

Bedford Team Relays, incorporating East Region Championships

Box End Park, 27th May 2018



After a night of thunderstorms we greeted with near perfect conditions for the 2018 Bedford Team Relays at Box End Park on the 27th May. Some of the teams opted to camp overnight again and were able to sample some of the great facilities that this venue has to offer.

This event reached its capacity this year with a record 95 teams competing on Sunday; that's a total of 285 athletes taking part. There is a real buzz about the place on race day; with team colours on display and excited competitors of all abilities, this is what makes this such an exciting event.

The race uses Sprint distances and it is raced in its components, that is to say Swim 1, 2, 3, Bike 1, 2, 3 and Run 1, 2, 3. This means that team members in their rest periods get to cheer on their team mates creating a great atmosphere of friendly competition between teams and clubs. We also had a great combination of male, female and mixed teams.



On to the racing. With the power of youth on their side and back after their 3rd place last year, the Walden Whippersnappers: Mael Belly, Peter Cooke and Ross Broomfield led the way and powered through to win in an impressive time of 03:02:32, followed by WV Tri's Ben's Boys: Rich Morson, Will Spencer and Ben Smith in second place in 03:08:28 and only just over one minute later third place was taken by Tri Sport Epping's TSE 1 comprising Simon Theobald, Lewis Calcutt and Mark Elson in 03:09:50



The Mixed category teams were also recording some impressive times with all three podium finishers in the top 6. Greenlight PT's Green Machines made up of Adam Gibson, Paulina Sutton and Jonathan Hoggett was the first mixed team and 4th overall in a time of 03:11:21. Local team FFF Fabulous from Bedford Harriers, Alastair Fadden, Billy Fadden and Gillian Fullen were the second mixed team in 03:19:28 (5th overall) followed by WV Tri's Splash, Spin, Sprint comprising Mark Weathersby, Rachel Burton and Chris Stuckey finishing off the mixed podium in 03:22:07 and 6th overall.



The ladies also enjoyed a great day's racing and again some very impressive splits were recorded. Tri Sport Epping found themselves on the podium again this time with their TSE 3 team of Sally Baker, Louise Rawlinson and Jenni Anderson placing 1st female team in a time of 03:48:11. Greenlight PT were also taking another share of the glory with the Greenlight Goddesses, Nicole Clarke, Nicola Stevenson and Sacha Trude grabbing 2nd place in 03:50:53 and completing the winning line up in third place was WV Tri, with a

podium placement in all three groups, as the Lycra Virgins, Nicky Garatt, Nicola Ferguson and Danielle Martin finished in a time of 03:52:15



Added to this year was a new Veterans prize for team comprising all team members over the youthful age of 50. The trophies went to Mandy Bontrhone, Sarah Watson and Mark Spanswick from the Shires Triers 3 team coming home in an impressive 03:59:32.



Our Category winners below from Left to Right:

Female Category, Male and Mixed



It was great to see representatives from 16 clubs throughout the local area and beyond (11 representing the East Region) and one individual team of friends; such was the diversity of the event.

Well done to all the triathletes who took part in this years' race and thank you to all those who continue coming back each year. A huge thank you to the Marshals from the Go Beyond Team who were, as usual, exemplary, and the Northampton Canoe and Kayak Club for their on-the-water safety cover.

As a final note we said farewell to Steve Adams who was presented with his own trophy after 10 years at the helm of Go Beyond. Steve was the founder of the Bedford Team Relays and I now carry the heavy burden of his good work to take this event and the Go Beyond brand into the future.

We look forward to welcoming you back next year