Nikolai Flemming Wins Big at Pointbreak Open Water Swim

• Staff Reporter

More than 220 swimmers took part in the annual Poinbreak Open Water Swim that took place at Lake Oanob Resort near Rehoboth on Sunday, 8 March 2015.

Despite the rainy forecasts predicted for the day, a sunny and clear skies were the norm, which had many excited for the swimming competition. The champ of the day was Nikolai Flemming, who won the 2.1km event in a time of 30 minutes and 44 seconds.

"We are pleased with the high turn out and increased numbers. Nikolai was a deserving winner although we would have liked to have seen more of the club swimmers participating so that we would have had more youngsters in the top 10," said the OTB Sport organisers.

Coming behind Flemming was Jorn Diekmann who finished in second place with a time of 31 minutes and 10 seconds. In third place, as well as the winner of the Masters age category, was Paddy Murphy with 32 minutes and 55 seconds.

Paddy and Mathew Reinhold struggled it out with Mathew leading most of the way, but the years of experience in open water swimming allowed Paddy to time his attack perfectly to beat Mathew to the finish line.

Cheryl Young was the first female to complete the 2.1 km event in 35 minutes and 56 seconds. She also won the Master age category. In second place as the overall female and winner of the Veteran Age category was Zoe Mitchell in 37 minutes and 50 seconds. Third overall female, and winner of the under 30 age category, was Nastassja Payne in 40 minutes and 8 seconds. Tiana Esslinger won the 15 and under female age category in 40 minutes and 33 seconds.

Matthias Lichtenberg won the 15 and under male category in 35 minutes and 1 second. Matthew was winner of the Senior Male age category in 32 minutes and 59 seconds.

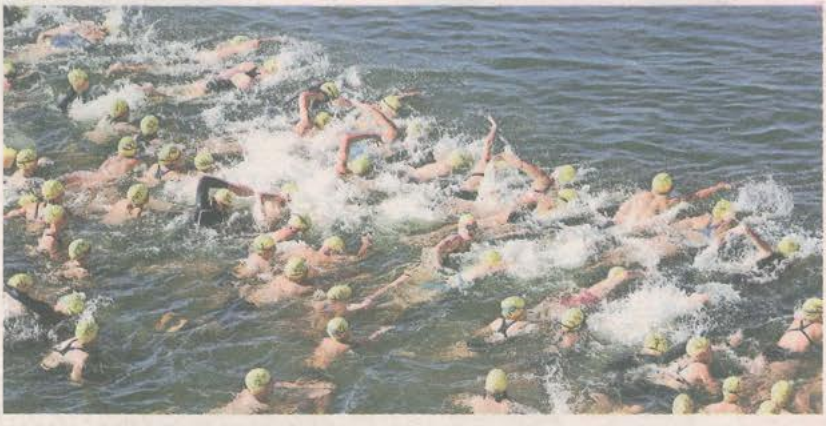
Corne Le Roux conquered the 700 m. He was first out the water and winner of the Male 15 and under in a time of 11 minutes and 27 seconds.

Vicky Botha, who won the female 15 and U, closely followed Corne. Vicky was the second fastest overall swimmer in a time of 11 minutes 31 seconds.

The Elite (under 30) Male was won Macquelin Winkler in 11 minutes and 39 seconds. Kiah Borg won the elite female in 13 minutes and 15 seconds. Daryl Oehley won the senior (over 30) male in 13 minutes and 04. The senior (over 30) female was won by Anne-Marie White in 13 minutes and 34 seconds.

Namibian Paralympic swimmer Gideon Nasilowski participated for his third consecutive year in the 2.1 km event. Caitlin Botha, who was born with Cerebral Palsy, competed in the 700m event for the second consecutive year. Caitlin hopes to qualify for the International Paralympic events this year.

Families gathered as Sunday became a family affair with parents, other family members and children swimming together. The Kiddies Fun event was a hit with the youngsters and their parents.



SUPER SWIMMERS ... Over 220 swimmers gathered at the annual Pointbreak Open Water Swim that took place at Lake Oanob Resort near Rehoboth on Sunday, 8 March 2015.