

Durrell Duathlon Race Report

It was in near freezing conditions that the 35 entrants entered the inaugural Durrell Duathlon on Sunday 10th March. The technical course included a bike route, which comprised two tricky descents and long climbs, into and out of Rozel.

From the start, Tom Perchard and Nathan Woodland set a blistering pace on the first 4.5km run opening up a 45 second lead over Mark Nicol, in third, after the first leg. As expected, Jo Gorrod, also established a commanding lead in the women's race with over a 3 minute lead as she began the bike section.

Perchard and Woodland seemingly in a race of their own, continued to pull away from the rest of the field on the 16 km bike with Perchard managing to hold onto his slender 19 second lead with Woodland applying the pressure. Michael Charlton's strong bike leg allowed him to bridge the 60-second gap behind Mark Nicol and the race was on for 3rd.

In the women's race, despite chasing hard, Jenny O'Brien and Sam Lee could not close the gap on Gorrod, who has made a great transition to competing in multi-sport. Other runners, such as John Coote and Nick Gorrod, were also putting in great performances. Special mention needs to be made of Nestor Roncancio, a Colombian conservationist, currently on a placement with Durrell Wildlife, whose race ended early on the bike after going off course. Undeterred, he rode back to transition and still completed the final run.

With battles occurring throughout the field it was all going to come down to who had left enough in their legs for the final 2.5 km run. Perchard managed to hold off Woodland to finish in 53:21 and 53:30 respectively. Nothing separated Marc Nicol and Michael Charlton, finishing 3rd together. Jo Gorrod finished strongly in 1:02:31 to win the women's race and 10th place overall. Jenny O'Brien finished second in 1:07:33 and Sam Lee did a great job to finish 3rd in 1:08:03. Daniel Heaven, finished first junior in 1:03:38 and competed well with the seniors coming 13th overall.

It was encouraging to see so many new to multi-sport taking part in this event, which bodes well for the future of the Durrell Duathlon but also for the Jersey Triathlon on the 30th June. "Our aim of encouraging more people to take part in multi-sport is certainly paying off!" said Doc Snook the event organizer. The JTC would like to thank Durrell Wildlife for their enthusiasm in taking on a new event and providing a few volunteers to help out. The JTC managed to raise £118 in donations from those who entered the race and this was presented to Durrell. Thanks also to the marshals and volunteers who helped to ensure a safe race and to Pedal Power, for sponsoring spot prizes.

The next race is the JTC Championship Duathlon, which will be held on the 21st April.