

Weather fails to perturb Ripon triathletes



Cyclists taking part in the Ripon Triathlon. (1407073c). Photo by Marcus Corazzi. For more photos visit www.ripongazette.co.uk and click on Photos Today.



A wave of competitors brace the lake at Ripon Racecourse for the swimming leg of Saturday's Ripon Triathlon. (s)

TRIATHLON

OVERNIGHT torrents of rain, a stiff wind and soggy ground did not deter 400 competitors and supporters from converging onto Ripon Racecourse for the annual Ripon triathlon organised by NYPTri Club.

As usual, competitors ranged from the highly experienced to the complete novice for the 1.5k swim, 44 cycle and 10k run.

To get everyone in the mood for racing, there was a kiddies' dash with medals for all finishers.

Their enthusiasm was just the ticket to get the event underway and shortly afterwards the triathletes were in their wetsuits and under starter's orders.

The swim was a spectacular sight as two waves of 200 wetsuits churned up the normally placid waters of the racecourse lake.

After 20 minutes or so, a steady stream of competitors were through the first transition and out onto the bike course.

Conditions were not the best with plenty of surface water and a strong headwind on the way back but triathletes are a plucky lot and all who set out returned safely to the second transition,

into running shoes and out for a quick 10k jog around the block.

Spectators at the finish line were treated to a battle royal between two Martins, the winner being Martin Cain of GMC Fire Service Tri in 2.08.02 hours.

Snapping at his heels ran Martin Tonge of Royles Tri in 2.08.07.

Third in was Tim Wyle (2.10.57) who was also the winner in the male over-40 category.

First woman home was the formidable Donna James of Durham Tri Club (2.19.15.).

Second lady was Louise Kelly of Leicester Tri (2.21.35) and third, Helen MacVicker, Leeds Bradford Tri (2.27.42).

The top three places of the host team NYP Tri were taken by Andrew Senior, Walter Busuttill and Mark Neal respectively.

The organisers would like to thank all those who helped make it another splendid occasion.

They are also grateful to all the sponsors, in particular Black Sheep Brewery and of course Ripon Racecourse for a top class venue. See you all next year!