

Officials Report

Event	Newby Hall Duathlon (TE National Champs)	Date	13 th April 2014
Official	Aimee Stocker (Jo Hills assisting, Jo Summers shadowing)		

1. Competitors Information

Excellent		Good		Adequate	x	Poor		Very Poor	
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Comments: Athletes reported receiving the race information in a timely manner, however, some reported receiving duplicate information which they found confusing. There was conflicting information over the bike course, the map on the website did not match the fly over video.

2. Registration Process

Excellent		Good		Adequate	x	Poor		Very Poor	
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Comments: All TE licences were being checked, but no ID was being checked for non-members. Only one number was in race packs, athletes need two numbers, one for front on the run and another for the back on the bike

3. Swim Organisation and Safety

Excellent		Good		Adequate		Poor		Very Poor	
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Comments: N/A

4. Transition Area (including security)

Excellent		Good		Adequate	x	Poor		Very Poor	
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Comments: The marshals on transition were very good, checking bikes and helmets on the way into transition, however, one bike managed to come in without a sticker, which then caused an issue after the race getting it out. But there were no marshals working within transition and then there was an issue ensuring that bikes were racked correctly. Racking was numbered and well-spaced. Mount and dismount lines were in a poor position though, the edge of the grass was used, which meant that participants had to mount on a bend, it would have been better further away on a straight

5. Design and Signage of Courses

Excellent		Good		Adequate		Poor		Very Poor	x
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Comments: Only small signs were used on the run course, bigger signs should be used. I felt that the bike course was dangerous, I drove the course and the RA submitted was a completely different course to the one used. Closed roads/partial closed roads were used, where they were partial, the coned area was too narrow, only one bike's width, so meant that cyclists had to move in to the open area to overtake. In the village of Skelton, runners and cyclists were using the same lane, which was extremely dangerous. For a start, at this point, there was no marshal in place, so one Moto official managed this post. Because it was a three lap course, it made the course busy at all times and would not have been suitable for more competitors. Outside the main entrance for the venue, there was a narrow piece of road, with cyclists coming in both directions, going into this, there was a tight left hand bend, one cyclist did not make the corner, which caused a three cyclist head on collision. Venue staff were trying to use both gates that runners and cyclists were, so it was causing a very dangerous situation. There were cattle grids within the venue, which were boarded, but the boards were only wide enough for single file, these should have completely covered the cattle grids. There were some very significant pot holes on the racing line, but not all had been marked, there were three extremely tight turns, there was no warning of these on the roads, so myself and the TE team went out and marked the potholes and marked 'slow' on the road beforehand. In my opinion the course would have been much safer, if it had been an open road circuit.

6. Drafting Situation

Excellent		Good	x	Adequate		Poor		Very Poor	
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Comments: The moto officials struggled to monitor the situation, as it was more important for them to stay in their high risk posts on the course. There were no reports of drafting, but the narrow closed roads spots, would have made drafting very likely.

7. Marshals

Excellent		Good		Adequate	x	Poor		Very Poor	
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Comments: The marshals that were in place, were good, but there were not enough of them. They were also not well briefed on their position, there should have been a marshals briefing beforehand.

8. Overall Safety of Event

Excellent		Good		Adequate		Poor		Very Poor	x
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Comments: I was extremely concerned about the safety of the event. There was not adequate medical cover, there was only one medical vehicle and two members of staff. This meant that while they were dealing with the collision, there was no other medical staff on site. The bike course was unsafe, as seen by the accident. I feel it was luck rather than organisation that meant that there were no more serious issues. The 2nd run channel was too narrow and there was some issue with runners crossing bikes. There were two lead motorcycles on the bike course, which were effective for the first lap, but should have stopped then, as they nearly caused an accident at the gate on the second lap.

9. Response from Competitors

Excellent		Good	x	Adequate		Poor		Very Poor	
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Comments: Most comments after the event were positive, although the injured parties were very upset. Competitors commented that courses were well marked, but I suspect that this is because we had taken the time to do so before

10. Treatment of Officials and Marshals

Excellent		Good		Adequate		Poor	x	Very Poor	
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Comments: Marshals were given a hot drink, but officials were not given any food or drink and made to feel unwelcome. If marshals were better looked after, then maybe it wouldn't be an issue to get more marshals. I made many attempts to contact the organiser before the race and had no response. The race organiser was very rude to me and was unhelpful, not accepting issues.

Further Comments:

I was very concerned about the safety of the event and felt that the organiser does not fully respect the duty of care that you have as a race organiser. I would highly recommend that the organiser partake in the BTF Race Organisers course. When I left the venue, I discovered that there was another very well marshalled cycle event in the very close vicinity, there should have been adequate communication between the two organisers to ensure that there was not extra unnecessary traffic on either's course.

Please list any penalties, including details:

Number	Reason
	N/A

Number of officials in attendance (including m/c officials): 5 (2 moto officials)

Number of competitors in the event (including DSQ and DNF): 167 raced

Distance travelled to officiate the event: 260 miles

To make further comments, please use a separate sheet and attach to the report.

Signed		Date	14 th April 2014
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Copies to Triathlon England HQ, the appropriate Regional Official's Coordinator and the Event Organiser (within seven days of the event).