

Wednesday 30th March 2011

Michael Atkins Memorial Event

Duke Ave (500m Swim 5.6km Run)

A bumper crowd (40+) came tonight for the last official race of the season. Tonight was a special night to remember a loved one of the Concord triathlon Club – Michael Atkins.

It was wonderful to see Ben, Megan, Mr and Mrs Atkins come and support this race.

The handicaps were on the web before Wednesday however some people felt that they needed to challenge their allocated handicaps- all requests were greeted with a resounding No.

The pool was unusually quiet (No water polo players) maybe it was that electrical storm earlier on that kept people away from the pool. The race started with Letizia in the water showing some improving swim form. There were the extremely eager and diligent ones ready to go as soon as their handicap time was called whilst others needed a few reminders to get in the water or they would miss their handicap, then we had the ones who started ahead of their allocated time. The pool was looking pretty rough and crowded, but all was going smoothly until Ben and David had a head on. While Ben was able to keep swimming, David was seeing stars and had to pull out of the swim early to ensure he could complete the run. Travis being most heavily weighted by the handicapper was last in the water, and it seems the water temperature must have dropped in those 23 minutes judging by the way he complained. Okay, yes maybe management has turned the water heating off!

The run course was looking tight tonight as people were on a mission to overtake anyone and everyone to try and get home first. The handicaps ensured everyone crossed the line within a minute of each other and it was fast and furious to do the recording. Anne was so excited to finish first and was ticking off the number of people she had overtaken to get to the finish line first- look out New York- here comes Anne. It was a race to the finish for Matthew, Stretch and Rosemary- they pushed themselves so hard they could barely breathe at the end.

Jane, Ben, Adam, Priscilla and Kate all came in on top of each other at the finish.

Memorable mention must go to Travis and Ben who whilst finishing 18 places apart on the handicap were only .42 seconds apart in official finish time.

A great night of racing to finish off a jam packed season.

We are still running training sessions on the Wednesday nights so please still come along for a run or a swim.

The wonderful prizes tonight were donated from Bicycle Garage, ANC health and McWilliams Wines.

Many thanks to Cathy and Scott's girlfriend who did the turnaround point and provided everyone with a drink and some encouragement.

Thanks to Steve, Jim, Jason, Moira and Eddie for helping out.

Sarah and Jason