

On a dry, bright but breezy morning, 15 athletes lined up on the bleak Corbiere headland to take part in the longest race on the JTC calendar, with a further 9 opting for the sprint distance race. Normally used as a tune-up by many for longer races, this duathlon gives a chance to try out gear and nutrition choices, however the stiff south westerly wind meant many opted to leave disc and deep section wheels at home.

DC Swart was our first athlete to complete the 5k run (both race options started with this distance) and left transition quickly although his lead over second place Tim Hutton was almost erased after a dropped chain when crossing the mount line lead to some hasty adjustments. Speedy Carmen Tyler and Rosanne Swart led the women's field after the first run, and young and promising newcomer Emily Paton followed in to lead the sprint female field. Established runner trying his hand and multisport racing Michael Anderson showed his run prowess as the first male through T1 from the sprint race.

Athletes trickled through transition, minds focused on the joy of the favourable trail wind looking to push them up the Five Mile Road, tinged with mixed emotions of that advantage being cancelled out by the same wind halting their progress as they doubled back south. Sprint athletes would have to negotiate one lap, and full distance would have to repeat the course again.

By the end of the first lap of the full, DC had asserted his dominance with a clear lead, with veteran Simon edging his way up the field into second place. Jason Wyatt was first sprint participant to complete their lap, and promptly headed off through transition onto his second run. Carmen maintained her overall lead onto the second bike course lap, with Emily doing likewise as the first female sprint participant through T2.

The main comment as people from both distances passed through transition was about the wind, usually paired with some choice swear words. This played a factor with the fatigue impacting the second run - one 2.5k lap for the sprint athletes, and a challenging four laps to make 10k for the full distance.

Strong racing from all our first placed finishers who mainly lead from gun to tape - Jason and Emily claiming victory in the sprint, with DC and Carmen taking the spoils over the longer race.

Honourable mention to Dougie Smith for showing the young ones how it's done just a few days before good 80th birthday. And also good to see amongst plenty of new faces trying their hand at multisport racing for the first time, was the comeback of club favourites Della and Simon Roderick, that latter of which showed class has no age limits as he claimed a worthy second place on his return to racing.

Thanks go to the race committee and the cheery crew of marshals who make this racing possible.



