

Knockburn **triathlon**scotland Standard Grand Prix Ranking event

The inaugural Knockburn Triathlon hosted by Fleet Feet Triathletes took place on September 12.

David Ogg of Glasgow Tri Club, Scott Neyedli of Fleet Feet Triathletes and Ade Pottinger from Inverness hotly contested the battle for first place. With very little to separate the three protagonists after the swim and cycle legs, David set a blistering pace on the run to eventually win by one minute from Scott with Ade a further minute behind.

While the battle for the top three overall positions was taking place, male veterans hotly contested the next three places with Alan Findlay finishing ahead of Alistair Bagnall and David Edwards.

The women's race was equally competitive with Jacqui O'Donovan, still recovering from flying back from Canada the previous day, leading out of the water just ahead of Emma Redford. But once on the bike Kelda Spratt, **triathlon**scotland's director of communications, took control and led all the way to the finish. Margaret Anderson of Fleet Feet ran strongly to finish in second place (and first female veteran) with Emma Redford coming in third.

In the male super veteran category a fast finishing Paul Saddler just managed to edge out Ian Milne, and in the male vintage class first across the line was Olaf Ellefsen; quite an achievement considering Olaf recently completed the NorseMan ironman distance race in Norway.

The race took place at Knockburn Loch near Strachan, by Banchory. Local businessman Bert McIntosh created the loch with the aim of making free-for-all sports facility. The work took just over two years from the first dig, and to date Knockburn has hosted running, cycling and beach volleyball competitions. The loch is a maximum 2.5m deep with an average capacity of 1.5 million gallons.

On race day the water temperature was 16C with competitors completing just over two laps for a 1,500 metre swim before heading to the bike transition.

The bike course consisted of three laps taking in some of the most beautiful scenery in the Grampian region. The hilly and technical course was made even more difficult by strong winds, which was reflected in the bike times with the fastest cyclist posting a time of 1 hour 13 minutes for the 42K.

If the competitors thought the bike leg was tough, they were soon to discover that there was no let up in the 10K run. Following the transition from the bike the competitors ran around the loch before venturing on to the tough part of the course. The runners climbed up and onto a forest trail to an historic landmark, the Nine Stanes Stone Circle. On leaving the forest there was a refreshing 1.5K downhill section providing great views of the countryside covered earlier in the race, before running round the loch for one final lap and a sprint to the finish line.

Commenting on his victory, David Ogg said, "Great race, tough course, and well organised. It's great to see new open water races on the calendar. "

Alan Findley echoed similar sentiments, "Fantastic event guys, well done. Your club, organisers, and marshals should be proud of getting it right first time. The course was challenging but fair and I can't fault a thing, well maybe cut the wind speed down for next year!

On completion of the race, competitors were provided with food and drink, along with a large number of spot prizes for both competitor and marshals alike. Sports masseurs were also on-hand to provide much-needed therapy to some very tired bodies.

Second placed super veteran Ian Milne said, "A wonderful event. Thanks to the amazing Bert McIntosh without whom there would have been no event and no loch! And what about all those prizes at the end - I must have been the only person whose number wasn't drawn out."

Results

Name	Category	Position	Time
David Ogg	Male Senior	1	2:09:26
Scott Neyedli	Male Senior	2	2:10:28
Ade Pottinger	Male Senior	3	2:11:43
Alan Findlay	Male Veteran	1	2:15:44
Paul Saddler	Male Super Veteran	1	2:22:33
Kelda Spratt	Female Senior	1	2:31:07
Olaf Ellefsen	Male Vintage	1	2:35:50
Margaret Anderson	Female Veteran	1	2:36:26

Racing to the first buoy



Going around the first buoy



Scott Neyedli, David Ogg and Ade Pottinger

