

Race Report: Wednesday 12th January 2011

Brent St Single Aquathon: 200m Swim / 3.5km Run / 300m swim

What a glorious night for our first race of the New Year. This would have to have been our best weather yet for racing. I trust everyone had a great Christmas and New Year and is back training hard for upcoming events.

Fantastic turn out, given the time of the year and the number of people away – including Brett, who hampered in his attempts to get home by the Queensland floods. Welcome to First Timer: Christopher Wilson as well as to Phil Climent, Travis Shields and Linda Tate all racing for the first time this season

Group 1 had the usual suspects this week with a few extras from group 2 - the infamous Frank who allegedly always needs to leave early, and Andrew Boros claiming he was still sick after he went hiking with myself and students in the Duke of Edinburgh. This group is keeping each other on their toes and there will be some upgrades shortly. Rick has greatly improved his swimming to take out first place in group 1 again. Nice tough tussle again between Emma and Kelly finishing only ten seconds apart in 2nd and 3rd place respectively. The girls (Fiona, Rosemary and La La) kept new dad Jeremy company at the back of the pack (or is that brat of the pack?)

Group 2 resembled a small military battalion with 17 lining up. I think many are playing it safe and don't want to make the jump to group 3 just yet. First Timer Chris Wilson was a fish in the water and a speed demon on the run, taking first place in group 2 and finishing 2nd overall - sorry Chris but its hello Group 3 for you. This group has got to be the most consistent with everyone generally finishing within 10 to 15 seconds of each other (7 athletes recording 30 minutes). Kate and Chris showed us that being betrothed means nothing out on the course, with a competitive race right till the finish with Chris just beating Kate home (Chris you do realise you will have to let Kate win when your married). John did an impressive set-up for a dive for the second swim but then decided to just do a small dive into the water. Chris and John very impressive, followed by Daniel, Henrick and the tight bunch at 29 minutes (Phil, Craig, Frank, Andrew B and Lyn). Lots of stories here, including Curtis and Chris engulfed by the girls (Bronwyn, Fiona C, Kate, Aimee & Toni all at 30 minutes, followed in by Linda.

10 competitors lined up in Group 3 this week. Things were going swimmingly for Travis, until a costume malfunction in the swim, highlighting that sponsored suits are sometimes not what they could be. Partner in crime and in marriage, Jane - the only female in this group - proved she still has what it takes to stay in the group even though she was sporting a massive bruise on her foot from dropping school books on it. Ouch. Line honours to Travis, breaking 22 minutes, followed by Mark H, David Issa (getting in some swimming training over the break, have we?) Two seconds split Alistair and Paul E in the middle (can't wait to see their next encounter). Cameron, Peter B and Jane at 27 minutes, followed closely by Brendan at 28 minutes. Excellent times all.

Overall the transitions are getting a lot faster and it's looking a lot more professional around the pool with people having their towel out and shoes with elastic laces. We all know how crucial the transitions can be (especially when you see times like the 2 second split between Alistair and Paul).

Good luck to everyone racing this weekend and remember if you ever need help with race preparation just ask around as there are a lot of people in the club who have raced at different events and are always happy to help.

Thanks to all those that just come to either swim and/or support the event – i.e. Steve, Jason, Stretch, James, John G, Alan, Anne and Neil.

Sarah