



## Post Event Report

*TEVA Paddle-n-Run – Tai Tam Bay, HK (4 km kayaking & 7 km run & 2 km kayaking)  
Sunday Jun 28 09*

### **Weather stays put while Tsang & Blair win by a minute in close battle at TEVA Paddle-n-Run**

Hong Kong – With thunder storms and heavy rain hours before the TEVA Paddle-n-Run race was to begin, the rain gods decided to take a breather and let the 124 kayakers start their race in clearer conditions. The day before some competitors were a tad nervous about the choppy whitewater conditions from the storm, but tensions eased once they saw they arrived.

All 62 kayakers set record times to the first checkpoint at Windy Gap just past the quarry with the top teams doing the cp1 transition in seconds and having to navigate around the on-coming kayakers and rocky corner of the quarry. Next time we choose this course we'll have to put a boat or buoy on the quarry corner, as there were a few teams that cut the corner way to sharp and ended up getting pushed next to the rocks with some breaking our paddles. We were still wondering what to do on the paddles as we have had on average 4 broken paddles each race which is starting to add up and will have to work this into the future cost or encourage all of you to bring your own paddles in the future.

Teams kayaked out to Windy Gap just past the quarry in Tai Tam Bay for almost 3 km of kayaking for a short beach stop riding some nice waves to the beach, a 1 km kayak backtracking to To Tei Wan (Hobie Cat beach), an estimated 7km trail run to find 2 Shek O Country Park checkpoints up on Dragon's Back, followed by a 2 km kayak back to Tai Tam Bay.

It was a close battle the whole race for the top overall 4 teams as Gatorade Schmucknuckles pushed the pace at the beginning on the kayak together with the Lantau bikers, Lantau Geriatrics Society and The North Face team.

"We went hard on the first leg paddling since we knew our weak point would be the running, that put us in the lead at the beginning of the race, but that was not enough to keep our advantage for long during the run. We had to fight neck to neck with the Gatorade Boys on the last leg paddling, it was full speed for both teams all the way back to Tai Tam in order to decide who will grab the third place. I never thought we could

hold the pace all the way back...but somehow we did !!!" said Pierre from the Lantau bikers.

Overall winners The North Face pushed the pace and took the overall win in a close battle with Lantau Geriatrics by winning in just over a minute.

"There was a slight shortcut up to cp3 and were we hoping these other guys didn't know. We were all looking at each other going up the stairs seeing what we were going to do. The navigation was straight forward, but with the choices you had together with the heat thrown in for another element, we stuck with Dragon's Back in the end. It was interesting to see the top 4 teams taking 3 different routes meaning that it's a good format to continue," said Ryan Blair who partnered with Stone on the North Face taking the overall win.

"Again, the course was set with the check points very well placed, which meant there were lots of options that each had their own merits. And again, this was proven by the fact that the top few teams all took different routes. Having the extra check point on the first kayak leg also added an extra touch of variety which was interesting." Said Tim from Lantau Geriatrics who wrapped 2<sup>nd</sup> place overall with Daniel Brown.

Team Tag Heuer Eyewear (Damien Levy & Adrien Choux) won the Men's Comb age 36+ in 1:46:58 with Bull Market (Thomas Hardman & Greg Moore) taking 2<sup>nd</sup> in 1:54:06 and Mei Ho Wans (Neil Leonard & Andrew Reeves) finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> in 2:05:37.

In the Men's Comb age 70+ the first and second place teams had to battle the whole way with Lantau Bikers (Cosmo Richards & Pierre Arnaud Le Magnan) winning by 1 minute in 1:40:47 over another Lantau team the Gatorade Schmucknuckles (Kurt Lynn & Matt McLaughlin) 1:41:47 with the Lala Land Runners of Jeff Sayed & Daniel Vaughan taking 3<sup>rd</sup> in 2:10:34.

Tim McCosker & Daniel Brown (Lantau Geriatric Society) took the Men's Comb age 80+ in 1:37:48 with the Hong & Kong Team (Shek Kong & Tong Siu Hong) 12 minutes back for 2<sup>nd</sup> in 1:49:34 with the Kaisei Paddlers (Michael McComb & Doug Woodring) not far behind in 1:54:34.

It was all smiles for the winning women's team Ritta Olya (Ritta Hanninen & Olya Korzh) winning in 1:59:44 with the Global Citizen Girls (Angie Pasley & Diana Danyi) taking 2<sup>nd</sup> less than 5 minutes back in 2:04:19 with The Rookies (Evelyn Hue & Ingrid Turner) coming home for 3<sup>rd</sup> in 2:25:35.

There was a great turnout in the Mixed team category with some tough competition as C & L (Siu Yin Choi & Chin Ming Lai) held on to win in 1:57:59 with Darbyshire (James Darbyshire & Kerry Darbyshire) pushing hard to close the gap in 2:03:08 and SumChance (David Sumner & new mother Cissy Chan) taking 3<sup>rd</sup> in 2:08:53.

Sunday's TEVA Paddle-n-Run at Tai Tam Bay took less than 2 weeks to fill up according to race organizers showing the popularity of ocean kayaking in HK.

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PHOTOS UPLOADED OF THE TEVA PADDLE N RUN IN THE PHOTO GALLERY  
OF THIS WEBSITE.

If any of you have photos please mention them to others in the forum.

Action Asia Events