

## MARS Triathlon 2007

### Race report.

Dear All,

Thank you for taking part in this year's event – the first time in five years when the sun has shone properly, even if it was a bit chilly in the shade.

May I first offer my thanks to the large number of people who got themselves up early and to the various places to perform many a thankless task – Ian Davey and his family and friends from Matlock & District Swimming Club, Tony Holmes and his friends from Matlock Cycling Club and my friends and colleagues from work and Matlock Athletic Club. Also David Denton – a busy race organiser himself ([www.runningwithdavid.com](http://www.runningwithdavid.com)) – for bringing his computer to do the results.

The prize fund was by kind donations from John Palin Wholesale (fruit & veg merchants, Tansley), Ian Davey and T. Nutt & Sons Ltd (carpet suppliers from Clay Cross). Many thanks to all of them.

It must have been a bad year for people getting injured before the event as there was an unprecedented number of withdrawals, but I'm pleased to say that the only non-finisher on the day was down to a collapsing bike wheel and that the only obvious injury of the day didn't stop one certain lady completing the course.

One or two bits of kit were left behind, most notably a chest strap for a heart rate monitor. If you are missing anything please let me know and I'll try and reunite item with owner.

It was heartening to see a large number of first-timers again (about 40% of you). I hope your first triathlon experience hasn't frightened you too much and that you'll be trying some more in future. Well done to you all.

My course record, set the first time the event was held, has now fallen to Eugene Grant who took a whole 2 seconds off it. Well done Euge and get ready for next time! Congratulations on your GB age group selection too and I hope your first race in red, white and blue next week in Germany goes well for you.

Well done too to Christine Howard (my considerably-better-half) for being the first lady following an injury-ridden year so far.

A couple of other special mentions must go to those at the older end of the spectrum such as Jim Titterton, unfazed and still hungry for raw competition at the age of 63 despite giving the lifeguards at the pool the butterflies again and finishing as the first over 60 man.

Also to Margaret Keeling in the W60 category demonstrating how a wicker handlebar basket actually comes in incredibly useful in a triathlon situation for storing various permutations of kit – fantastic!

All in all though, regardless of your speed or position, I hope you enjoyed the event. We are fortunate in the Matlock area to have access to such great countryside and that those of you who travelled some fair distances to take part take a little piece of the Derbyshire Dales back in your mind.

For those living more locally, we have three excellent clubs to cater for swimming, cycling and running which welcome all ages and abilities. If you fancy getting involved with any of them they all have websites so that you can search them out.

As you may well know, The Matlock Area Recreation and Sports Group was formed to help and influence the district council in the building of a new leisure centre for Matlock. Difficult and unpopular decisions have recently had to be made with regard to the imminent transition period from old to new but we are hopeful that a brand new centre will be completed for use before the decade is out. Our thanks should go to the MARS Group and the chairman Barrie Tipping in particular for his tenacity over matters. I will be presenting a total of £714 from this event to them.

I hope to see some of you again next year along with a few new friends. Keep up the sport and do what you can for the youngsters – there are future champions out there somewhere and maybe you know them.

Best wishes in all your sporting challenges.

Karl Webster.