

Orkney standard distance triathlon 2008

Caithness doubled its representation on last year at this Olympic distance triathlon based in and around Kirkwall . David Spencer and Peter Fenwick represented Thurso Amateur Swimming Club and Brian Grant plus David Sutherland provided the Wick Triathlon Club representation.

The event got underway with 21 swimmers at the Kirkwall Swimming Pool which was rather warm and choppy due to no anti turbulence ropes being used. Fenwick emerged in first place from the swim in a very fast time under the conditions of 22:07 closely followed by Jennifer Eilertsen of Dundee University , who overtook Fenwick at the swim to bike transition. Grant recorded a PB in his swim using excellent tactical nouse sitting on Spencer's toes.

The conditions where breezy and sunny, meaning that the triathletes remained warm throughout the cycle leg apart from the fast down hill sections when there was a chill in the air. Fenwick took the lead on the bicycle leg which he retained almost to the bike turn after Deerness, when he was overhauled by Torquil Clyde of Orkney Triathlon Club followed by David Moffat (unaffiliated). Fenwick finished the bicycle leg in third place having produced the fourth fastest cycle time. Sutherland showing his consistency was in sixth place at the end of the cycle with Grant in tenth place and Spencer in 13th place.

During the run Clyde and Moffat battled for first place with Moffat taking the overall honours in 2:07:54 having completed the fastest run leg. Clyde finished in 2:08:04. Fenwick (2:17:47) was unable to hang on to third place being overtaken by Willie Tulloch (2:16:49) of Fleet Feet Triathletes but finished a very creditable fourth slashing eight minutes off his previous year's time. Spencer (2:28:55) was the fourth fastest runner improving his final position in the process to seventh. Sutherland (2:26:20) came in at sixth place as the fastest senior veteran beating a large number of younger triathletes in the process. Grant (2:38:37) produced an overall PB finishing in twelfth place. Eilertsen (2:29:56) was the fastest female finishing eighth amongst the individual triathletes.