



Jacksons

Jacksons Junior Triathlon Series Main Event 2013 7/9/13

The final race in the Jacksons Junior Triathlon series took place on Saturday morning at St Catherines in the East of the island. Despite the recent warm weather and pleasant conditions greeting the young athletes, the overnight wind and the morning's tidal conditions had whipped the sea into a frenzy on the normally calm South side of the breakwater. Race organisers delayed the race start by over half an hour in the hope of racing as planned. Despite the delay it was eventually declared unsafe for sea swimming and the final triathlon (swim, cycle, run) of the year became a duathlon (run, cycle, run).

Three age groups all started together running a 600m lap of St Catherines (two laps for the 12 and overs). Not being used to the mixed start many of the under 10s set off at a sprint trying to get in amongst the older athletes but by the time they reached first transition the top runners in the under 12 age group had shaken off most of the tired youngsters. Jack Kennedy held a slight lead going onto the bike ahead of Luke Killian and Peter Holmes, with leading girl Adele Maher splitting the chasers. Freddie Lucas held a very slender lead in the under 10 race with just four seconds covering the top four as Dan Roderick, Jack Lumsden and Adam Kennedy chased. Series leader Lily Scott looked set to cement the overall series win holding a comfortable lead over Hannah Worth in a distant second place.

While the under 10s and under 12s headed out on their bikes the two competitors in the 12 and overs category were battling on the second lap of their run. As expected Sam Maher led at transition but the margin over Ollie Turner was a slender 13 seconds.

With a short multi-lap bike course for the younger age groups the racing was spectacular to watch for parents and siblings. Lead changes took place in the under 10 boys age group as Roderick made the most of his new bike to catch Lucas while Holmes put in a strong ride to overhaul Kennedy in the under 12s. Out on their longer course Turner had similarly caught and passed Maher for the lead of the 12 and over group. In all three age groups, however, the second placed rider was able to hang on to the leader with only seconds separating each pair by the end of the cycle.

As expected Kennedy put in a strong run for a comfortable victory to make it four wins from four in the series and take the title of under 12 Jacksons Triathlon Series champion. Holmes held station for his fourth second place to cement second overall in the series. Lucas was unable to quite hang on to Roderick and had to settle for second behind the under 10 Jacksons Triathlon champion. Their might have been only 2 in their group but with the gap never extending beyond 15 seconds at any point it was a fantastic race for the 12 & over boys with Maher coming out on top by just 12 seconds at the finish. It was a very strong performance from the on-form Turner, however, considering the cancellation of his strongest discipline, the swim.

There were no changes to the order at the front of the girls' events on the bike with both Maher and Scott extending their leads. With both being strong runners there was no expectation of any changes to come. Maher duly cruised home for the victory over Aimee Hugh to take the Jacksons Triathlon Series title to go with the duathlon title won earlier in the year. Expectations were that Scott would do the same but unfortunately she seemed to suffer more than most on the final 1km run, tumbling down the standings. Hannah Worth and Scott's younger sister Eva Scott were able to capitalize on her misfortune and battled for the win on the run course, Worth coming through to take not only the race victory but also the title of under 10 Jacksons Series champion for 2013.

The organisers would like to thank the large number of parents who helped marshal the course, event sponsors Jacksons and also Brenwall for providing the generator for the race finish arch at short notice. The presentation for category winners will take place at the annual prizegiving in October, details of which will be published along with full results at www.juniorjerseytri.com.