

2014 Killarney Paddy's Weekend Adventure Race Report

The first Sport level national Series race in Killarney proved to be a close fought and somewhat longer than generally anticipated one with many participants from the Munster counties and Kerry and Cork in particular.

Race favourite from Castleisland was Jerry o Sullivan and he started with intent as he led a peloton of 7 leaders averaged an impressive 44kph on the opening bike leg. The pace was also pushed by Kevin Murphy and Aidan O Gorman with Sean Tangney, Paul Morrissey, Patrick Fitzgerald and Billy Hedderman all gaining time on the rest of the field as this group came into transition closely grouped ahead of the remainder of the field.

On foot as expected O Sullivan again pushed the pace and he built up an impressive gap of over 5 mins ahead of O Gorman in 2nd with Brendan O Brien moving up the field into 3rd with a good run leg just ahead of Murphy and Hedderman.

On the short bike leg to the kayak stage O Sullivan showed the first signs of vulnerability as the early pace started to show with Murphy moving into 2nd ahead of O Gorman, O Brien and Tangney with all of these closing the gap on the leader.

The short kayak stage did not alter the top placings but the short bike leg to the finish saw O Sullivan again lose time to his main rivals. However his earlier run leg had given him enough of a cushion to get home to take the win in 2h 44' 45" less than 2 minutes ahead of the fast finishing Murphy in 2nd, O' Gorman 3rd, O Brien 4th and Ger Moore coming through the field with 2 excellent bike legs to take 5th ahead of Tangney in 6th. The top 6 was awash with M 40 competitors with all bar the winner proving age is no barrier to fast racing.

In the ladies contest there were no pre race favourites to be watched and it turned out to be a closely fought battle up front.

First off the bike was Helen O Leary with a small gap over Friederike Petersen, Siobhan Dineen, Claire O Donovan and Anne Marie Healy.

On the run O Leary managed to hold onto a slightly diminished lead over Dineen and O Donovan now in 3rd with Evelyn Cashman moving up to 4th place with a run leg almost 4 minutes faster than any of her rivals as Healy stayed in 5th position.

On the bike leg to the water stage the top 4 positions remained unchanged as Sharon Gleason moved up into 5th.

O Leary's slender lead was closed down on the water as Dineen caught her by the end of the kayak stage with O Donovan a mere 36 seconds back in 3rd after the fastest kayak leg of the day with Cashman a few mins back in 4th and Patsy Winters and Mary Mc Evoy locked together in a battle for 5th.

On the short bike leg to the finish Dineen proved the strongest as she took the win in 3h 12' 52" with O Donovan coming through in the end to snatch 2nd just 4 seconds ahead of long time leader O Leary with less than a minute separating the top 3 after an epic battle. Cashman was next home in 4th (and 1st F 40) with Gleeson coming back on the final bike leg to take 5th ahead of Mc Evoy in 6th.