Chair’s Report 2022

We have approved and paid 11 bursaries covering Technical Officials, Strength and Conditioning, and Level 1 and Level 2 Coaches. The bursary scheme is still open with application forms needed before the start of the course. The Region will continue to review the bursaries scheme to ensure we deliver the right support in the right areas and would like to hear of any other aspects of support that the clubs within the Region would like to see.

As a Region, we are still looking at developing coaches in areas rather than clubs, so they can support numerous clubs as well as Regional and National schemes. Level 1 coaches who are looking to develop can send their CV and development plans for consideration via Kirsty Outhwaite as Regional Manager.

The Region has just released free CPD courses to clubs and members that can be accessed online in your own time. A short form is required for completion to receive link to chosen course.

The Regional Committee supported Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games local in several ways this year. This included Committee members (Rosa and Darren) and the Regional Manager, Kirsty, attending the Boldmere Summer festival in Sutton Coldfield promoting the Commonwealth Games Triathlon event as well as the wider Swim-Bike-Run, local clubs, Go Tri, and Skills for Life. Funds have also been provided before, during and after the Commonwealth Games to support linked activities.

Duncan, Sarah, Andy, and Rosa, all from the Committee, has supported Cliff Lakes with their Women’s open water swims with over 800 attending over the 6-week period. The Region will be looking to support this again in 2023.

Across the Region, we are still looking to provide open water lifeguard courses, however we are waiting for course dates with tutor and venues to become available following the backlog from the Covid-19 lockdown.

The Regional Committee has started to look at the Regional Plan, which brings together both national and regional aims and aspirations contributing to Swim, Bike, and Run during 2022-2025. The Regional Plan is a live document and as such can be amended to include and amend goals as time progresses.

More recently, BTF have given preliminary information about the Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Plan for the Regions. Over the coming months Triathlon England staff will be supporting Regional Committees to produce plans.

I, as well as the current Committee, wish to thank Stewart Whitehead, who is stepping down from the committee for his time and contribution to West Midlands as a non-portfolio committee member over the last two years. Thanks also to Sarah Taylor, a long-standing Committee member as Technical Officials Coordinator and Triathlon England Council Regional Representative over a period of 14 years for the support she has provided to the Committee and the sport of triathlon. Sarah’s knowledge and input in both roles has been valuable at Triathlon England Council in providing the West Midlands views to help develop Technical Officials and triathlon.

Finally, I am standing down as Chair after several years in the role and feel that it is time for a new face with fresh ideas. However, I still hope to be involved with the Region in another role on the Committee.

Rosa Teagle

Chair Triathlon England West Midlands Committee