

Kamikaze Adventure Race - March 8th 2009

Five members of the Andover Triathlon club started preparations for the fast approaching 2009 race season by taking part in the Kamikaze adventure run at Mapperton Farm near Bridport in Dorset last Sunday. The 7.5 mile course was a gruelling two lap affair around some very hilly, rough terrain which included various energy sapping obstacles, rope swings over bog and water hazards, a water slide, streams and plenty of mud! With fun being the order of the day, the race started in true Kamikaze style with mass start of 324 competitors running down a near vertical hill straight into the first muddy bog of the race. This race was a new experience for Andover's youngest club member, 15 year old Testbourne school pupil, Codi Briley, who was allowed to participate under special permission by race organisers Votwo. Codi is currently raising funds to send himself along with other pupils to Mityana in Uganda this Autumn to help install solar panels to provide electricity to schools and to teach children vital skills that they can use to help support themselves and their families. Codi put in a valiant effort and showed true grit and spirit over the last big hill of the race, spurred on by the sponsorship he has raised already and supported by both his Father, Jase Briley and fellow club member Paul Venus, all three finishing together in 2hrs 37mins, placing 259th, 260th and 262nd respectively. A little further up the field was Dave Pope who battled the course and the final few muscle burning obstacles, which included scaling a 10ft wall to finish in 105th place in a time of 1hr 49mins. Coming home first for Andover and in 45th position overall, completing the course in 1hr 32mins was Paul Wills, who agreed with all that this race was a true test of stamina and endurance but great fun nonetheless.

In February, Andover Triathlon club member Pete Dennett travelled to Spain to run in the Seville Marathon. Pete, an experienced marathon runner unfortunately was struck down with an illness a few weeks before the event and was a doubt to race. However the draw of sunny 25 degree temperatures was too much and feeling somewhat better he chose to run. Starting the race in high spirits he ran the first 22km of the 42km race strongly and felt a good time could be achieved on the flat fast course but sadly the after effects of his cold had other ideas and started to sap him of his energy, he struggled on to finish in respectable time of 4hrs 25mins placing 2629th out of 2903 finishers. Next up for Peter is the Rome Marathon where he will hope to back to his full strength

