Junior Development Coordinator’s Report 2022

Several training days were held throughout the year, which were well attended and a big thank you to Mick Gould and Matt Jackson for their support with coaching the juniors. In addition, several other junior coaches showed interest after a zoom meeting was held last November on how to support juniors within the region, but none followed up.

Focus for the winter months was swimming to improve both times and technique – these factors have suffered due to covid and impacted the junior’s development through the period to date. Remaining sessions were based on all three disciplines and transition to prep juniors for race season and IRC’s.

Biggest Achilles heel for all junior’s is still their swimming.

## Inter-Regional Championships

Qualification for IRC team was disrupted, due to the loss of the Sandwell race, qualification was moved to Mallory Park – criteria was changed slightly – due to families being on holiday, so appeals were allowed, this only affected one athlete.

Would like to mention two Athletes – Harriet Hall and Nancy Thomas for their fantastic sportsmanship in allowing another athlete (who was DQ at the event but finished 1st in her age group) to take a place in the team. They didn’t want this athlete to lose out, even if it meant losing a place in the team themselves.

Pleased to report that the region finished 9th out of the 12 regions represented, which is a good improvement of the last few years. Well done to the whole team and parents for making the trip up to Sunderland. Also, a big well done to Henry White who won the TS3 male final.

Out of the team of 16, 6 made the A final in their age group. Races were held over several heats and a final, so something new to the younger members of the team.

Swimming is the region’s Achilles heel, preventing a higher finishing position, with a number just missing their A final, hopefully after another solid winter’s training we can turn this negative into a positive.

Andy Teagle

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