

For eight members of the Andover Triathlon club the 2009 race season started at the Winchester Triathlon last Sunday. The sprint distance event which is organised by Concept Sport comprised of a 400m pool swim, 20 mile bike course and a 5 mile run. Conditions were near perfect with dry conditions and clear blue skies but with a slight breeze which played its part in the first 10 miles of the bike course making the going tough at times for the 324 competitors.

Finishing first for Andover placing 94th overall in a time of 1.47.51 was Paul Woolf, shortly behind him in 98th position was Paul Wills with a time of 1.48.03. Andrew Bourne finished soon after in 138th with 1.54.55 followed a matter of seconds after by Martin Brown who despite suffering from a cold finished in 1.55.03 and 141st overall. Next home and taking part in his first ever race was 17 year old Matthew Brown. Matthew recorded the fastest swim time for the club covering the 400m distance in 6 minutes 54 secs finishing the whole race in 185th place and taking the 1st Junior spot with a time of 2.00.15. Close behind was Paul Venus in 2.03.27 followed by new club member Richard Woodley in 2.03.41. Hannah Williams was the only female competitor from the club and finished the course in a personal best knocking 16 minutes off last years time to get a time of 2.07.39.