



at the races

around the country

KAYAKING WORLD CHAMPION WINS CRAZYMAN

Former world wild water kayaking champion, Andrew Martin, continued his run of fine form with an envious display of all-round endurance to win Wellington's Horse and Hound Crazyman.

The Nelsonian took advantage of near-perfect weather conditions to knock out the 16km run, 38km mountainbike and 12km kayak in 4hrs 13min 23sec, a race record for the newly adjusted course. However, while Martin was expected to contend for the feature individual multisport race on the final kayak leg, he in fact took the lead during the mountainbike leg along the Hutt hills and never looked back.

The race's early leaders were team runners Reece Buck and 50-year-old super-vet Barry Prosser. Prosser's Johnsonville Cycles team would win the veteran teams section by over an hour and finish third overall, but only after the race director John Cussins took Hutt Multisport Club team from third to first on the final 12km paddle.

First individual into the Wainuiomata mountainbike transition was Wellington's David Keen, with race favourite Al Cross less than a minute behind and Andrew Martin another 90sec back showing his running to be almost as good as his world class kayaking. Martin's mountainbiking turned out to be even better, for on the leg along the Hutt hills and back down the Hutt River the race did a complete reverse with first Cross taking the lead from Keen then Martin passing both of them.

Cross and Martin tussled for most of the bike ride before Martin romped away on a crossing of the Hutt River, arriving at Petone's Sladden Park with two minutes in hand. With his specialist kayak section still to come, the race was over. An hour later the former world champion kayaker crossed the finishline with almost seven minutes in hand over a disappointed Cross, with Hawke's Bay's Scott Pitkethley coming through to pip Dave Keen for third.

Almost 200 participants vied for a prize pool of almost \$4000 in the 11th running of the Crazyman, many of them newcomers. Wellington's Russell Trotter and Hawke's Bay's Ali Hollington celebrated their first taste of Wellington's premier multisport event with wins in the veteran men's and women's sections. Formerly a two-day event, increasing organisation issues have seen organisers divide the event into two separate races, with May's traditional Crazyman event being over the first day and the second day now being the Wellington Multisport Championship on September 30.

MONTY'S REVENGE

Veteran Evan McRae paddled his way to a convincing win at the Monty's Revenge Multisport event in Whakatane. McRae pulled back early leaders Hilton Power and Chris Morrissey.

Morrissey a previous junior mountain running champion and Power, the under 23 mountain bike champ, were the first individuals after the 11 km run. At the beginning of the 30km

mountain bike Power and Morrissey were 5 minutes clear of their nearest rivals and it looked like a two horse race. Power, feeling the effects of the run, faded in what should have been his best discipline.

Meanwhile in the women's race Pam Hewlitt and Tulip McRoy were the fastest individuals 7 minutes clear of Susan Petrie and Catherine Jones. Hewlitt made gains in the mountain bike to lead the other three women by 7 minutes going into the kayak stage. With 20 kilometres of paddling to go the race was far from over.

When Chris Morrissey hit the start of the kayak he was 4 minutes ahead of Power and 6 minutes ahead of McRae and the first 2 teams. At this stage the race seemed to be firmly in Morrissey's grasp. McRae had other ideas and passed Power and Morrissey on the way to recording the fastest individual paddle of the day. The winning margin at the finish was 6 minutes over Morrissey.

In the teams' race the kayaking power of junior Surf Ski champion Dennis O'Connor of the mixed team Rampaging Fun was too much for the open men's Opotiki/Gisborne Combo team kayaker Richard Powell. O'Connor managed to pass McRae and finish 32 seconds ahead of the 52 years old oil rigger.

The third team across the line was the veteran Team Taupo made up of Chris Mitchell, Craig Donaldson and Kevin Loe. Donaldson anchored his team with the fastest mountain bike split of the day.

The women's race was nail biting stuff with four contenders. Paddling fitness was to be the decider on the day. Local Catherine Jones thought she might have a chance of catching the fast starting Hewlitt. In her haste she forgot to take any water with her, which prompted her support crew/husband Dean to strip down to his jockeys and swim out to his wife. This was a brave thing to do on a cold June day and was recognised by the race organisers when Dean received the best support crew award at prize giving.

Jones, sister-in-law to coast to coast winner Neil Jones, almost caught her rival and was 16 seconds behind at the finish. Both Jones and Hewlitt were being chased by previous coast to coast winner Susan Petrie. Petrie starting 11 minutes behind Hewlitt and 8 minutes behind Jones and 2000 second place getter veteran Tulip McRoy kayaked passed her rivals in the last kilometre of the kayak. In the end only 42 seconds separated the top three women. Five minutes later McRoy claimed the veteran women's title for the second time.

Race organisers were thrilled with the turn out of 320 participants, which was 30% up on last year's inaugural event. Race director Mike van der Boom was impressed with the 75 individuals who entered. "A lot of these people were first timers- I think that this event is ideal for those starting out in Multisport. It's not too long nor is the paddle threatening."