

15/9/99.

Its Boyd Conrick's triathlon year

Perfect day weatherwise greeted the 334 competitors in this year's Great Escape Mountain Man Triathlon.

Conditions for the kayak and run legs were perfect but the bike leg over the mountain produced some damp patches due to the big wet experienced in Gloucester this year.

After his second placing last year, Boyd Conrick of Redhead clocked a record time of two hours, 14 minutes and 32 seconds to win this year's race. His time was 42 seconds faster than the winner last year. Boyd has been a top finisher in the last four triathlons he has competed in.

Runner-up was a previous four time winner in Tim Doyle of Wagga Wagga in a time of 2:17:54, one minute 41 seconds faster than his time last year.

Third was the 1998 winner, Stu Adams of Whitebridge, who completed the course this year in 2:18:50.

Chris Murray was once again the first local home, 8th overall compared to 15th overall last year, improving his time by four minutes and 27 seconds.

Second local home this year was Neville Blanch in a time of 3:00:55 followed by John Parish on 3:03:49 reversing the trend from last year when John came in second and Neville third. A good supporter of the event, this was Tad's ninth consecutive triathlon.

For the second year running, there was one local individual woman competitor in Julie Parish who came home in 3:09:23. That placed her seventh overall in the female open section. Her time was three minutes 48 seconds better than in 1998.

First junior home was Ben Buchholz from South West Rocks in a time of 2:45:24. Second junior home was Drew Roberts of Forster clocking 2:58:20 while third placegetter, Hugh Todd-Hunter of Cundell Flat recorded a time of 3:17:28.

The Ladies Challenge was once again won by Karen Maund of Cardiff South for the eighth year in the time of 2:46:14 - two minutes 48 seconds faster than last year. Second placegetter for the second time in a row was Elizabeth Pralica of Clarence Town 2:53:58 and third place went to a first time competitor in Jacinta Guthridge of Taree with 2:56:32.

The winning local team this year was that of Matthew English, Matthew Dean and Jarrod White with a time of 2:39:51. Thomas Haseck, Brian Kilby and Brett Radford came in second while Matthew Grisinga, Bradley Cooper and Nick Channell filled the third spot.

The female winning team this year was also a local team in Glenda Flenning, Prue Doyle and Kim Parish in the winning time of 2:58:39.

(More news and pictures next week)



• The Great Escape triathlon winner, Boyd Conrick, at the finish line in record time on Sunday.

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