

Race Report

NSW Club Championships 2011, Forster May 14

After such a successful showing at last years Club Champs, where CTC placed 19th overall, anticipation for Club Champs 2011 has been building ever since. With 21 members lining up to race for CTC with at least eight support crew heading north to Forster for the weekend. Supporters included two four-legged girls (Domino and Zeiger Aliprandi). Two disappointed late scratchings included Lala and Greg.

Most Cannibals stayed in the two side by side villas organised by the club, and what a fantastic place it was. LaLa and Jason as well as Jim and Moira were most impressed with being allocated the penthouse style rooms with sweeping views over the rugged coastline, LaLa bragged about the view to everyone! Even those who had organised their own accommodation, stopped by for a meal or two. On that topic, special thanks to the cooks and organisers, Stretch for his spag bol and Steve for his surprisingly excellent vegetarian pasta on Friday night. Madeleine Layton, came to the rescue on Saturday night with an incredible seafood spread of oysters natural and Kilpatrick and prawns, to complement the leftovers, Madeleine, you are most welcome back anytime you want! Also, thanks to Cath for supplying Sunday morning's fry-up, just the perfect touch to help deal with the hang-over.

The Race.

Ever the competitor, Steve had spent the past several weeks calculating and plotting our chances against other clubs in our category, however come race day wasn't feeling overly confident with his own chances given that dodgy knee. A cool and windy afternoon promised some challenging conditions, with the water temperature at 16.5 degrees wetsuits were considered an absolute must, except for Aimee who was one of the very few who toughed it out with no wetsuit! Cath decided that not having a wetsuit meant her efforts would best be spent cheering on from the sideline.

The rectangle shaped swim course saw racers starting off with the tide, and turning back against it for the longest leg, however the final return leg to the swim exit was again with the tide, but by that point the water temperature seemed to drop another two degrees.

The strong winds out on the bike leg really slowed down the field on the leg heading out along Lakes Way. I (Jason) averaged 27 km/h heading into the wind going down hill, and reached a top of 42km/h with the wind up that same hill! Unfortunately I got a bit carried away and didn't conserve any strength for the run. Steve had been troubled by his knees and decided that he could best continue his efforts by encouraging others on the run course from the side-line.

Three laps on the run course meant we got plenty of encouragement from the supporters, including a well disguised Greg Muir who earned valuable points for Concord by volunteering on the run course.

Michelle and John Maguire slogged out their own personal race against each other, with very strong rivalry developing after an earlier Kurnell sprint event where they finished with identical times. This year John decided that gentlemanly manners ought to prevail and kindly allowed Michelle to win.

Check out everyone's race times on the results page
<http://www.concordtriclub.org.au/results2010.php>

The Second Main Event!

After a fantastic dinner of left overs and Madeleine's seafood extravaganza, it was off to the Awards Presentation at Club Forster. For several Cannibals, most notably Lala and Moira, this was what they were there for! The party!

A huge turn out and fantastic result to place fourth in our division, although despite missing out on a podium placing no-one seemed disappointed.

With everyone in their Concord Cannibals shirts we were easy to spot, especially on the dance floor where Letizia proved she's more than recovered from her injury, as did LaLa and Steve. Special mention for Alistair's retro robot dancing, haven't seen those moves for a decade or two. Michelle proved that she could not only race faster than John, she could party harder too – yes you did!

So from 19th overall last year, to fourth this year in a very tough division that pitted CTC against some very tough competition. Start training for a podium finish in 2012!

Regards
Jason