

BUSA Duathlon 2008 Race Report

Well done to everyone who turned out for the aptly named Chilly Duathlon yesterday and some great performances despite heavy wind and the occasional hail shower! Special mention to our esteemed club captains, Josie and Robin, who romped home first Oxford female and male respectively.

Traditionally held late in November, the Trybike Chilly Duathlon at the Castle Combe Race Circuit, can always be subject to adverse weather conditions and it took a brave duathlete to venture out as the rain, sleet and snow bucketed down on Sunday morning. However, by race start, conditions had improved and the strong wind became the only real factor for the athletes to contend with.

424 athletes lined up to race in three separate waves, including around 150 BUCS athletes from as far afield as the Universities of Durham, Manchester and Leeds. They were joined by some of the top local athletes as well as beginners and novices too, all looking for some fast, traffic-free, end of season racing. Oli Mott, racing for Bristol University and Trybike, showed his class, winning the first 2 mile run by 20 seconds and going on to produce the fastest splits on every other section of the race. The fastest bike, including the fastest bike lap (4:22.034 for a 3k lap) was followed by the fastest second run too and an overall winning time of 43:09 to finish 1:45 clear of second placed Joseph Mason (University of Birmingham) and third placed Mark Threlfall (Loughborough University).

In the female race, Non Standford of the University of Birmingham was first into T1, closely followed by her teammate Victoria Graves. Victoria proved to be faster on the bike and took the lead into T2, which she held for the final run to take first place, 40 seconds clear of Danielle Stewart in overall second. Rachel Turner produced the fastest bike lap of the day (4:57.738) and added another trophy to the impressive haul taken home by the University of Birmingham.