

Several members of Andover Triathlon club have been competing recently in various races around the UK before the Triathlon season draws to a close in a few weeks time. Will Symonds and new member John Byrne made the short journey to take part in the Southampton fast twitch sprint triathlon, held on Sunday 23rd August on the outskirts of the New Forest. The distances for this race included a 400m pool swim, 18 mile cycle and 3 mile run, which for Byrne was his first taste of a triathlon race. After an initial struggle in the pool, Byrne exited the water to proceed onto the bike where he excelled and made up much of the time lost, gaining over 100 places, then digging deep on the run to finish in 1 hour 42 mins placing 200th out of 280 competitors. Symonds keen to improve on last years time for this race PB'd both the swim and bike sections to finish in 1:31:46 placing 127th and shedding almost 3 minutes of his previous time.

Elsewhere on August 29th, Dan Mason rounded off a strong first season by taking part in the Little Woody middle distance triathlon in Coleford, Gloucestershire. The race comprised of a 1.9k open water lake swim, a 98k bike and a half marathon run. Mason, a strong swimmer exited the water in 35th place overall in a time of 35mins 45 seconds, which after an equally strong bike ride (3:50:40) and run in just under two hours he completing the event in a commendable 6 hours 25 minutes placing 72nd out of 129 athletes.

Paul Wills concluded another busy race season by taking part in the Oxley Sherborne triathlon in Somerset on August 30th. The sprint distance race made was up of a 400m pool swim, 30k bike and an 8km run. Wet and windy conditions made parts of the undulating bike section very slippery in places and Wills did well to avoid joining a number of competitors who had crashed out by carefully negotiating the tight corners on the technical descents. After a strong run which saw Wills grab a PB time over the 8k distance, he completed the race in 1hr 43 mins placing 27th Overall out of 156 who took part.

Finally, Peter Dennett travelled to Iceland to compete in the Reykjavik marathon. Dennett had a goal to complete the 26.2 mile course in under 3 hours and 40 minutes to justify the amount of training he has put into both triathlon and marathon races this season. After an initially fast 18 miles he started to slow up for the final part of the race as his legs felt tired, but upon realising the time he had aimed for was rapidly approaching he put in what can only be described as a gut busting effort to finish in 3:39:55 finishing 150th out of 561.

