

Regional Development Officers Report- November 2004

I have now been in the position of Regional Development Officer for Yorkshire & Humberside for 3 months. During this time I have had the opportunity to meet the regional committee along with many club members, event organisers and triathletes who are all involved in Triathlon in the region. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those I have seen to date for the welcome I have been given, and the chance, from the many conversations I have had, to quickly audit and get up to speed with current provision and schemes that are in operation. Based upon this audit I think it is important to thank Damien Smith, your former Regional Development Officer, for the groundwork he has put in and the platform he has created from which Triathlon in Yorkshire & Humberside can but only grow.

There is an operational Regional Committee in place, the region has a junior and senior series of events and the number of regional referees has risen after a course was delivered within our boundaries. All of the above are things that the region lacked not so long ago. These are only a few of the things that are currently in place to help Yorkshire & Humberside move forward. I feel it is important to look at the development of Yorkshire & Humberside when measured against its potential as a jar that is half full. Some may even feel it is a quarter full. Regardless, as long as people feel the jar is filling rather than emptying, Triathlon in this region will move forward. Reasons as to why I feel so strongly that things can move forward, despite what some would say has only been a brief period with British Triathlon, are numerous;

- Key partners have expressed an interest and willingness to allocate resources and funding, that should see Junior Tri clubs start up in Leeds & Sheffield in 2005. These will form phase 1 of the Regional Academy. I am currently writing the operational plan for the Regional Academy and this will be completed by the end of January 2005.
- Other sports are willing to work in partnership with Triathlon, mostly due to the fact that Triathlon is now a government priority sport in the UK.
- Aquathlon events will take place in possibly all of the 4 Youth Games which are day long events organised by all the Local Authorities in a county under the lead of their County Sports Partnerships. This will give school children who may have an interest in Triathlon the opportunity to have a go and then be signposted to the regional academy.

All of the mentioned require the involvement of the Triathlon community in some way. Volunteers are, as with all sports, one of our greatest assets. If you, or people you know, can help in any way to achieve the goals set out in the regional plan I would ask that you do so. Accomplishing the goals that the region has set is important to prove that funding is justified. Utilising resources available, working in a co-ordinated and planned manner and importantly as a team will make this possible. This brings me to tonight where Nominations for regional committee positions are made and the 2004-2005 committee members are appointed. I look forward to the challenges that lie ahead and hope that the rest of the regions Triathlon community share the vision and enthusiasm that I and the regional committee possess.

Michael Burch
Yorkshire & Humberside- Regional Development Officer.