

Minutes of TVT Committee Meeting

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 9 Jun 2026

Meeting Time: 19:30-21:00

Venue: Earley Crescent Centre

Attendees:

- Martin Alder (MA) – Chair
- Derek Bowley (DB) – Vice Chair & Head Coach
- Tracy Suff (TS) – Secretary
- Matt Picozzi (MPi) – Treasurer
- Vikki Aust (VA) – Communications Secretary and Club Captain
- Mike Dean (MD) – Membership secretary (interim)
- Sunil Fernandes (SF) - Club Champs and TVXC Rep
- Ian Coddington (IC) – Lead Welfare Officer
- Helen Williams (HW) - Deputy Welfare

Apologies:

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all those present. No apologies received.

2. Review of Actions from Previous Meeting

The committee reviewed outstanding actions. The Chair is still unable to access the chairman email account, and there have been no volunteers for the Kit Representative role. The risk assessment for the social triathlon requires review by Derek before it is filed, and Sunil will add the road closure details. Cross-country updates were also discussed, including the withdrawal of Sheen Joggers from the league and Marlow not hosting an event.

TVXC have agreed to invite Reading Joggers to take part in TVXC events, as numbers have been low for the past few years. Reading Roadrunners will be contacting Reading Joggers to see if they can co-host the event to share the cost and organisational burden"

Maidenhead will add a new event, and Metros XC will again have a 4pm start. The committee also noted the high number of cancellations and reduced attendance last year. TVT XC is scheduled for 7 February 2027.

Action:

- DB and SF to agree risk assessment and file on google drive
- MA to get access to chairman email.

3. Proposal for change to trial membership

MP outlined challenges with trial memberships and introduced a revised process via ClubPal. The proposal includes a maximum of five trial sessions and one paid training session per week. Coaches will be able to clearly identify trial members within the system. The committee discussed the approach and agreed to adopt the proposal.

Action: MD and MP to finalise and implement the process on Clubpal.

4. Proposal for a new communication channel

MP proposed moving primary communications from Facebook to WhatsApp using a structured community mode for registered members only. The proposal includes announcement and activity-specific groups. Groups could include rides, swim, kit swaps etc. Facebook will continue to be used for photos and broader engagement, with a suggested monthly summary. It was agreed that social media policies should be reissued alongside the change to reinforce safeguarding requirements. A phased rollout was suggested, targeting July (a week after the July newsletter). A separate WhatsApp group for Tristars parents will also be created, with support required by DB for setup and management.

Actions:

- VA to update Facebook to communicate WhatsApp as the primary channel.
- MP to set up the WhatsApp community and trial the structure.
- IC to circulate the updated social media policy.
- DB and MP to establish the Tristars WhatsApp group.

5. Proposal for Awards night approach & pricing

The committee discussed pricing and format for the annual awards night. Ticket prices are expected to increase to approximately £25. It was proposed that attendees receive branded enamel cups or travel mugs as part of the ticket price. This would replace buying the pot plants as table decs with a more practical branded item. A quiz will also be included as part of the event entertainment and hosted by Siwan and Manos.

Actions:

- MD and HW to confirm pricing and the supplier for branded items.
- MD to continue event planning.

6. Any Other Business

Club Champs Rep

Training and events were discussed, including introducing quarterly 5k track sessions and a winter competition series potentially across local parkrun events. Member feedback from the track 5K race was positive leading to the suggestion of more structured 5K races. DB confirmed we have cancelled track bookings for July/ Aug/ Sep due to low turnout.

Action:

- DB to schedule these quarterly 5K races into the track coaching calendar after the summer break.
- SF to propose a plan for the winter championship races.

Head Coach

DB reported that the junior section was reported to be progressing well, with upcoming events planned. The Club attended Hillingdon duathlon and next is Andover Triathlon (pool swim) which will be the last training session on 12 July. DB will start to introduce targeted races. DB noted that we have 5-6 tristars who are under 8, and that we lose some tristars around this time due to school exams. The use of Kendrick pool is going well.

Coaching capacity and continuity were discussed, including upcoming absences and long-term development considerations. The Club has 4 active coaches for the junior Club - Jo Williams, Steve Wilson, Joyce Martindale and Ruth Rogers. DB advised that Gary Farrell will not be returning to the Club as a coach leaving Darryl Robins and DB as only coaches for track. DB advised that he and Joyce Martindale will be away for a month in January and he has liaised with other coaches to ensure sessions are covered. He also advised that we have enough coaches as back ups, citing Kirsty and Justin who are current members, and that level 2 coaching can take up to 2 years before a coach can train independently.

VA asked if we can update the junior section on the website as it's very old. DB will support VA with this.

DB advised that Avanti have asked if we can attend their Reading Cycling Festival but its the Reading Triathlon date of 13 September. DB suggested we could just have a manned gazebo.

Action:

- VA/DB to update the Tristars section on website
- MA will check to see if he can man the gazebo, and VA to ask for volunteers in comms.

Lead Welfare Officer

IC confirmed that the social media policy was already on his list to revisit and reissue, and that this now aligns well with the proposed WhatsApp communications channel project.

Deputy Welfare Officer

HW has booked onto safeguarding courses and will attend a tristars session once fully recovered.

Communications Secretary

VA noted that there were no further updates, other than that she and MP will be away for two months from 28 June.

Secretary

TS asked about progress in filling committee roles. The Social Secretary role remains unfilled after advertising, and the committee agreed to leave social gatherings to member volunteers to organise. A Kit Representative is still required.

Action:

- MD to speak with Stew Hackman in the next few weeks, after his Ironman, to find out whether he would like to take on the Membership Secretary role.
- The Chair and committee to resolve the Kit Representative vacancy.

11. Important dates for the diary

- TVT/ Tri2O social triathlon - 16 Jun
- 10 mile TT - 2 Jul
- Swim champs - 16 Jul
- Reading triathlon - 13 Sep
- TVT Committee - 15 Sep
- Annual Awards event - 14 Nov
- TVT Committee - 17 Nov
- Christmas cycle ride - TBD
- TVT XC - 7 Feb 2027

Meeting closed at 21:00.

Position	Name
Chair	Martin Alder
Vice Chair	Derek Bowley
Secretary	Tracy Suff
Treasurer	Matt Picozzi
Membership	Mike Dean (Interim)

Lead Welfare	Ian Coddington
Deputy Welfare	Helen Williams
Club Head Coach	Derek Bowley
Junior Club representative	Vacant Role
Communications	Vikki Aust
Social Secretary	Vacant
Club Captain	Vikki Aust
Club Kit Representative	Vacant
Thames Valley Cross Country Rep	Sunil Fernandes
Club Championship Secretary	Sunil Fernandes