



Hawke's Bay Multisport Club Inc., Operating as:

Triathlon Hawke's Bay

President's Report 2018-2019

Firstly, I would like to welcome you all to the 2018/19 Tri HB AGM.

This has been a busy year for the club with a lot of our regular events put on along with the last-minute Halloween Hunt which I will cover later.

I would describe the last year as extremely busy and challenging. Our GM Bruce Richardson has really imbedded himself into the position and is now into his 2nd season of events, like all our previous GM's Bruce personality has really added to the club as a whole. I feel we can be very satisfied with Bruce and the contribution he brings to the club.

Bruce has recently secured an office at the Mitre 10 Park, we see this as a great step forward as it means our GM can better put a line between home and work which over the years has in my opinion been very blurred.

In signalling out the challenges we have faced over the last year I would put them as

Water quality: This is still a big concern for us as although we can speculate, we still cannot fully identify what causes the poor water quality that we seem to be getting more frequently. Some of the readings also have put the water quality in the open sea as being below par.

It is not financially sustainable to move the races out of the pond as we then have to pay for water safety which is in the vicinity of \$800 a race.

For this season we have put the best procedures we can in place to ensure the water quality is at safe standard for us to manage our events.

Expressway: Earlier this year we were advised that we would not be able to use the expressway for our bike course as Transit deemed it too dangerous to cycle on. We talked with Transit explaining that the alternative to the expressway namely Westshore could be more dangerous with more obstacles on the riders left hand side i.e. driveways, cars, pedestrians. In the end they agreed to let us use the expressway but under condition that we have earlier start times to avoid traffic and that we go single file across the bridge. Although this means an earlier start I for one see several benefits, less wind, less traffic, cooler and you still get the better part of the day after the race to spend with family.

Over the years we have looked at alternative swimming courses which are hard to find, the current committee considers the Pond as still our best option.

Falling participation numbers: Over the last year we have seen a drop in participation numbers at our events. This is not unique to us alone as other clubs are feeling it. I believe that the current trend is off road trail running which offers an event experience to run in places they do not normally have access too (combined with the fact they do not need to join a club to participate.)

The challenge going forward is for each and every one to push events on social media and encourage family, work colleagues and friends to come down and give it a go.

Obviously with a drop in numbers it also means a drop in revenue which is vital to keep the club viable.

To address this last issue the committee have thought for some time that we need an additional revenue stream to support the club through tougher times. To this end we were successful in getting funding to purchase our own timing gear. The benefits are

1. We provide a better quality experience for our participants by giving faster and accurate results.
2. We do not need to seek future funding for timing at our larger events i.e. Harbour to Hills and Tremains.
3. We now have the opportunity of timing at events we do not run ourselves thus bringing in additional revenue.

MEMBERSHIP

For the year just gone we had Membership at 172 compared with 207 for the previous year. This year we are looking very good with membership at 142. This in part is due to the Tri NZ 1-day race fee introduced during the year, it now makes sense to join the club than continually pay the 1-day race fee.

Last year with the introduction of the Tri NZ fee we choose not to raise our own membership fee, this year we have raised it nominally to keep in line with inflation and rising costs.

EVENTS

We have continued our race calendar as per last year with the addition of a new event namely the Halloween Hunt, although not a triathlon type event it was an idea that Bruce ably put together at short notice it proved to be very successful both for participants and in revenue back to the club. Bruce has ideas to expand this event next year thus bringing more revenue which helps the club to run our core business of Triathlon/Duathlon.

The Harbour to Hills for 2019 saw a drop in numbers which is concerning as it is a big budget race and we need to at least break even. The weather this year was also cold which goes against the 1st 2 years which saw fantastic conditions for racing. Running races in April is always going to be hit and miss weather wise.

This upcoming year we have moved the race to the 26th January to coincide with Auckland anniversary weekend in the hope we will attract more competitors and have better weather.

If you haven't entered yet then we would ask you to consider it as your entry helps the club which helps you.

Although we dropped some of our Iron kids races over the last year we notice that the children's races are the growth areas as witnessed by the Primary/Intermediate triathlon last week where numbers were up on the previous year.

CLUB GM

Bruce Richardson has done a fantastic job, I can attest to how hard he works as he is pumping out e-mails and making changes in Dropbox at all times of the day. I have worked hard to try and get Bruce to slow down a bit but I think I have failed.

One of Bruce's qualities is his ability to get funding either through funding applications or seeking new sponsors, Bruce has built a good rapport with our sponsors and other stakeholders that is both good for his development and good for the Club.

He has been hit with plenty of challenges i.e. water quality and the Expressway to name two. He just seems to thrive in this role and is committed to making the club the best it can be. Along with Bruce comes his family which are at every race pitching in with smiles on their faces. I would like to take this opportunity to also thank them, Bruce's wife Ngaia, children Sophie and Blake, not forgetting Bruce's Mum Vanesse and stepfather Baden.

SPONSORS

Again, we are so very fortunate to have such committed and generous sponsors, without you we would not exist. I have said it before but when shopping around please look to your sponsors in the first instance.

As one sponsor stands down Bruce seems to find a replacement.

On behalf of the club I would like to thank our sponsors.

VOLUNTEERS

As with sponsors our volunteers are vital and I would like to thank them all for their contribution. We have a really good core of volunteers who we see at each event.

They are generally the face of the club for first timers and really do make their first experience memorable.

In preparing for the AGM I spoke with Bruce who told me that Diana Tonks has volunteered at every event Bruce has put on, that is an achievement.

If you have not volunteered for a while as you are racing then that is fine but we would ask that you consider helping outside of the races. There are a number of jobs that can be done in the background and in your own time. By helping out this frees Bruce up to get on with other things.

This AGM we have two committee members standing down, both Gail Hussey and myself. Gail has really added to the committee especially with her expertise around the technical side. I am standing down to spend some time with family although I will still be out there racing. I think it is healthy for

the club to have a change as we all see things differently. I have full confidence that the new committee will work for the benefit of us all.

I would like to thank the remaining committee members namely; Will Kelsey (Secretary), George Massingham, Naomi Fergusson, Chris Davidson, Robin Gory, Callum Campbell and Geoff Martin.

TRI NZ

This time last year we added the Tri NZ compulsory fee to our membership, as of now it is compulsory to be a member of Tri NZ or purchase a one-off race fee to compete in not only our events but pretty much every triathlon in the country.

I have worked closely with Tri NZ CEO Claire Beard who has done a commendable job to date.

Tri NZ recently did a road trip around the country, the purpose being to find out what issues the clubs faced. As a committee we meet with them which was very valuable. A lot of the challenges we face are widespread around the country. Tri NZ will use this information to better manage our sport.

SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS

As a club we are proud of all our members and their achievements, be it 1st triathlon or getting a PB they are all special.

This year we had three members compete at Ironman Kona, Brendon Vesty, John Moriarty and Ereik Blomberg.

Brendon Vesty continues to perform with distinction winning his age group at the Aquabike World champs in Pontevedra, Spain.

Sherry Majors was a finalist in the CHB sports awards for senior sportsperson of the year.

Those are some of the achievements our members have gained, If I have missed anyone out, I apologise.

CLOSING

In conclusion I would like to thank you all for making this club what it is today. It still has a very special feel, by this I mean every person that races with us is made to feel welcome.

I witnessed this in the weekend when I saw plenty of new faces, all smiling and enjoying the racing and camaraderie.

I thank those that have supported me as President over the last two years, it has been very much appreciated.

Although I am standing down from the committee, I will still be out there racing, supporting and volunteering as best I can.

Glen Yule

Club President

3rd December 2019