

London Chairs Summary – Regional AGM Oct 6th

Christopher Hall

2020 has by all measures been a challenging year. However, before getting to that, there has been some change with the regional committee itself that deserves recognitions and congratulations. Debbie Clarke, previous Chair, has been officially voted in as Chair of Triathlon England, so whilst that's a loss for the region, it's a huge gain for the sport overall. I'd like to wish her all the best in her new role.

So back to 2020... usually this report is awash with news of fantastic racing, London league successes, and all the amazing triathlon accomplishments from the region. However, it goes without saying that this year has been one to scratch from the record books. On a positive note for the future, we've finally seen some great end of season return to racing at the likes of Blenheim Palace and Hever Castle, so all bodes well for a full calendar in 2021!

In terms of the region, the membership has stayed reasonable steady, with a smaller than I expected dip of 13% - So it's great to see all the London triathletes continuing to support the sport.

Group	2019 – number as of 31 st Aug	2020 – number as of 31 st Aug
Male adult	2241	1968
Female adult	918	796
Male junior	194	147
Female junior	138	108
Total	3491	3019

But interestingly, there are still a lot of regional members that are not listed as affiliated with any club. For this year, that sits around 44%, which has stayed fairly consistent from 2019 which was around 42%.

Group	2019 – number as of 31 st Aug	2020 – number as of 31 st Aug
Club member	2028	1704
Not club member	1463	1315
Total	3491	3019

Whether they simply like to train alone, or not aware of clubs around them, that's something I'd like to tackle as part of our strategy, and how the region can support clubs in attracting members from their communities.

Another hugely important step for 2021 is the appointment of a specific diversity officer within the committee. Whilst its always been a key objective to improve the diversity of the sport and continues to be part of our strategy document, this is the first time we had a dedicated role. With the new committee we will continue to evolve our strategy to promote grassroots sport, and support generations both young and old in their pursuit of their triathlon goals.

I also would like to say how hugely impressed and proud I am with the way the clubs within London have managed throughout this pandemic. Having had many calls with the clubs, it amazing to see the ingenuity of clubs and coaches – engaging with their members, running virtual sessions, and in the way the return to training has been managed.

I look forward to 2021, the return to racing, the return to some degree of normality, and the return of the triathlon community interaction we have come to love.