

Thomson Reuters Andover Triathlon 2009

Sunday 19th July saw a record number of competitors tackle the 5th annual Andover Triathlon, which was held in the glorious surroundings of Farleigh School and hosted by Andover Triathlon Club. This year the main sponsor was Thomson Reuters. Coaching manager Penny Matthews and Operations Director Chris Elvin presented the prizes and the company hosted a picnic for their staff on the day. Jon Simmonds and Stuart Riley, both from the company competed in the event.

The club held an adult triathlon in the morning, which involved a 440m swim, a 30k bike and an 8k run, taking in the sights of Danebury Ring, Stockbridge and the Clatford's along the way.

Later in the day the club hosted two events for junior athletes.

First was the junior event for 8 – 12 year olds, which involved an 88m swim, a 2.5k bike and a run of approximately 800m. This was followed by a youth event for 13 – 16 year olds and involved a 220m swim a 5k cycle and a 1600m run.

Athletes travelled from far and wide to compete, in addition to many more who are local to the Andover area. Many were repeat entrants however, for some this was their first experience of a triathlon. This year the event attracted a visually impaired athlete, Mick Duplock, a first for the event. Mick's training partner helped him through the race, guiding him down the pool with verbal commands, riding with him on a tandem and then leading him around the run course.

Fortunately the rain held off, the weather being overcast & windy throughout most of the day. Competitors also had to deal with the recent resurfacing on approximately half of the bike course. The event was highly praised for the excellent organisation, the warm and friendly atmosphere and value for money. All competitors went away with generous goody bags in addition to prizes for some, coming from a variety of sponsors.

The **adult male race** was won by Rob Herring representing the Army in a time of 1.28.53. Rob was closely followed by John Mead also from the Army. Third place went to returning athlete Mark Darcy.

The **Adult ladies race** was won by Longparish athlete Alice Evans in a time of 1.45.54 improving on last years 3rd position. Second went to Helen Wainwright and third was Laura Pankhurst.

The **junior boys race** was won by Robert Goodwin in 10.34 and 2nd and 3rd spots went to Matthew Fratesi & Jacob Goss, with only 3 seconds separating the top three.

The **junior girls race** was won by Zoe Sheehan in 10.11. Alice Hoolahan was second and Kate Wilson was 3rd.

The **male youth race** was won by Aston Nicholls in 16.38, second place went to Leon Mander and third position to Alexander Vessey and finally the **female youth race** was won by Katie Metalli in 19.05 with Beth Fratesi and Sarah Hill finishing second and third.

Notable performances from local athletes included a great family performance from the Evans family from Longparish. Mum Alice won the overall Women's event, dad Jonathan won the 40 - 45 male category and daughter Katy finished 4th in the junior girls race, closely followed by sister Emma. Brother Ben also finished 3rd in the Tristar 1 category.

Katy, Ben and Emma were three of the 20 children representing Longparish School on the day.

Olly Woodhouse from St. Marybourne thoroughly enjoyed her first triathlon and finished in 5th position.

Andover club members Nicky Flemming and Richard Woodley both won their age categories in their first season of triathlons.

Finally Philip (dad) and children Sebastian and Isobel Laughton also returned to compete again this year.

In addition many more local athletes took part and full details can be found at www.andovertriathlon.org.uk

The club would like to thank Farleigh School, Burlison Photography and all the sponsors of the event, especially Thomson Reuters in addition to everyone who was involved in the organisation and marshalling of the races. Without their help the event could not happen and would not have been so well received by all who took part. In addition congratulations go to all competitors for their efforts on the day.

Sponsors of the event:

Thomson Reuters, Finkley Down Farm, Tri Sport Coaching UK, The Hawk Conservancy, Swans, Up & Running, Saucony, Alexandra Sports, Generation Sport, MySportingTimes and Mule Nutrition.