



## **East Essex Triathlon Club**

### **Minutes of the Committee Meeting Held on the 9<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

#### **In Attendance:**

Ian George, Graeme Silcock, Jenny Harley, Eugenia Hewitt, Niall Canavan, Paul Gribbon, Charlotte Brooks, Ben Brooks, Kat Stops, Kay Bennett, Mike Shean.

#### **Apologies Received From:**

Chris Muers, Jack Martin, Mike Grout, Richard Fuller, Sue Fuller.

#### **Matters arising from the last Committee Meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025**

Ben & Charlotte have looked into getting another banner for future events as backdrop for photos / medal ceremonies at home events. Design is ready to go and just need to firm up price / delivery schedule.

#### **Finances**

Currently circa 15.5k in the account, payment to be made shortly for England Athletics members, circa 42 in total. Expecting this to leave circa 12.8k in the account. Payment needs to be made shortly for the hire of Basildon Sporting Village for the Kids Tri in September. Currently expecting circa £600 of expenses for the Grays Tri. Other expenses of note are the fees for Runnymede Swimming Pool and the Lifeguards, this is currently £500 per month and likely to increase. Race fees are also due in by 11<sup>th</sup> June for the club champs at the Bridge Tri, currently 15 people have signed up, some are still to transfer their entry fees, Charlotte has posted on socials for entries and payment to be closed out this week.

In terms of numbers for events, the Kids Tri currently has around 50 entrants, with Grays Tri at around 60 entrants. Eugenia suggested engaging other clubs/outfits like TriFarm and Southend Wheelers to drum up additional entries. Charlotte noted that we also offer discounts for clubs/groups of 10 or more entrants.

#### **Grays Tri**

Grays Tri currently has around 60 entrants meaning we have enough entries for the event to go ahead. Mike raised we need to source medals for the event, Charlotte suggested if we could change the style of the ribbons if costs allow. Jenny noted that Chelmsford Tri have purchased their own equipment to make wooden medals, Ian suggested we keep to metal medals. Mike to obtain quotes/options and feedback to committee. Mike raised query on plan for presentation/awards for the age groups. Suggestion from Jenny to use same format as last year

with awards for overall female & male placings, award for 1<sup>st</sup> female & 1<sup>st</sup> male in each age group (Seniors & Vets), and chocolate bars for 2<sup>nd</sup> / 3<sup>rd</sup> placings.

Mike noted the bike route for Grays Tri will be the same as last year, this is currently pending final approval from the BTF. Mike also noted about consideration for additional marshalls on the main roundabout on exit of Blackshots leisure centre, last year a number of entrants went the wrong way around the roundabout after seeing a marshall in the distance on another part of the course. Ian noted we have sufficient signage / marshalls and need to reiterate entrants follow general rules of the road.

Mike has put out a call for someone to run the Grays Tri next year, Mike would like to step down after the 2025 event. Individuals interested to get in touch with Mike and/or Ian. A big thank you to Mike for the excellent running of these events to date.

### **Summer BBQ**

Summer BBQ confirmed for 27<sup>th</sup> June at Rayleigh Cricket Club, EETC will have access to the bar and the kitchen. Hire of the cricket club will be £100. Kat Stops speaking to Ben Stops about manning the BBQ. Details of the BBQ to be sent out to Ian George to go into newsletter to go out on socials, Ben and Charlotte will help post on socials also.

### **Awards Night**

Awards night confirmed for the 21<sup>st</sup> November. Details of venue etc. to be sent to Ian George. Payment for those attending will be on the night, but EETC will need to confirm numbers in advance to allow venue to make arrangements for food / numbers.

### **AOB**

#### *Timing Mats*

Richard raised issue with storage of the timing mats at Basildon Sporting Village. As a club we need to ensure that these are stored properly with no equipment / kit stored on top of them. We only have one set of timing mat's and without these we cannot time our own events. If these are damaged / broken it will be difficult to source new ones and may result in us having to pay out for another party to time events. Ian noted the potential cost of hiring a company to do timing is in excess of £1000, this would make it difficult to run our events without significantly increasing the cost of entrants. Please ensure we look after these mat's and store them correctly.

#### *Use of WhatsApp and Recommendation from BTF of Spond*

Graeme noted following the safeguarding course earlier in the year that the BTF do not recommend using WhatsApp for club communications, the BTF have suggested clubs consider using Spond which a large number of clubs have moved to. BTF recommend Spond as it does not store / share your personal data (like WhatsApp), you can track those attending your training sessions electronically, and you can use it for messaging and announcements in a more secure way while reducing overall administration. Other clubs on the Safeguarding course mentioned they use their websites as prime method of communication, and then Spond as supporting application. Graeme suggested running a trial to see if this could work for the club, Eugenia and Charlotte have both used this at other clubs/groups with positive feedback. Jenny and Ian had concerns over administration, and asked to leave communications methods (WhatsApp & Facebook) as is.

### *Safeguarding*

Graeme also raised safeguarding concern of photos on WhatsApp. WhatsApp automatically stores photos a user receives from within a WhatsApp chat or group to their photo reel unless you switch off this setting on your phone. While the club is covered in terms of waivers signed by parents to share/use photos, we can't guarantee that photos are not being downloaded / shared by others. Ian suggested reaching out to BTF for some guidance then can issue guidance to parents if needed.

### *Website / Calendar*

Jenny asked about updating the EETC website with the league events to make it easier for people to see what's coming up. Charlotte has offered to upload the league events to the website.

### *Club Champs 2026*

Ian has called for suggestions of events for the club champs next year. Any suggestion to be sent into the committee.

### *Open Water Swim TT (League Event)*

Ian currently checking the tide times to confirm date/time for the open water TT league event. Once confirmed detail will be sent out on socials.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

Next committee meeting will be 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025 at Runnymede Swimming Pool at 7:15pm.