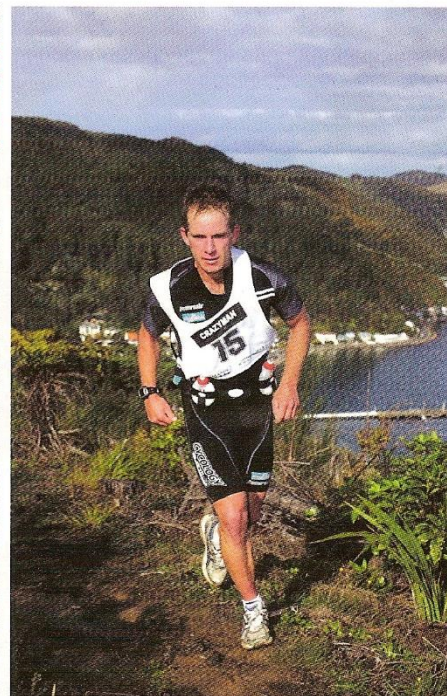
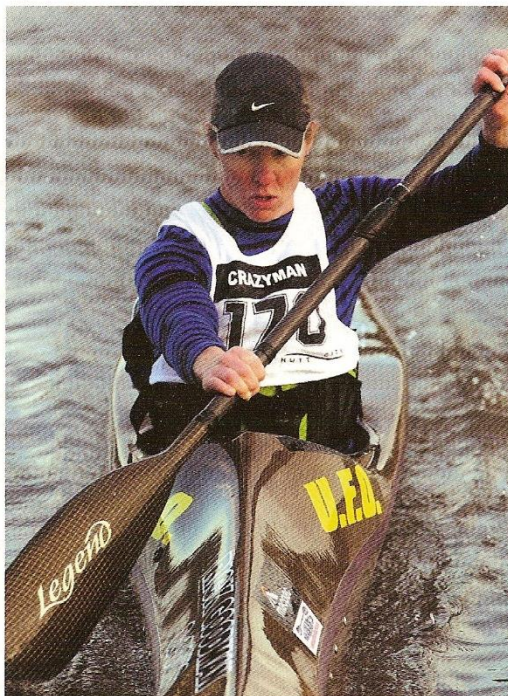


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## CRAZYMAN UNCOVERS NEW STARS

This year's HuttValleyNZ.com Crazyman was meant to have been another husband and wife field day for Richard and Elina Ussher. But when both failed to start following a late return from racing in China, the Capital's premier multisport race became a proving ground for the stars of tomorrow.

For 19 years the HuttValleyNZ.com Crazyman has been a highlight on New Zealand's multisport calendar. Previous winners have included multisport and adventure racing world champions such as Steve Gurney, Jill Westenra, Gordon Walker, Emily Miazga and Richard and Elina Ussher.

Indeed, the Usshers have owned this race in recent years, Richard having won four times and Elina twice, and in 2007 they both set course records that still stand. In 2009 the pre-race banter centred on whether Elina could withstand the challenge of multi-talented mountain biker Nic Leary. But when both Usshers reluctantly declined due to jetlag, it looked like Leary would have things her own way.

Looks, however, can be deceiving. Both the men's and women's events at this year's HuttValleyNZ.com Crazyman threw up surprise winners. Among women Nic Leary, who had enjoyed a breakthrough summer with second in the national mountain bike champs and the Merida Karapoti Classic, and a win in Rotorua's Xterra off road triathlon, was expected to romp away, but it was Nelson's Helen Chittenden who showed out first.

The 33 year old isn't a big name on the national circuit, but in Nelson she's known as a talented athlete on the rise. At the Crazyman she finished the opening 13k kayak across

Wellington Harbour with a two-minute lead over Leary.

Leary, however, looked happy at the end of the kayak section. Or perhaps relieved. As only a "sometimes" multisporter, she had only been in the boat a few times prior to race day and it was testament to her talent that she managed stay within sight of the lead. As expected, Leary then took control on the following mountain run. But only just.

