. Our final tally of events this year in the South West region was 75, which was a reduction in number when compared to last year.

Once again we strived to have a Technical Official in attendance at each of the British Triathlon registered events held in the South West this year. The geographical size and location of the South West will always be a challenge, and we continue to struggle at times to attend all of the events over the season. This year we managed to be in attendance at the vast majority of the South West events, as well as supporting a number of other events outside of our region.

We also continue to see positive returns from our ongoing ‘recruitment drive’, with a number of additional Technical Officials qualifying as LTOs and a number of others qualifying as RTOs this year. We have also gained two additional NTOs this year in the South West, and will be looking to increase this number in the following year or so.

We had very good attendance at the Local Technical Officials course held late last year in Tiverton, hosted by Richard Masling, and I’m pleased to say that already the majority of the attendees have already qualified as LTOs.

We currently have 61 members in the South West Technical Officials team, understandably not all are currently active.

Our line-up consists of:

1 Continental Official (CTO)

7 National Officials (NTO)

20 Regional Officials (RTO)

2 Trainee Regional Officials (RTO)

16 Local Officials (LTO)

15 Trainee Local Officials (LTO)

The role of the Technical Official is to ensure that the race is both safe and fair for all competitors and the role is open to everyone over 18. You don’t have to be a Triathlete to be a Technical Official!

At times it is complex and challenging but the personal satisfaction of seeing competitors, experienced and novice alike, achieving their goals, is immense.

The role of the Technical Official is voluntary. We all have our own reasons for taking on this challenge, which could be as simple as contributing to the sport we love, or the feeling of satisfaction of being a small part of the world of Triathlon.

It can be hugely rewarding, regardless of the nature or grandeur of the event.

**Jon Shaw**

**SW Regional Officials Co-ordinator**

**October 2023**