

4<sup>th</sup> of October 2020



Dear Member

## **Chairs Report 2020**

Welcome to the very first virtual East Midlands Regional AGM and on behalf of the regional committee I would like to thank you for taking the time out to attend our AGM.

Before we get on to presentation of our 2020 Award Winners, I would just like to take the next 10 to 15 minutes to go through the procedural aspects of the Annual General Meeting.

The purpose of the AGM is two-fold, firstly to report on the year which has just passed and then to elect your regional committee for 2020/21 as well as to vote on the Resolution to change our Regional Constitution.

2020 has been challenging for all of us, and everyone has been affected, in one way or another by Covid-19.

It seemed that our world came to an abrupt halt in March, we were placed in lockdown, our normal lives put on hold, going out and visiting friends and family curtailed and our normal recreation limited to an hour a day. Overnight, what we had planned for our season, the races we were training hard for, all disappeared.

But we are resilient, and we are resourceful. Sitting today, writing this report, it is good to see that our lives have in the main, adjusted to the new 'normal.' We have seen racing is back and we are starting again to plan for 2021. Readjusting our goals, and for some of us (me in particular) making plans to lose some of the added pounds put on by watching too much Netflix over the past 6 months... and looking forward to being back out there, on the field of play, seeing our friends and being part of our great and supportive community that is made up of Triathletes...

Whilst we may not have been racing, your Regional Committee have been busy keeping you up to date with the ever changing rules and regulations, helping and supporting our clubs and members, and making sure that we are in the best place, for the recovery which will come in 2021.

Race calendars are starting to fill and whilst the pandemic is far from over, and I am sure we will see further disruption to our lives before this is all over, I am confident that we will emerge stronger, fitter and better equipped to race hard in 2021.

As you are aware, membership of the committee is open to anyone who lives within the region and who is a full paid up member of Triathlon England. We rely on volunteers who can give freely of their time and who are committed to helping the regions triathletes have the best experiences, to help develop the best coaches and above all to safeguard our sport for future generations.

An important part of the regions development is aimed at advancing the skills of our Junior Athletes, ranging from the age of 8 to 16, and whilst we had to make the hard decision to cancel the East Midlands Race Series. Our commitment to you all is that the East Midlands Race Series will be back bigger than ever for 2021.

I also want to say a big thank all the clubs and the coaches who made virtual training classes fun, keeping us all involved, motivated and engaged with our sport, without your efforts the dark days of lockdown would have been a lot harder. Well done to you all.

In the East Midlands region, we continued to offer a wide range of coaching courses to those club and Triathlon England members involved coaching their members. In the coming months we will see more of these events being delivered along with activator courses for those interested in volunteering etc.

One of the successes of this year, has seen the adoption by a great many clubs in our region of the new Club Management system which eases the burden and supports them in manage their memberships effectively, aiding their ability to attract new members and, importantly, saving valuable time so clubs can continue to do what they do best; inspire triathletes to be the best they can be.

Financially, we are in good shape to be able to continue funding and supporting our Triathlon England affiliated clubs and Triathlon England members in our region. You will see from the financial report by our treasurer we have a health set of accounts.

On a personal note, I would like to thank you all for your support over the past few years, at the AGM this year I am standing down from the role of Chair (but will stay on the Committee, so long as you vote for me 😊) and I will have the pleasure in proposing Lee Wallhead as the new Chair for the Region.

Many of you will know Lee, as I do from his active roles in the world of triathlon, and having worked with him for the past couple of years on the Committee, I know the region will be in safe hands.

At the virtual AGM, and before moving on to the formal election of the regional committee, your Committee and I, will be happy to take any questions you may have. You can also email any questions in advance if you prefer, to me via [EMsecretary@outlook.com](mailto:EMsecretary@outlook.com).

Finally, as this is being published before the AGM, please do not forget to register! We want to see you there! Simply drop Julian an email at [EMsecretary@outlook.com](mailto:EMsecretary@outlook.com) subject line AGM Registration.

Yours in sport



**Jamie Gordon**  
Chair of the East Midlands Regional Committee