Unbeknown to her rivals, the Palmerston North mountain bike specialist was suffering the effects of a virus. The Crazyman's 18k grind over the spectacular Eastern Harbour Range and Mt Lowry isn't easy at the best of times, let alone when ill. So while Leary finished the run just over a minute ahead of Chittenden, the exhausted leader declined to mount her mountain bike for the final 36k to the finish line.

This left Helen Chittenden with an automatic lead, and the 33 year old cruised the final mountain bike for a comfortable 18-minute win in 5hrs 33min 36secs. Indeed, it was a successful day for Nelsonians, with Irene Minchin claiming third behind Chittenden and Wellington's Megan Lowen, while father and son pairing Ben and Rob Davidson took out the corporate team section in the associated mountain bike duathlon.

The other city flying the flag in the Capital was Hamilton, which produced the men's winner in both the multisport and mountain bike duathlon events. But while Xterra runner-up, Scott Thorne, was expected to shine in the duathlon, the feature multisport race threw up another surprise.

Thorne flew around the course, breaking

former national duathlon champion Dave Rowland's course record with 3hrs 07min 03secs, which sparked comments of what might happen if Thorne got himself a kayak. But one person is another Hamilton up and corner, Neil Parkinson.

When Richard Ussher withdrew, local standout Glenn Muirhead, a former top 10 placegetter at the Coast to Coast world title race, took over the favourite's tag. And the former Hurricanes Super 14 physiotherapist, who was renowned for being fitter than the team he looked after, certainly looked every bit the winner in the opening kilometres.

On a glassy Wellington Harbour the 40 year old was first to finish the kayak from Petone to Eastbourne, hitting the beach just over a minute ahead of national rep runner-turned-multisporter James Coubrough, and Napier standout Rick Martin. But when Muirhead had a nightmare run over Mt Lowry, it opened the door for Coubrough.

The former Wellington champion runner and recreational kayaker is renowned for his ability up and down dale, and as well as representing New Zealand he holds the Crazyman run record when competing in a team. Competing as an individual this year he wasted no time in capitalising on Muirhead's demise, romping over the run faster than Richard Ussher in the past to open up a seemingly insurmountable 10min lead.

But someone forgot to tell Hamilton's Neil Parkinson. The 27 year old totally dominated the final 36k mountain bike section along the Hutt Skyline, riding nine minutes faster than Muirhead and a massive eighteen minutes faster than Coubrough to claim his first big win



on the national multisport scene.

Prior to the Crazyman Parkinson was just another good but mostly unknown multisporter. In February he had been a respectable but unnoticed 16th at the Speight's Coast to Coast. At the Crazyman he crossed the Lower Hutt Town Hall finish line eight minutes clear of James Coubrough, stopping the clock in 4hrs 32min 03secs. Later, at the prize giving, the humble Hamiltonian would thank the absent Richard Ussher for giving others a chance, but with a winning time just a few minutes slower than Ussher recorded the previous year, Parkinson had announced his arrival on the national scene.

Behind these first two, Glen Muirhead couldn't make up what he lost on the run and finished three further back in third place. But the 40-year took consolation in smashing the veteran men's record, clocking 4hrs 43min 43secs to win by a massive 46min.

In other categories Wellingtonians Steven Reid, Ian McFarlane and Matt Farrah also stood out when they claimed the multisport veteran men's section in the fastest time of the day of 4hrs 29min 28secs. The top team performance, however, belonged to the only female entry.

Marianne Archer, and twins Sally and Helen Anderson are establishing something of a legend at the HuttValley.com Crazyman, this year claiming their third straight women's team title. And while they were the only all-women team, they won in style when they broke their own race record. But that wasn't all.

Archer opened up their race with one of the standout performances of the day when she claimed first place overall on the kayak section. Sally Anderson then put up the fastest female run of the day, which identical twin Helen backed up on the mountain bike to give their all-women team the overall ninth fastest time of the day.

