

Moxie Adventure Race Report

The 2013 National Adventure Race Series continued with the Moxie Pro Expert level and Moxie Sport level which took place recently in the lovely setting of Tulfarris Resort on the shores of Blessington Lakes in Co Wicklow.

EXPERT RACE:

In the Moxie Pro race the two pre race favourites were last year's Moxie winner and runner up Derrick Evans and Chris Caulfield who again served up a close race and finish.

The long opening kayak leg saw former Irish international paddler John Ringrose show his experience and skill to good effect to emerge from the water almost 3 mins clear of the field. Next out were Chris Caulfield and ladies favourite Sessel Elmstrom who had a good lead of more than 2 mins over Evans and Rory Mc Gurk.

On the bike leg to the mountains Caulfield quickly took the lead distancing himself from Elmstrom and then Ringrose and importantly maintained his lead over Evans who started his run leg in second just ahead of Ringrose and Elmstrom after matching Caulfield's bike leg time.

On the mountain climb Evans made up time on Caulfield but could not reel him in to less than 30 seconds and indeed lost some time towards the end of the long run section to start the final bike leg a min in arrears. Behind these Elmstrom had been joined by Brian Lawlor who moved into 3rd men's place with a great mountain run leg ahead of David Keohane and Marc Duggan.

On the final bike leg upfront it was a repeat of 2012 with Evans biding his time closing the gap before a decisive move into the wind on the N81 to overtake Caulfield and win in 3h 06' 15" with a gap of 1min to Caulfield.

Elmstrom was next across the line in 3rd overall 20 mins behind with Brian Lawlor and David Keohan 3rd and 4th placed men and Marc Duggan 5th man in 7th overall and Des Tivnan taking the vets win in 8th overall.

The ladies event had some top class performances as evidenced by 3 ladies in the top 14 overall.

As expected, Danish international Sessel Elmstrom took a good lead on the Kayak stage and was over 5 mins clear of Yasmin Kenny who in turn had a gap over Sarah Galligan and the closely matched pairing of Christina MacKensie and Ann Marie Egan.

On the bike Elmstrom piled on the pressure and to increase her lead over Kenny with Egan moving into 3rd just ahead of Mac Kensie as Galligan dropped out the race after mechanical trouble on the bike leg.

On the mountain Egan soon moved into 2nd and MacKensie a close up 3rd with Kenny now 4th and Aisling Murphy 5th and these positions were maintained until Egan made a route error that allowed Mac Kensie into 2nd starting the last bike leg.

Elmstrom was well clear at this stage but MacKensie proceeded to post the fastest ladies final bike leg time to take a good 2nd, 10 mins behind Elmstrom, with Egan in 3rd, Kenny 4th and Murphy in 5th.

SPORT RACE:

With one of the pre-race favourites for the Moxie Pro race Mike Jordan electing to take compete in the shorter Moxie event the pre race favourite Jonathon Caulfield knew he would have to work hard for the spoils.

Caulfield took the lead on the kayak just ahead of John Ryan with Jordan in 3rd ahead of the chasing pack led by Ciaran Smith.

On the bike leg specialist kayaker Ryan was soon passed as Jordan closed the gap on Caulfield with Series podium regular Smith moving into 3rd ahead of Alan Ryan, Patrick Fitzgerald and Michael Kindregan.

On the tough mountain run stage Caulfield hung on grimly to the lead until close to the transition when Jordan made a decisive move and set sail for home posting the fastest final bike leg time to take the victory in 2h 01' 46" nearly 3 mins clear of Caulfield in 2nd with Smith in 3rd. Fitzgerald took the vets title in 4th overall ahead of Kindregan in 5th just ahead of a fast finishing Ger Kirwin in 6th.

The ladies sport Moxie was a close affair with Deirdre O Connor taking a narrow lead after the kayak stage over Hilary Jenkinson with Breda Reynolds 3rd just ahead of Theresa Hanley, Orla Crosse and Jill Barry.

On the subsequent bike leg O Connor steadily stretched out her lead to be a min clear of Jenkinson going out on the mountain. Behind the leading pair, Misty Price was 3rd and Hanley 4th going onto the mountain ahead of Erika Murray and Jill Barry. On the mountain run Hanley set the fastest ladies run leg time of the day moving up to a close 3rd place starting the final bike leg ahead of Price who was well clear of Lynda Talbot, Cross and Murray.

On the final bike O Connor extended her lead to take her first Series win in 2h 32' 05" over 3 mins clear of Jenkinson who hung onto 2nd just ahead of Hanley with Price taking the vets prize in 4th overall and Murray coming through to take 5th ahead of Talbot in 6th.