

2011 REPORT

96 competitors, ranging in age from 12 to 74, enjoyed the 8th Applecross Duathlon. By a happy chance the effects of hurricane Katia had gone through and those of hurricane Maria were still to arrive. Warm sunshine was enjoyed by all, although a southerly wind of 5-10 mph slowed the cycle.

The day's outstanding performance was by Shona Robertson, of Glasgow, whose time of 2.04.24, improved Moraig Lyall's Vet record by more than 11 minutes and earned her first place in the Ladies Open. Alex Johnson, from Oban, powered through the breeze to win the Mens Open in 1.51.53. But for mechanical failure, he finished with a loose saddle, Adam Ward's record, 1.50.49, could well have gone.

Nairn GP, Charlie Hornsby and Moraig Lyall, from Forres, won the Vet prizes, continuing a four year run of success for them both. The Wilby family, from Dingwall, enjoyed double success. Ray was the first Vintage man in 2.19.03 whilst son, David, 1.52.03, was second in the Open, just 10 seconds behind Alex Johnson.

Edinburgh club, "Hunters Bog Trotters" were strongly represented: Claire Gordon and Morag MacCracken, were second and third in the Open, whilst Claire's dad, Allan, took the second Vintage place. Along with Fiona Marshal, Claire had won the gruelling eight day "Trans Alpine" just a week earlier. If she's ever able to get to Applecross on rested legs, Angela Mudge's record, of 2.00.02, will be under serious threat.

Gavin Kippen, from Tomatin, and Robbie MacLennan, from Inverness, who are both just 13, put in outstanding performances with times of 3.06.23 and 2.59.35 respectively. Gavin won the Junior prize since Robbie had modestly entered the "Challenge" rather than the "Race" but Robbie does have the satisfaction of being only the second Junior to get under 3 hours.

Thanks are due to many folk for their great support of this event: the Applecross Trust, the various "tea ladies" and officials (too numerous to name), Donald MacCush for use of his shed for bike storage, and Judith Fish, of the Applecross Inn, and Jon and Elaine Glover, of the Walled Garden Bistro, for the generous prizes they donated. Lastly, particular thanks are due to Steve MacDonald, of "SQUARE WHEELS", Strathpeffer, for his continued substantial support.