

Board Nomination Form

Nominee Details

ROLE	
Name	KAREN LEWIS
Address	
Mobile Phone No.	
email address	

I have read the Person Specification for the role and wish to nominate for the board as follows:

ORGANISATION	KEY CONTACT
Position Nominated for:	ORDINARY DIRECTOR
Nominated By:	SIOBHAN GREER
TI Membership Number	<i>Sidman Greer 3rd March 2023</i>

Please complete a motivational statement summary of your skills and experience relevant to the skill sets identified and supporting statement detailing your motivation for applying for the role below. This will be provided to the wider membership of Triathlon Ireland for their consideration prior to the election of candidates at the AGM.

Please summarise your skills and experience relevant to the skillset and supporting statement detailing your motivation for applying for the role.

If not now, then when? If not me, then who?

As a graduate with a degree in Applied Economics and a Diploma in Industrial Studies, I started my professional career in internal audit within local government and then a central government quango. There I became involved in governance, public sector accountability, and financial management. I had responsibility for assessing the financial management plans for further & higher education institutions in South West England, with a specialism role of assessing and managing capital project applications.

In this role I realised two things about myself – people and processes are the areas I thrive in.

I took advantage of an opportunity to relocate back to Northern Ireland following the birth of my eldest child, and soon after started working with my husband in his family business which he had started on our relocation to NI. I became more involved over the years, and have now been working with my husband for almost 20 years as the Business Development & Personnel Manager. With a team of 35, I manage all personnel related matters, as well as tender submissions – for both the NI office and our office in Somerset. I have an excellent understanding of HR legislation, as well as procurement processes, particularly European public sector procurement.

For 11 years I served on the Board of Governors of a local Grant Maintained Integrated Primary school in a voluntary capacity, with the role of “Responsible Officer” over-seeing HR and the financial management of the school. I advised on and helped manage a number of significant organisational changes and a period of crisis following major structural damage to the school building; as well as working closely with the school HR & Finance Manager monitoring the allocation of the school budget, and advising on areas such as disciplinary procedures.

A sudden and significant health issue affecting one of our children, with life changing consequences, made me consider my life and lifestyle. I started running to improve my fitness and benefit my mental health, which eventually led to an introduction to Newry Triathlon Club. Coming from a non-sporting background I truly believe triathlon has been the making of me.

I joined the committee of Newry Triathlon Club and then took on the role of Chairperson, part way through the pandemic. Since being on the committee and being Chairperson, I have successfully implemented a number of changes to the club and our processes; improving governance and accountability, offering a better experience for our members and the wider community. I have also worked to create a more mutually advantageous relationship with Triathlon Ireland.

I thrive on being busy, learning and challenging myself. My organisational skills have helped to successfully deliver numerous races including Top of the Mourne triathlon, and the NTC Aquathlon Series. This year I am delighted to have successfully bid for a Youth Series race, the first ever organised by NTC. This will be an excellent catalyst for our newly affiliated junior club.

I have put myself forward for many roles since becoming involved in triathlon, volunteering in any way possible to contribute to my club and the triathlon community. I am a very proud Triathlon Ireland 'Beyond The Finish Line' Advocate, promoting our sport through visibility, education and participation. I have embraced every opportunity for learning including gaining my Level 1 Coaching qualification; Coach Mentoring; Local Technical Official, and Women in Sport Leadership Programme.

My professional background and my role within my club and the wider triathlon community enable me to offer a number of things to the role of Ordinary Director. As the parent of a young person with a physical disability, I am passionate about diversity and inclusion in every aspect of life and am keen to share and gain knowledge with the TI paratriathlon programme. I have direct experience in change management, governance and accountability; human resources management and event organisation. I am an excellent 'critical friend'; I will always ask questions. My communication skills are tested in different ways every day, and I continually undertake CPD to improve these skills as I believe that as a professional and in sport, this is critical to success.

Please highlight particular high-level skill sets that you feel you have in any of the following areas:

Skillset	Detail
Financial	Financial Management; Internal and External Audit
Legal	
Inclusion & Diversity Expertise	
Change Management & Technology	Experience of change management operationally in my professional work, and in previous Board position (Board of Governors of GMI Primary School)
Corporate Governance	Over 25 years experience in corporate governance and public sector accountability
Information Technology	
High Performance Sport	
Commercial / Marketing	Have ran a successful business with my husband for the last 20 years.
Human Resources	As Business Development & Personnel Manager for our business I have vast experience with HR, legislation and in practice
Risk	In my professional role, my industry sector is health & safety; so risk management and risk assessment is integral in everything we do.

I wish to nominate for the above role, and if elected, agree to act first and foremost in the best interests of Triathlon Ireland and the sport nationally at all times, regardless of any regional or club affiliation. If elected, I agree I will declare any real or potential conflicts of interest to my fellow board members:

SIGNATURE: 

Date: 03-03-23