

The May day Bank holiday weekend was a busy one for several members of the Andover Triathlon Club for whom the race season is well underway. With Triathlon currently becoming one of the fastest growing sports in the world it is proving very successful for Andover with new members of all abilities joining each week and deciding to take up the challenge of competitive racing.

The New Forest triathlon was the first race of the weekend held in the beautiful surroundings of Ellingham Lake in the New Forest. The race comprised of a 1100m open water lake swim, 36km cycle and a 10km run. Andover was represented by 8 of its members of which new member Peter High was taking part in his first ever triathlon whilst preparing for the Ironman Triathlon later this year. With conditions warm and sunny the race started with the swim where Chris Thompson recorded the fastest split time for Andover covering the 1100m distance including Transition one in 20mins 30 secs, with Dave Hall shortly behind in 23.37. The bike course was affected by windy conditions which made the going tough at times especially with a headwind for the best part of 20km which also included the New Forests natural hazards of donkeys and horses on the roads in many places. Paul Wills clocked a time of 1.03.33 to narrowly beat Chris Thompson to grab the fastest bike split for Andover. The hilly mainly off road run wound its way around tracks and footpaths eventually finishing at the Moyles Court school. Several members of the club ran the 10km route in comparable times, but once again it was Chris Thompson who finished with the fastest run time for Andover just beating Dave Hall in a time of 45mins 28secs. Final results for the day saw Chris take top spot for the club finishing in 49th place overall in a time of 2.09.34, next was Paul Wills in 2.17.05 (92nd) and Dave Hall 2.20.26 (125th). Paul Holmes successfully completed his first triathlon at this distance in 2.28.49 placing 178th overall closely followed by Dave Upton in his first race of the season in 2.29.54 (191st). Hannah Williams continued her excellent improvement this season by knocking a massive 25 minutes off of her previous best time on this course to come in for Andover in 2.43.07 (264th). Jason Briley finished soon after in 2.43.55 (268th) and first timer Peter High who despite carrying an injury completed in 2.44.28 (272nd).

On Bank holiday Monday two further races took place and were represented by two new club members both taking part in their first triathlons. The Mallory Park sprint triathlon near Leicester was to be the venue for Dan Mason who's swimming has been progressing well and He was keen to show this at the race but unfortunately the water temperature in the lake was deemed too cold under British Triathlon Federation regulations and the event was converted into a Duathlon. The 3k run, 20k bike and 5k run was held on the motor racing circuit and conditions were cool, overcast and windy. Dan started the first 3k run well but battled against the wind on the bike section which made the final 5k run hard going, not helped by a steep hill climb up to the finish line. He finished in 1.22.36 placing 70th and is looking forward to his next race later this month at Eton rowing lake. Closer to home in Fleet, Louise Daw took part in the Hart Triathlon. This was a sprint distance event comprising of a 400m pool swim, 20k cycle and 5k run of which Louise did exceptionally well finishing in a time of 1.22.31 placing 240th out of 409.

Also in action last weekend at the Cotswold super sprint triathlon was club member Shaun Green who grabbed himself a top 10 position. The race was a 400m open water swim, 20km bike and 5km run. With weather conditions excellent and after a strong swim, Shaun went out on the bike to record the fastest time of the day over the 20km course recording 29.05 mins. He then finished with a good run to place 7th overall out of 219 entrants and 3rd in his age group with a total time of 55mins 20 secs.



