



Annual General Meeting - Minutes

Saturday 21 January, 4.30pm

Way Hall, Reading BlueCoat School, Sonning, Reading

1. Welcome

Ellie Gosling welcomed all those in attendance (Kirsty Scott, Ian Gosling, Steve Mott, Dave Wood, Sue Dart, Adam Dart, Emma Ryan, Steve Ness & Johnny Gubb) and thanked them for joining the first Reading Rascals AGM.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Lou Gubb, Lisa Wilson, Jenny Patterson, Alan and Rhian Howells and Clare and Jamie Cater.

3. Minutes of last AGM

Not applicable

4. Chairman's Report – Ellie Gosling:

Ellie Gosling commented that the club is booming which is great to see. A large proportion of the new members is due to Emma Ryan spreading the word about the club – she was thanked for this, At least two new enquiries are received every week and on average two new people enjoy a trial/taster session once a week. Due to the growing size of the club a [Club Constitution](#), Codes of Conducts for [parents](#) and [junior members](#), Club Welfare Officers and [Safeguarding Policy](#) as well as an Annual General Meeting have now been put in place.

Ellie reported the club's highlights of 2016 to be as:

- 46 Rascals took part in the Kids Dinton Duathlon
- 45 Rascals took part in the Kids Dinton (Twyford) Triathlon
- 51 Rascals took part in the Incurro junior event
- A good representation of Rascals took part in the Green Park Challenge

- The club had representation and athletes compete in the majority of the events in the Triathlon England South Central Junior Series. Unfortunately we're yet to see full results from the series. Emma Ryan commented that this was a shame, but felt the series would be better administrated this year as the 2017 Rules state that all athletes wanting to do the series must register before 1 April 2017. See full details [here](#).
- Several Rascals have taken part in the Wessex Cyclocross league this winter and been seen on the podium at more than one event!
- LiquidLeisure AquaPark take-over was enjoyed by a large majority of the Rascals club and parents. A plea was made to make this session available again this year!

Ellie stated that a decision was made to split training sessions by age group at the beginning of 2016 due to the increasing size of the club and to maximise the Rascals' experience and coaching; it was believed that this was a successful decision.

September 2016, a new payment system for term and annual fees was implemented, [PaySubsOnline.com](#). There have been a few teething problems and learning glitches – but on the whole this system seems to be working and reduces administration time considerably.

December 2016 saw the launch of a modernised website which received good feedback.

5. Secretary's report

Kirsty reported the following membership numbers for 2016:

Winter Term 2016 (January – March) - 63 total (31 male/32 female)

2 TriStar Start (2m)
 24 TriStar 1 (11m/13f)
 26 TriStar 2 (12m/14f)
 10 TriStar 3 (5m/5f)
 1 male Youth

Summer Term 2016 (April – July) – 59 total (29 male/30 female)

3 TriStar Start (2m/1f)
 26 TriStar 1 (12m/14f)
 19 TriStar 2 (9m/10f)
 10 TriStar 3 (5m/5f)
 1 male Youth

Autumn Term 2016 (September – December) – 61 total (34 male/27 female)

6 TriStar Start (3m/3f)
 29 TriStar 1 (16m/13f)
 17 TriStar 2 (9m/8f)
 8 TriStar 3 (4m/4f)
 1 Youth

As can be seen the total membership number each term is averaging 60 members. On average 40 – 45 members attend our weekly training sessions.

Kirsty reported that a decision was made not to re-print membership cards as it wasn't felt that they were bringing value to the members.

Kirsty stated that the tri-suits are being produced by RGMM, Nottinghamshire on a bespoke/tailor made order and the latest stock of hoodies also came from RGMM. The club t-shirts are supplied by Cavaliers printing in Reading.

6. Treasurer's report – Ian Gosling

Ian shared a copy of the Income & Expenditure Summary for 2016 with those present.

Dave Wood asked if the club was concerned that the bank balance at the end of the year was lower than at the beginning of the year. Ian Gosling said this was not an issue due to the current stock levels of un-sold kit as well as some of fees income for the Winter term 2016 was received in December 2015 and hadn't been accounted for as this is the first set of accounts.

Steve Ness asked whether we thought about having a buffer should our membership numbers drop to cover any unexpected costs. This was discussed and the options to make this possible would be to increase fees and/or look at sponsorship options for the club.

Ian Gosling is to produce a Business Plan for the projected 2017 Rascals Income & Expenditure.

Reading Rascals 2016 Income & Expenditure Summary

1	Opening bank balance 04/01/16	£3,837
2	Income	
	<u>Fees & memberships</u>	<u>£9,550</u>
	<u>Total Income</u>	<u>£9,550</u>
3	Expenses	
	<u>Annual affiliation fee to British Triathlon</u>	<u>£88</u>
	Coaching Fees	£6,920
	Session Expenses	£2,749
	Rascals Merchandise	£9
	BF Event Fees	£1,365
	Aqua Park	£66
	Website fees	£144
	Other misc exp	£137
	<u>Total Expenses</u>	<u>£11,476</u>
4	Balance at bank 31/12/16	£1,911

7. Welfare Officer's report:

Lisa Wilson and Steve Mott have been elected as the Club's Welfare officers; which is a requirement of British Triathlon to have at least one Club Welfare Officer. The decision was taken to have a female and male officer and Lisa and Stephen both have safeguarding training and experience.

Steve asked that members were made aware of Lisa & Steve's existence as Club Welfare Officer's should any junior members or parents have any issues regarding welfare or safeguarding.

8. Election of committee for 2017-18

As per the Club Constitution Full Voting members of the club consist of the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Club Welfare Officers and other elected personnel.

Dave Wood had submitted a request for Full Membership which was granted along with the following elections:

Chairman – Ellie Gosling

Secretary – Kirst Scott

Treasurer – Ian Gosling

Club Welfare Officers – Steve Mott & Lisa Wilson

Elected Committee Member – David Wood

9. Strategy and direction for forthcoming year:

An observation was made that we have a large number of younger members but not so many older members. It was suggested that contact was made with local swimming, running and cycling clubs as well as secondary schools to spread the awareness of Reading Rascals to this age group.

Steve Ness suggested that covering entry fees in their entirety for events such as Incurro and the Barnes Fitness Kids Events was not financially viable for the club in 2017 and that a discounted rate should be made as an alternative for Reading Rascal junior members. This was agreed and will be part of the 2017 Business Plan.

Emma Ryan asked whether we had active club sponsors at present. Ellie stated that Lexus and Macbeth do not financially contribute to the club at present. Ellie is to contact them to ask if they still wish to be involved as their logos are on the club kit. Ellie is also to contact Zone3 to see if they can provide kit at a discounted amount and see whether they would be interested in becoming a club sponsor.

A discussion was held about having a central venue for the club. This is something we have tried to do in the past – at Bulmershe. However, due to the size of the club this isn't so viable now at Bulmershe. It was felt the change of training venues is not an issue at present.

10. Any other Business:

Jenny Patterson submitted a question via email prior to the meeting, asking whether it would be possible to investigate the purchasing of a branded club gazebo that could be used at training and events. Ellie is to look into this and approach Zone 3 to see if they would be interested in sponsoring this.

Ellie also stated that it is hoped that a coach or two will attend the events in the Triathlon England South Central Junior Series this season.

Ellie expressed the club's best wishes to Dave Wood, who starts his Level 1 Triathlon Coaching Award in March 2017.

11. Close

The meeting was closed at 5.30pm and all those in attendance were thanked for their input to the meeting and the club.