

Volunteers Week 1st-7th June

Recognising volunteering in Triathlon

Name: Francis Riley

Volunteer Role: Coach, Chair of TE Yorkshire Region, Member of TE Council and Council Appointed Director North to Triathlon England Members Board.

Region: Yorkshire

Favourite Discipline of Triathlon; Swim, Bike or Run? Run

Favourite Food? Seafood.

Favourite Holiday Destination? San Francisco (my son and grandchildren live there)

How long have you been volunteering in Triathlon?

More than twenty years, first as a coach, then as the chair of the regional committee, eight years on Triathlon England's Council of regional reps and four years as the council appointed rep for the North on the Triathlon England Members Board.

What does your volunteering role entail?

My coaching has been mostly involved with age group athletes wishing to improve their swimming, the regional role has shifted from development initially towards delivery as the sport has matured, so where we were looking to establish clubs, develop coaches, etc in the early days, now we have a team looking to deliver a successful Junior Race Series, build Go Tri events, cover the regions events with quality Technical Officials and Moto TO's.

What is most rewarding from your volunteer role?

When you see the fruits of your efforts, so the smile of an athlete who's made progress or someone finishing their first Go Tri is always rewarding but less obvious is the feeling of satisfaction when things just come together – an idea becomes reality or a project finishes positively.

What is your motivation to volunteer in Triathlon?

To add value and to make a difference where possible.

As a volunteer in triathlon, what have you been most pleased with/greatest success?

Last years WTS in Leeds was a high point (despite the issues for some on Sunday). It was great to see my hometown involved in an event that has a global audience and I'm really looking forward to being involved again. In truth though, the biggest kick was seeing so many newcomers having a go on the Saturday and loving it.

How could a volunteer make a difference to the sport of Triathlon?

Volunteers are the heart and soul of any sport and the triathlon community has embraced that philosophy with opportunities at every level, from club to board member.

