

Scott X-Tri Series Triathlon – Round 1 Mud & Mayhem - Delapre



Triathlon Race Report 22nd May, 2011 Delapre Abbey, Northampton



A serious battle for the prizes was in evidence at the first round of the Scott X-Tri series, as 6 men finished within 90 seconds of the winner with the lead constantly swapping hands. In contrast the ladies winner was untouched after the swim, as Jacqui Slack posted a standout performance on the day.



The day brought with it perfect weather and beautiful surroundings for the first outing of this race at Delapre. This is a new race on the event calendar set in the glorious surroundings of Delapre Abbey and the sunshine completed the ideal conditions for both spectators and competitors.

The race started with a 1500m circular swim course in the River Nene. With the water being described by one veteran of more than 100 triathlons as



“the cleanest water that I have ever swum in in England”

First man out of the water was Doug Hall exiting in 17:33 with Colin Dixon on his heels just 1 second back. After a superb swim Jacqui Slack exited the swim in touch with the leading men and third overall.

After a short transition ride across to the main venue racers were faced with the mixed challenges of a varied course comprising plenty of twists and turns through the woods of Delapre, a scenic ride in front of the imposing 14th century Abbey, and a tour of the open fields and cross country course in use for the intended equestrian events just 1 week earlier.



The course was riding fast due to the absence of any significant rainfall in over a month. Hamish Batchelor using this to his advantage moved from 14th position into a lead of almost 2 minutes exiting the bike, posting the fastest split of the day in the process. Other notable moves were made by Graham Wadsworth and Sean Frost both moving from outside the top 10 into a group of 7 athletes battling it out for the podium.

With 7 athletes coming out of the final transition within a couple of minutes it was all to play for setting off on the run. Graham Wadsworth posted the fastest run split of the day to move into second place with Colin Dixon eventually winning the battle with Doug Hall for the final podium place. (The two of them having been separated by less than 10 seconds since they exited the swim together).



In the end Hamish's lead proved too much for anyone else to chase down. Hamish finished off his victory to set a highly impressive course record of 1:47:31. Considering the ground conditions this will take some beating in future years. He was followed home by Graham Wadsworth and Colin Dixon.

In the ladies race Jacqui Slack posted the fastest split in all three disciplines and after a commanding swim where she was only beaten out of the water by the leading 2 men was never challenged, eventually finishing inside 2 hours in 1:58:21. Second went to Debbie Cooper with Claire Smith making up the podium.

Behind the leaders everyone was enjoying the chance to race off road with it's relaxed atmosphere and challenging traffic free courses this is a race set to grow.

Sports Physio and massage was on offer before and after the event courtesy of Northampton Sports Physio along with Bike mechanics for those last minute tweaks from Scott Sports and Baines Racing.

As always there were plenty of smiling faces in the finish area where competitors were greeted with welcome refreshments, the now legendary Go Beyond fruit cake, jelly babies and event T shirts.



Feed back on the event was positive and many racers have already put their names down on the start list for the second round in Coniston on 19th June.

