

Huria's Challenge, Cable Bay, Sunday November 27, 2011

Jon Linyard was in his usual form from the start in Huria's Challenge, yesterday's triathlon event at Cable Bay, completing the 750m swim with a minute lead over teenager Luke Kelly. Linyard went on to also take the quickest time on the 20km bike section and setting himself up for a comfortable win over Gus Shirley, Brendon Hughes and Louis Olsen.

The only discipline Linyard didn't dominate was the run, where Alan Bryson, seemingly fresh from his second placing in the half marathon at Mahana the previous day, raced through the difficult 5km run course in the day's quickest time.

Cable Bay was at its beautiful best after the buffeting of the previous days, with clear water in the swim and very little wind on the testing bike course to Delaware Bay and out towards the main road. The run through farm roads was hilly and rough, adding a bit of a pioneering feel to the final discipline.

Because of a lack of water in the inlet at start time, the kayak option was held with the run and bike first, allowing the tide to come in a bit more for the final 3km paddle section.

David Ayre was dominant in this section, clearing out from Naomi Whitehead and Malcolm Anderson on the run and consolidating his lead on the bike. Anderson pulled some back in the kayak, taking second place ahead of Whitehead, the first woman in this section.

In the duathlon, Charlie Squance took the lead on the 2.5km run, losing a little to Garry Clarke on the 2km bike, but then going on to regain the lead for a 15 second win. Kiri Williams stayed close to be the first woman to finish.

Short races were also on offer for both triathlon and duathlon, with Gabbi Courtenay, Alice Tuck and Louise Kelly nailing the first triathlon spots and Bailey Ford, Vicki Bryson and Karen Bateman taking out the duathlon places.

The focus for triathletes is now on swims, with the Port Nelson series continuing on Thursday and the opening Clements Endurance race in two weeks, a 2km splash from Tahunanui to the Nelson Yacht Club. The second in the Clements series is the annual Eyebright Mile on January 7. The next triathlon is the Philip Wareing Memorial event at Lake Rotoiti on January 8.

Details, results and triathlon news at nelsontriclub.co.nz.