

Ana Leaf August Aquathlon Series 2014



Race 3 Report Thursday 21 August 18:30 St Catherines

The third and penultimate race of the series was again fortunate with the weather, with clear(ish) skies and little or no breeze. The conditions possibly led to the largest turnout so far, with twenty-four competitors registering. Fourteen of those registered were competing in their first race of the series. Details of the juniors' races can be found on their website.

The race started almost on time. Adele Maher (racing with the seniors) was first out of the water demonstrating she could have easily done the full distance in a respectable time given the chance. Jemma Jelley had also opted for the shorter swim and Billie 'honest' Cave opted for it mid race and made sure everyone knew she had in her words "wimped out".

In the full distance course (which was marginally shorter than last week's), League leader Demri Mitchell was pushed into third place after the swim behind JJ Galichan and Ollie Turner. Demri went on to record the fastest run time of the series so far (14:40) making up both places and securing his position at the top of the table (younger sister Jocelyn Mitchell gave the Mitchells first and final finishers 😊). Richard Sellors ended comfortably in fourth and on 89 points is now placed second overall. Returning athlete Sam Maher put in a blistering run (second fastest) after a middle of the pack swim to finish in fifth. Sam finished just ahead of Arlene Lewis who increases her points total to 77 giving her third overall at the moment. Jackie Delph and Karen Dyson opted for the (long) swim only option and Karen improved her time from 1 June by over five minutes to finish in 16:04. Well done to newcomer John Gavey who was toying with the idea of swim only, but brought his trainers just in case (and probably wished he hadn't).

A big thanks to multi talented and flexible Dougie Smith who was at various points assigned the roles of course marker, marshal, time keeper and finally kayaker! Thanks to Glyn for setting out the swim course and kayaking. Thanks again to Richard Whitewood for setting up, clearing away, organising the juniors and timekeeping for the seniors, Mike Osborne for starting the seniors and marshalling, Paula Turner, Rachel Maher and Sam Hugh for timekeeping and thanks to all of the other parents who helped in and out of the water. These races couldn't take place without your efforts and on behalf of all those competing we are grateful.

Race of the day for me goes to youngster Joe Hugh. Joe completed the long swim course in a credible time of under 15 minutes and then proceeded to overtake a third of the field to post the seventh quickest run time and finish thirteenth overall. Congratulations Joe.

While Demri has secured overall victory in the League, he is unavailable for the final race making second place wide open to JJ Galichan, Ollie Turner, Sam Maher, Sam Mason, Jo Gorrod, Tim Rogers and Nathan Woodland. A strong final race by anyone could still secure a top 10 finish with tenth placed Ollie Turner currently on 45 points and up to 50 points available. Good luck to all those competing in Chantilly at the weekend. I hope to see some or all of you for race four next Thursday.