

Attempting to Block Csima

Brigg Bomber

This year the Brigg Bomber served as the European Middle Distance Championships. Sadly, this did not bring in any new overseas competitors although regular top performers Ferenc Csima from Hungary and Laurent Martinou from France were back again. An interesting British name to watch would be James Block, who had been picking up sprint kayak national titles in the late 1990s. How much of this paddling ability would he have retained a quarter century later and how would he manage in the other disciplines?

With the event infrastructure in place, Lincsqad also offered a sprint distance quad and a triathlon for those not wanting to tackle the kayak leg. Two and four person relay teams were also accepted, Royal Leamington Spa Canoe Club being one of the better known names.



The race began under a clear sky but a moderate southwesterly breeze brought in cloud as the morning progressed, cooling racers.

First off was the swim with Martinou first out of the water in the middle distance quad, nearly a minute ahead of Csima.

Helen Russell was next, less than two minutes back and then Block after another half minute.

For the first time in three years there were no roadworks, making the cycle less difficult, especially for those used to the other side of the road. Again, Martinou was fastest, this time with Ian Cooke less than a minute behind. Csima was the best part of two minutes off Martinou's ride time with Block another four minutes back.

From the end of the island before the M180 bridge the river became more busy with rowers although they did their best to keep out of the



Heading away from the start on the swim leg.



Fray approaches the finish of the cycle leg.



Tiffany was second in the sprint distance race.



Hubbard, third in the sprint distance race.



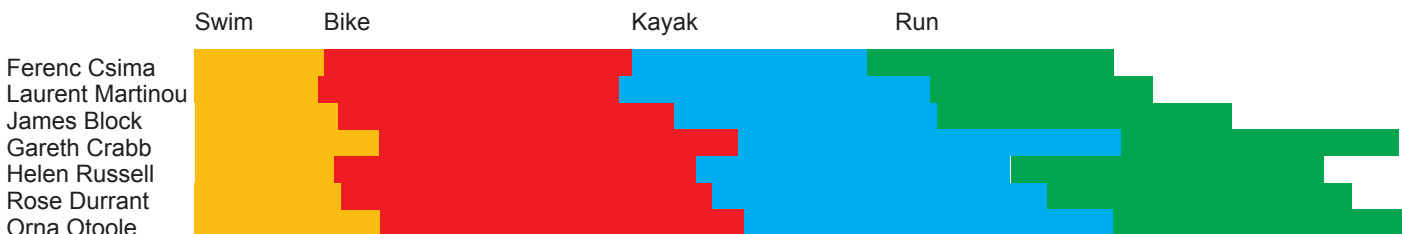
M50 winner Russell.



Elite winner Durrant.



Ball was the only junior competitor.



Transition times included with previous legs.