

30th of April 2026



East Essex Triathlon Club

Post-March Committee Meeting Updates

At our last committee held on the 2nd of March 2026 a lot of items/actions were raised, these notes provide updates on some of these items/actions ahead of next formal committee meeting to be held on the 8th of June 2026.

There will be an interim committee meeting held on the 11th of May 2026 to discuss the Kids Tri, Mob Match and the Grays Tri only.

BTF Guidance on WhatsApp & Cycle Sessions

Earlier this year a new Club Development Officer (Bethan Adams) was assigned to represent clubs in the Eastern Region. I've been able to liaise with Bethan over the last couple of months to discuss some of the concerns raised at the club and have now been able to get some formal guidance from the BTF on WhatsApp and the Cycle Sessions/Club Rides.

In addition to the responses below, the EETC newsletter has been reinvigorated with additional information / tips / links relating to cycling issued in the March newsletter. These will become a regular feature in the newsletter going forward.

BTF Response: GDPR & WhatsApp

WhatsApp and its use have been discussed at several committee meetings in the past, below is the guidance received from the BTF:

- *British Triathlon guidelines on how to apply the GDPR in a club setting: [link](#)*
- *See also British Triathlon [photo and video guidance](#).*
- *The NSPCC Child Protection in Sport Unit provides some useful, concise guidance and recommendations on ensuring online safety: [online safety and social media](#). See also resources on [buddle](#).*
- *I'll forward you in a separate email with further guidance from our safeguarding team on use of WhatsApp. [EETC: See WhatsApp guide in accompanying email to these notes]*
- *If you decide to stick with WhatsApp as a main comms channel, I'd suggest you write with your committee some 'community guidelines' which you send as a pinned message. This could cover items such as: how members should distinguish their informal training sessions to a club session; guidelines on sharing photos; what will not be tolerated and how unacceptable messages/behaviour will be handled; guidelines on*

individual messaging; how members can make a complaint and how it will be handled; etc.

- *Separate to that, you could consider with your committee what internal policies or documents you wish to create, for example a digital risk assessment (as recommended by BTF safeguarding team), GDPR, privacy policy, social media policy etc.*
- *If you are looking for an alternative to WhatsApp, I've listed commonly used club management systems below. These can have the added benefit of centralising training schedules, payments, registrations, tracking membership figures, etc. If this is something that administratively takes up a lot of time from the committee - this could help you propose a new platform.*
 - *SportMember*
 - *ClubSpark*
 - *Spond*
 - *Sport80*
 - *Teamo*
 - *Clubright*
 - *LoveAdmin*
 - *Clubwise*
 - *SportEasy*
 - *SportsEngine*
 - *ClubPal*
- *BTF are looking to provide more support on club management systems (though time scales unclear at the moment) - there is a survey that has been shared to gather information, if you would like to provide some feedback. [EETC: feedback completed and sent back to BTF 17th March]*

BTF Response: Cycle Sessions

<p>Club-organised, open road ride (not coached)</p>	<p><i>No specific ratios or leader qualifications required, however at minimum a risk assessment should be conducted by a coach and a route planned & shared in advance. These rides may be led by a Swim Bike Run leader, a Coach or anyone else, so long as they are confident to lead the group. As long as a risk assessment is done, the expectations for the ride have been shared, and all necessary safety measures have been put in place, the club will be insured for public liability for the ride. Best practice would be to set guidelines for each ride on pace, distance, accessibility, number of leaders/ pace groups, etc. so that your rides are open to all club members.</i></p>
<p>Informal rides shared by members (not club sessions)</p>	<p><i>Should not be published on the club website or training schedule. Fine to be shared with members via WhatsApp but you should set clear guidelines on</i></p>

	<p><i>a) how members should distinguish it from a club-organised session (maybe a specific line of text to add to the start of their message?); and</i></p> <p><i>b) what information members should share about the ride to allow others to decide whether it is suitable for their ability.</i></p> <p><i>Note that club members who attend these rides and are BTF members, will still be insured to train via their BTF membership. This can be a good way of recommending BTF membership to individuals (and also gives you more peace of mind).</i></p>
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EETC Chip Timing System

Earlier this year I contacted different suppliers to look at the feasibility of investing in a new timing system for EETC as a longer-term contingency plan for our current timing system.

At this moment in time, replacing the current system will likely be beyond our budget however we do still need to think about a contingency plan and either find additional ways to generate funds for the future, or come up with additional options in the interim.

Obviously, we can continue with our current system as-is, but ideally, we need to have more members learn / train to use the system so if Richard is away others can potentially run the system. This is the least expensive option, but at some point, we may still need to invest in the equipment to keep this running such as mats and cables as they will not last forever.

If we were to look at a new timing system altogether, they range from £3k+ to £20k+. There are generally two types of system, a transponder-based system (like we have today), or UHF and RFID based systems which use disposable chips (these can also be reused for a period of time), both options come with pros and cons.

If we were to invest in a new off-the-shelf system, whether transponder or chip based we would be looking at around £15k+ for a complete system capable of handling ~200 participants. For transponder-based systems, the cost of a single transponder is around £30+ which is why the costs are high. For UHF and RFID disposable chips, these are around £1+ per chip but the systems they use to register the chips tend to have a higher cost.

