The Taunton Deane triathlon, organised by members of the Taunton-based Somerset RC Tri club and held at Wellington Sports Centre is the longest standing triathlon event in the Deane and last Sunday 350 competitors enjoyed perfect weather for this year’s event. The main event is a “Sprint” Distance triathlon, combining a 400m pool swim , a 23km cycle race from Wellington to Wiveliscombe via Milverton and back, an “undulating” 5km run around Tone Dale area before crossing the finish line back at the Sports Centre! The event also hopes to encourage new comers into the sport, and therefor offers 100 places in the “Novice” race which comprises a 200m swim, 12km cycle and 2.5km run race.

The conditions for this year’s race were fair but with a chilly breeze – this did not prevent some fast times from our race winners, as always. 191 competitors finished the Sprit distance, and 65 Novices crossed the line on Sunday, and with all of their friends and family either having volunteered to help to marshal the race or just there to support and enjoy the day out, there really was a fantastic community atmosphere at the sports centre. Oli’s Bike Services provided on the day bike mechanical assistance and advice, Crescent Clinic provide free massage for the tired athletes, local caterers were on hand to keep everyone supplied with refreshments and hot food and the bouncy castle allowed children to burn off a little of their own energy whilst parents competed!

Over all winners were Tom Robertson of Pheonix Tri Club in a time of 1:02:32, and Sally Silsby from Somerset RC Tri’s in 1:15:33, second place went to Marc Molloy (1:05:57) and Liz Pye (1:15:45) and third over all fastest times were Andy Bussell ( 1:06:21) and Abigail Stead ( 1:16:03) These top 6 athletes took home cash prizes as well bespoke trophies made locally by Custom Plastics, whilst all of our Age Category winners received custom trophies to commemorate their success.

Full results can be found <http://www.somersetrctri.co.uk/sprint-and-novice-distance-triathlon>

The Sprint Triathlon is held on the 3rd weekend of May each year, entries open on 1st Janurary and typically sell out by end of April. Entrants are also invited to attend a free Training Day, which is hosted by Somerset RC Tri club one week prior to the event - this is a fun day and highly valued by our novice entrants as well as many first timers on the Sprit course. A BTF sanctioned race with chip timing, prizes are awarded to age – group winners as well as the overall fastest male and female in each race, every competitor receives a commemorative T-shirt.

The race depends on the support of the community, and our thanks go to the local residents for their cooperation and enthusiasm during this day, to local businesses who support the event through donation of gifts, snacks, services for the competitors as well as donating prizes in some case and for students of Kingsmead school and The wellington majorettes who help us marshal the event. Above all this event depends on the support of Tone Leisure through provision of their facilities and staff assistance for the weekend. Thanks Tone Leisure, as see you next year!!