



NOMINATION FOR LIFE MEMBERSHIP OF TACT: Gai Webster

Moved: Jane Seaborn; Seconded: Garry Muir

Gai Webster has been an outstanding member of and contributor to Triathlon ACT for more than a decade.

Having raced for many years, Gai's continued participation as a competitor is an outstanding example of triathlon as a sport for everyone. However, it is her tireless and significant contribution to the technical side of the sport, in the ACT, nationally and lately internationally, for which we believe she should be recognised with Life Membership.

At all times, Gai approaches being a technical official with the utmost professionalism and commitment, and has done since she first qualified in 1999. For Gai, it is not just an occasional weekend pursuit but a long-term contribution to which she gives herself 110%.

As a National Technical Official and senior member of the Triathlon Australia technical program, Gai has been appointed to many senior technical roles in national series events and this was again the case over the 08/09 season where she was TD for the Adelaide Challenge, Race Referee for the Cronulla Challenge and the Australian Aquathlon Championship. Gai recently held the role as Chief Run Official for the ITU Triathlon World Championships on the Gold Coast.

Gai has also been recognized for her commitment to triathlon internationally with her appointment to several key roles at International Triathlon Union events this year including Race Referee for the Oceania Championships (and World Championships test event) on the Gold Coast, Assistant Race Referee at the Mooloolaba World Cup, and Race Referee for the ITU Continental Cup in New Zealand. While in New Zealand she was also asked by Triathlon NZ to mentor the Race Referee for their associated NZ Tour event. Triathlon ACT has reason to be justifiably proud of her achievements in this arena.

Both ACT and external race directors appreciate Gai's expertise, thoroughness and willingness to go the extra mile to ensure their job is made easier and they can run the best events possible. Gai's ongoing involvement with the Canberra

Half Ironman and her role as Sanctioning Officer and Assistant TD for the 2006 ITU Long Distance World Championships are another demonstration of how her meticulous attention to detail, her understanding of the requirements of high level events and the incredible amount of time she devoted in the many months prior, contributed significantly to the success of that event and it being described by the Danish coach as “the best Long Course Worlds ever”. As an organization involved in running many events, Triathlon ACT race directors have been significant beneficiaries of Gai’s expertise and contribution.

It is hard to believe Gai is a volunteer given the amount of time and professionalism she applies to everything she does to support the sport of Triathlon and in particular the technical program. The sport is lucky to have someone of her commitment who also has the experience and capabilities to operate at such a high level. For many years, Triathlon ACT has enjoyed a national reputation as a destination for quality, well-run events with a firm but fair technical presence that enhances the athlete experience and enjoyment of our events. The quality and consistency of the ACT Technical Program is largely testament to Gai’s personal contribution, and we have no doubt that the program would not be where it is today without her ongoing exceptional level of input.

By way of example, the minimum practical requirement for a TO to maintain accreditation is three events a year. During the 08/09 season, Gai officiated at 10 events at local, national and international level. As a further demonstration of her commitment, Gai often self-funds or contributes to the costs to attend events outside of the ACT.

She has been a motivated participant in continuing education to improve her own skills and capacity as well as to pass on new learnings to others. Gai attended a Presenter/Assessor course conducted in Queensland by the Australian Sports Commission. In order to enhance triathlon’s ability to provide accurate certified courses, Gai has also undertaken extensive training and qualified as a certified IAAF course measurer.

In the ACT, Gai is the leader of the technical program as well as representing Triathlon ACT on the Triathlon Australia Technical Committee (a position she first held in 2002/2003).

Gai is wholly responsible for coordinating ongoing training for current TOs as well as courses for new Level 1 and Level 2 Officials. On Gai’s recommendation, TACT ran a Level 2 accreditation course this year. Gai proposed the course, arranged the logistics, identified participants in consultation with other senior officials in the ACT, organised presenters, catering and refreshments, chaired the course including presenting several sections herself and used the opportunity in consultation with the national Director of Officials to pilot the draft Level 2 course to be submitted by the TATC to the National Officiating Accreditation Scheme (NOAS), including preparing feedback on the format and efficacy of the course design. Beyond the Level 2 course, Gai has taken on the role of mentor to several new Level 2 TOs including practical assessment on the Field of Play. Her

role as mentor to many technical officials over the years has seen the ACT always able to provide a team of capable TOs at any event held here, and the quality of ACT officials is remarked on by race directors and senior officials elsewhere.

Her practical contribution to the technical program and the wider sport of triathlon in the ACT includes overseeing sanctioning of all multi-sport events on behalf of TACT, allocating sanctioning officers and Technical Delegates to each event, calling for TOs, creating rosters, providing contact details of all their team for any event to the Race Referees, delivering detailed instructions to each Race Referee in the lead up to the event, arranging FOP fees, and ensuring that all technical supplies are available to the technical team on the day, even if she is not rostered to work that event.

Gai is an extraordinary communicator ensuring all TACT officials are kept informed of national trends, policies and issues and seeking feedback from local officials to convey to the TATC as appropriate. She regularly consults with local seniors TOs, the TACT committee and management, as well as the broader technical program in the ACT. Her 'corporate knowledge', her own experience as a competitor, and her wealth of local, national and international experience has always been valuable in thrashing out issues amongst key TACT stakeholders prior to their forwarding into the broader triathlon arena.

Gai was involved in triathlon for many years as a competitor prior to completing her Level 1 course in 1999. Gai's potential as an excellent TO was obvious early on, but her level of commitment over the past decade has exceeded any reasonable expectations of what one person might contribute. Others have come and gone but Gai remains as committed and enthusiastic as when she first started. As busy as she is with the 'high level' work, Gai endeavours to stay in touch with all levels of officiating by ensuring she works as a 'regular TO'.

Gai's contribution to Triathlon ACT has been recognised by being awarded the Triathlon ACT Volunteer of the Year in 2006. We believe all our TOs make a valuable contribution, however Gai's contribution is long-standing, never wavering, and continues today. We believe it would be fitting after more than a decade of exemplary service for Gai Webster's contribution to be recognized through the bestowing of Life Membership.