



Hurtleberry Race Report

Off-Road Duathlon and 10km Trail Run

Sunday 13th September

A beautiful rose coloured dawn and dry conditions on Sunday, 13 September saw the Tri-Adventure team busily making the final preparations for **The Hurtleberry**. This is an annual off-road event, comprising Sprint and Full Duathlons as well as a 10k Trail Run incorporating Canicross. Set in the beautiful Hurtwood in the Surrey Hills, the network of trails here attract Adventurers seeking a thrill. The Hurtleberry is in aid of the Friends of Hurtwood, who raise funds to manage the upkeep of the Hurtwood.

The “**Hurtleberry**” is a mean, full purple fruit, that is native to this part of the UK. And, if participant reactions are anything to go by, they took part in a mean event that stretched their stamina and, in one or two cases, their hamstrings as well!

Some 50 athletes and a couple of dogs lined up for the mass start beside the picturesque Holmbury St Mary Cricket Club, with the majority taking part in the full Duathlon - A 10k run, followed by a 20k mountain bike, and finishing with a 5k run. The 10k Trail run saw a couple of our 4 legged friends take part, attached to their owners who, I am sure, welcomed the tug up the hills on the undulating course.

The events provided a high class of competition and it's also worth noting that, in the 10k Trail Run, 3 of the 4 top spots were taken by the ladies. Maria Kowal put in a sterling performance to finish only 2 minutes behind the race winner, Jasper Ellis.

The Full Duathlon had the largest field and didn't disappoint. With the lead changing on each discipline it was hard to predict who was going to cross the line first. There was no holding back as the first 3, Howard Bristow, Rob Hardwick and Tobias Mews were all back at Transition for their bikes before the first Trail runners had even finished! A guy named Andrew Lewis was some 3 minutes behind collecting his bike in 7th place. Then came the 2 punishing laps on the bike on some of the best trails and single tracks Surrey has to offer. This saw dramatic changes in the leaderboard as the stronger riders punished the runners. Where most would have dreamed about breaking the hour, Andy Irons and Andrew Lewis not only closed the gap on the leaders, but smashed it, recording a 54m 57s and 59m 20s bike split respectively! Andrew Lewis headed out on the final 5k run with a 5 minute lead over Andy. With the motivation of being his first ever victory in 20 years of racing, Andrew didn't hold back and flew home to finish in 2h 06m 20s. Howard Bristow put in the fastest split on the 5k Run, passing Andy Irons to claim 2nd Spot in 2h 10m 21s, with Andy Irons finishing just 30s later to claim 3rd.

In the Ladies Full Duathlon, again it was a super, closely fought battle between the speedy runner Catherine Drummond jostling with the strong rider Annie Campbell.

Catherine's 4 minute lead off the run was swallowed up and spat out in to a 5 minute deficit after the bike. Catherine's speedy transition times meant no time was lost, enabling her to catch Annie on the run and pass her in the closing stages to claim victory in 2h 56m 04s. Annie was a close second less than a minute behind.

In the Sprint Duathlon, Mark Goodman stormed it round the course, breaking the hour to finish in 58m 57s. Behind Mark, again it was a close fought battle for second overall between a guy and the leading girl. Andy Cornelius eventually claimed that 2nd spot in 1h 02m 32s, with Jonathan Monk finishing 30 seconds behind Andy, and with Claire Hitchings claiming the first ladies spot some 50s later.

The winners were:

Full Duathlon (10k run, 20k MTB, 5k run)

1st Male: Andrew Lewis - 2h 06m 20s.

2nd Male: Howard Bristow - 2h 10m 21s

3rd Male: Andy Irons - 2h 10m 51s

1st Female: Catherine Drummond - 2h 56m 04s.

2nd Female: Annie Campbell - 2h 57m 00s

Sprint Duathlon (5k run, 10k MTB, 1.5k run)

1st Male: Mark Goodman - 58m 57s

2nd Male: Andy Cornelius - 1h 02m 32s

3rd Male: Jonathan Monk - 1h 03m 05s

1st Female: Claire Hitchings - 1h 03m 51s

2nd Female: Gjoril Berg - 1h 36m 18s

3rd Female: Sarah Nicholson - 1h 54m 10s

10k Trail Run

1st Male: Jasper Ellis - 45m 14s

2nd Male: Geoff Wilson - 59m 43s

3rd Male: Stephen Burd - 1h 03m 17s

1st Female: Maria Kowal - 47m 30s

2nd Female: Yvette Wrapson - 53m 16s

3rd Female: Olivia Ommanney - 55m 16s

Full results can be viewed on www.triadventure.co.uk.

It was really great to see so many supporters turning out to see various members of their family experience pain and exhilaration, the latter emotion being more observable a few minutes after they got their breath back.

It is not every day you turn up at an event to support your mate, and then decide to sign up for the Sprint Duathlon! This was the case with Torben Anderson and the only problem was that he didn't bring a bike! No problem there, as Race Organiser, Adam Marcinowicz, quickly pulled his Mountain Bike and helmet out of his van for Torben, and off he went to complete the course! These off-road events are certainly contagious, especially when set in such fantastic surroundings!

Tri-Adventure run Adventure Races throughout the year, so look out for them on www.triadventure.co.uk, and follow us on Facebook and Twitter. The next event is on 27 September, and will again be in the Surrey Hills, starting from Cranleigh Cricket Club.

All in all, the event proved a great success, and there were lots of smiling yet exhausted faces. We look forward to welcoming everyone back again at next year's **Hurtleberry** event.

Adam

Tri-Adventure