

## **NSW CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS 2007**

As tradition would have the Illawarra team once again assembled for the annual carbo load and hydration at the Settlement Point Bowling Club at Nelson Bay. We were gathering in preparation to defend our self declared title from the abandoned 2006 state club championships. We knew this year was not going to be the same, things were different, we were fewer in number but high in spirit and determined to make our presence felt by all.

As the crew assembled led by Pres Des with his harem as usual comprising of Laila and Des's mum on her annual supporters trip (unfortunately her 96 year old boyfriend Jack could not make it this year). There was a childless Jenny and Doug keen for one of those weekends, yes a personal best. Gareth, Troy and Bairdy were attempting to work out there sleeping arrangements after Bairdy had no success in seducing Sue with Kays cheese and vegemite sandwiches on the trip north. Carolyn had travelled up with Bob and some unemployed, sorry retired, character by the name of Royce. Kerry was there for the team briefing but had to go when she found that the menu did not serve Big Mac meal deals as race prep food, since she is in training for the World Long Coarse Champs in France in June. (Good Luck Kerry). Liz arrived with her daughter Cassie who proved to be a valuable supporter with her Illawarra Tri Club supporters tee shirt being worn with pride. After a few well chosen motivational words from Pres Des, something about pizza and beer we retreated to the Colonial Ridge Resort for the evening.

Saturday morning arrived pouring rain and a new race course to be tackled. The good money and goss had it that we would be doing a fun run due to the ocean swim being too rough and the very short cycle circuits being too wet and slippery. Like true ITC troopers off we went, determined to get a ride in some braved the elements to ride to the race some twelve kilometres away whilst others woossed out to the comfort of vehicles providing Des with the opportunity to entertain the peleton from the window of said vehicle as it went by.

After registering, numbering up and racking together the team of nine, were ready to rock and roll, the race was on. Unfortunately it was 9.30am and race start was not until 11.30am, so what do you do when with Carolyn? Yes we went shopping at the expo but unfortunately there is no room for a card in her race suit and with Royce (the vagrant) trying his luck with Sue at the coffee shops of Nelson Bay she was somewhat frustrated with her shopping experience.

Race start came in broad sunlight with 850 competitors in many waves entering the water. The ocean swim was a very pleasant one kilometre in a reverse 'P' format and a reasonable swell back to shore. Onto the bike for three quick, relatively flat, out and back loops totalling 30 kilometers followed by an 8 kilometer run comprising of three laps which were a combination of cross country and road running. This all took place at Anna Bay and after initially being sceptical of the race move it was agreed by all after the race that it was a great course for both competitors and spectators. The standout performances came from all who competed, in particular Carolyn who came 2<sup>nd</sup> in her category as did Gareth in his, Kerry came 5<sup>th</sup> with Bairdy coming a very competitive 6<sup>th</sup> in the juniors and Des hot on his tail in 10<sup>th</sup>.

Not content with finishing the race the group then went on tour riding out to Shoal Bay for a very scenic afternoon before heading back to Colonial Ridge for a pre presentation evening granny nap prior to the annual breaking of the pizza compliments of Pres Des.



The presentation evening at the Bowling Club lived up to expectation with the team arriving on mass and immediately taking up pole position in true ITC style commandeering a table next to the bar. After being recognised on stage by Steve Tudman, President Tri NSW, as the club champions for 2006 (self declared) the packed auditorium gave a well earned ovation. This was followed by the order of champion clubs, expecting to be announced early in reverse order we all waited with baited breath, the excitement grew as the clubs were called from 34 down when it got to 20 and we were still in it grew to fever pitch, then up we came 18<sup>th</sup> place with only 9 competitors, a long way off 4<sup>th</sup> place a few years back with over 50 competitors but with no less excitement. The other clubs must have wondered how easy it was to please us or what were we drinking? It was a mighty effort from so few.

We felt like champions, therefore we should behave like champions, so the tasks were set:

1. We had to get into a winning clubs photo.
2. We needed a winning clubs shirt.
3. We had to gain the winning trophy.

With the missions set and a few more cleansing doses of courage and the camouflage of the dance floor, off we went. Pres Des lead the way playing 'Where's Wally' in the Hills Club photo. This was followed by Jenny ripping some poor fellows garments off on the dance floor and taking off with his shirt, Doug said she practices on him. Then Bairdy and Bob set off for the trophy only to find the holly grail surrounded by the largest arc of Coffs Harbour club members all focused on it. How should we handle this? The question was asked and the plot played out as follows. Take beers and put on table, carry table just to one side, sit and drink beer. Right at this time it all went wrong when a young lady decided to swap her top with some guy, in the ensuing diversion Bairdy and Bob were sucked into paying far too much attention to realise they had missed the golden opportunity. Feeling despondent and just about to give up a group of copycat girls distracted everyone again and off they went Bairdy in one direction with the trophy and Bob in the other. All missions accomplished and a great night was had by all, yes we did return the trophy on agreement they put our Illawarra 2006 plaque on it.

The next morning it was Royces' turn to revive everybody with his annual splitting of the eggs and toasting of the pig. He time trailed his way through this with ease

evoking the thought from Carolyn that maybe he should set up a stall at Mudcat as a career opportunity.

The annual pilgrimage was at an end and although we were few in number this year a great time was had by all including our new found Kiama friends in Peter and Margret.

**Come and join us next year and we can really give the champs  
a rattle.**

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	<b>TIME</b>	<b>Cat Place</b>	<b>Swim</b>	<b>Bike</b>	<b>Run</b>
Gareth Buckley	1.15.03	2	21.25	55.39	33.57
Kerry Auguston	1.51.53	5	20.1	55.47	35.57
Carolyn Dews	1.52.59	2	20.11	58.43	34.03
Bob Scott	1.58.45	11	23.37	55.33	39.33
Brian Baird	2.04.29	6	23.49	1.00.32	40.06
Des Comer	2.08.32	10	21.45	1.03.38	43.07
Liz Bevan	2.12.26	12	25.46	1.05.45	40.53
Jenny Simpson	1.13.26	28	23.4	1.07.08	42.36
Troy Lewis	2.22.22	47	21.49	1.05.18	55.14
Doug Simpson	2.26.05	28	27.03	1.12.03	46.57