Companies such as RaceResult, HSSports / MyLaps also charge premiums on top of the systems for operating the race timing software, which include annual fees. MyLaps also requires you purchase their own branded equipment which can also add additional costs.

There are some other options out there such as Agee Race Timing and custom-built solutions which offer significantly lower cost, but these require more technical input to build the system, however these are largely plug and play and this is doable.

Lastly there are a few options such as Webscorer (or others) which offer application-based timing solutions. These can be installed on tablets, phones or laptops and you manually input the athletes race numbers at your designated check points (like parkrun). This requires more manual effort, but still allows you to capture splits, but you would need ~5 people to capture splits across a triathlon race. Applications like Webscorer are also capable of connecting to existing timing systems (including what we use today), so this is also something to consider.

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Lastly there is also the option to hire a timing system or provider. For a timing service where they provide personnel to run the equipment this can be ~£1500+ per event, this cost would need to be factored into the race entry fees (~£10 extra) or absorbed by the club if we were to go down this route.

At a high level the table below shows various options, there are other systems out there, but these are the ones who have been responsive to emails.

Options	System / Description	Details	Cost
1	RaceResult Open Triathlon System	Ubidium Bundle for Disposable Transponders.	£20k+
2	RaceResult Ubidium System (Elite Triathlon System)	Full system including Ubidium System, Active Loop Box, Transponders (x200), Neoprene Transponder Straps (x200).	£16,323.00
3	HSSports Transponder Timing System (MyLaps Timing System)	Smart decoder, detection loop & mat, disposable tags.	£15-20k (£5,300.00 per decoder)
4	Agee Race Timing Software + Custom Build	Agee Race Timing Software, Zebra FX9600 8 Port Reader, Zebra FX9600 Power Supply, Ethernet Cables, UHF Panel Antennas.	\$900 for Agee Timing Software (one-time payment and no annual fees) £3-4000 for equipment
5	Webscorer Pro Multi-Device Timing	Application based manual timing solution (using a tablet or phone). There is also an option to connect to your existing decoders and timing equipment.	\$120 per year for up to 5 devices. Or \$300 per year for up to 5 devices plus connection to timing equipment.
6	Hire a Timing System	Timing systems can be hired with or without personnel to run them (e.g. StuWeb or others).	£1500-£2000 per event (timing equipment + personnel)

EETC Club Kit - Kids Tri Suit Exchange

At the AGM I raised query around the Kids Tri Suit Exchange, EETC have a limited number of Kids Tri Suits available which members/parents can pay a small fee to “hire” them and then exchange the suits as the kids grow for another one.

I was handed over a folder of forms last summer containing details of members who had kit in the past and contained their personal details. Some of these forms date back many years, with some no longer members, and as a club we have lost track of items with some kit not returned.

Of the Kids Tri Suits remaining several are useable but could do with replacing, this was raised at the AGM and collectively the committee agreed to not replace/replenish the stock of tri suits.

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Of the Kids Tri Suits remaining, these can remain in circulation as long as they are useable and remain looked after by members, however these will be on a first come first serve basis and we have limited sizes.

If there is demand from members we can revisit this at the next committee meeting (8th June), our club kit supplier (Champion System) does not supply kids tri suits so if we were to order more we would need to a) go back to ImpSport; or b) identify a new supplier.

Either option would require new setup fees and would be subject to minimum order quantities (in the region of £££'s-££££'s).

Members also have the option to have their own kit printed with EETC logos, so for smaller members who will not fit into the Tri Suits for several years, they still have an option to purchase a swim costume / tri suit and have it printed if they would like to.

EETC Club Kit – Hoodies, T-Shirts, Outerwear

Following the recent Spring orders for hoodies and t-shirts, we have had some issues with the Marden kit in terms of incorrect items being embroidered/printed, late deliveries and overall lack of responsiveness to club orders. Nia has also checked the order books, and we have found that our invoices and at a higher cost that what we as a club are charging members. Marden's have been adding VAT on top of our orders, and for the kid's items (which are VAT free) have been charging the club printing of the logo as an "extra" line item and then charging VAT on top. This means that the club has been absorbing the additional costs of ~20% without knowing.

Sam kindly offered to speak with one of his suppliers, and between Nia, Sam and Charlotte have now sourced some new samples for the "EETC on Tour" kit for Vichy. In parallel we have received quotes for migrating our hoodies, and t-shirts over to a new supplier offering the same quality and/or better at reasonable prices (inclusive of VAT). With the additional costs of Mardens factored in we will have to increase our prices otherwise we are at a loss. Comparing Mardens to the new supplier, the new supplier is more favourable and offers better quality kit with a much faster turnaround, we can also align the kit colours with the kit we get from Champion System (navy blue), so we have consistent colours across our kit.

This can be discussed in more detail at the next formal committee meeting on the 8th of June, a thanks to Sam, Nia, Charlotte and Paul for arranging suppliers, samples and account details for this. We also plan to add the EETC on Tour items to our overall kit list moving forward.

Date of Next Committee Meetings

- 11th May 2026 at Runnymede Swimming Pool at 19:15
 - Interim meeting to discuss Kids Tri, Mob Match and Grays Tri only.
- 8th June 2026 at Runnymede Swimming Pool at 19:15
 - Our next formal committee meeting.