The Second Aquathlon (and first sea swim) of the season took place on Sunday 10 June at Harve de Pas with 15 competitors taking part. The hardy souls braved challenging conditions with constant drizzle, intermittent downpours and a strong south westerly breeze making the run stage more than challenging.

The swim stage saw the competitors swim 3 loops of a circuit, with each loop taking in a ‘Lanzarote’ style exit, short run and re-entry into the water. It was always going to be a close field as it was a relatively short swim but Nathan Woodland swam strong and exited the water almost 30 seconds clear of second placed Steve Billington. There were a couple of first timers in the water who all put in strong swims, including Dave Ibbotson who exited the water a credible sixth place setting him up nicely for the run.

Transition at the foot of the slip proved challenging for some competitors as they wrestled with the eternal “socks or no socks” dilemma and pulled wetsuits off ready for the run. All made it safely up the wet and treacherous slip ready for the run.

The (planned) run was a loop round towards the power station and up Mont Bingham before running back down to retrace steps back towards transition and then running out towards Green Island with a dead turn back to Harve de Pas. There were some strong runs put in as the athletes rubbed shoulders to try and move up the field and small groups were formed and broken throughout the stage.

Matt Ebbrell’s pre-race advice to Dave Ibbotson (“it’s impossible to go wrong on this run course mate”) proved rather daft as 3 runners (sorry to name and shame…Michael Charlton, Andy Ruddy and Simon Roderick) took an early right turn at Mont Bingham and cut the course short by 0.28 miles. This possibly was a deciding factor in the final placings as it looked likely Dave would’ve contested Michael for the top spot had the front runners all followed the correct route\*.

Well done to all competitors for finishing on such a grim wet and windy morning.

The first Triathlon of 2012 is on the 24 June at La Braye and we look forward to seeing you there.

Thanks to the Canoe Club, the marshals and timekeepers and the Parishes of St Helier and St Clements.

NB – Signage will be out next year!!