Almost 350 people turned out in ideal conditions. The 66k tour around Lower Hutt's icon outdoor elements celebrates its 20th anniversary in 2010. For more details, go to [www.crazyman.co.nz](http://www.crazyman.co.nz).

#### Crazyman Results - Lower Hutt, May 2

##### Multisport Individual - Kayak 13k, Mountain Run 13k, Mountain Bike 36k - Men

1	Neil Parkinson	Hamilton	4:32:03
2	James Coubrough	Wellington	4:40:13
3	Rick Martin	Napier	5:08:50
4	Matt Ellery	Nelson	5:15:14
5	Jono Humphries	Wanganui	5:15:20

##### Multisport Individual - Kayak 13k, Mountain Run 13k, Mountain Bike 36k - Women

1	Helen Gittenden	Nelson	5:33:36
2	Megan Lowen	Wellington	5:51:34
3	Irene Minchin	Nelson	6:48:28

##### Multisport Individual - Kayak 13k, Mountain Run 13k, Mountain Bike 36k - Veteran Men

1	Glen Muirhead	Wellington	4:43:43
2	Paul Healey	Wellington	5:25:03
3	Juan Warner	Wellington	5:25:12

##### Multisport Individual - Kayak 13k, Mountain Run 13k, Mountain Bike 36k - Masters Men

1	Nicholas Green	Ashturst	5:06:22
2	Dave Thorburn	Wellington	5:10:35
3	Ray Woodhouse	Upper Hutt	5:56:42

##### Multisport Teams - Kayak 13k, Mountain Run 13k, Mountain Bike 36k - Men

1	Jono Allsop, Daniel Lander, Mike Brough	Wellington	4:43:45
2	Sam Ingles, Josh Herron, John Kennedy	Wellington	4:57:17
3	Terry Blackburn, Ian Bowie, Kevin Leavers	Carterton	5:04:21

##### Multisport Teams - Kayak 13k, Mountain Run 13k, Mountain Bike 36k - Women

1	Marianne Avery, Sally Anderson, Helen Anderson	Wellington	4:58:33
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##### Multisport Teams - Kayak 13k, Mountain Run 13k, Mountain Bike 36k - Veteran Men

1	Steve Reid, Ian McFarlane, Matt Farrah	Wellington	4:29:28
2	Warren Sherway, Dave Norris, Dave Shanks	Wellington	4:38:17
3	Matt Archer, Eric Weterson, Thomp Nicholson	Wellington	4:41:30

##### Multisport Teams - Kayak 13k, Mountain Run 13k, Mountain Bike 36k - Mixed

1	Melanie Grant, Paul Helm, Nick Waring	Lower Hutt	4:35:48
2	Jacinta Gould, Rob Coult, Silas Oullen	Wellington	5:13:38
3	Jo Hollier, Julie Gosson, Chris Sherwood	Lower Hutt	5:20:55

##### Multisport Teams - Kayak 13k, Mountain Run 13k, Mountain Bike 36k - Corporate

1	Jeff Booth, Jeff Annan, Warren Cro	Wellington	5:00:34
2	Seager Mason, Tom O'Flaherty, Carl Wilson	Lower Hutt	5:25:18
3	Rob Harvey, Kris Gough, Andy Hill	Lower Hutt	5:43:26

##### Duathlon Individual - Mountain Run 13k, Mountain Bike 36k - Men

1	Scott Thorn	Hamilton	3:07:08
2	Alex Revell	Wellington	3:21:40
3	Justin Bangma	Lower Hutt	3:38:21
4	Andrew McRae	Wellington	3:46:06
5	Nick Crocker	Wellington	3:51:13

##### Duathlon Individual - Mountain Run 13k, Mountain Bike 36k - Women

1	Marjolein Ros	Wellington	4:01:39
2	Suzette Nicholson	Lower Hutt	4:24:28
3	Kris Jarvis	Wellington	4:53:46

##### Duathlon Individual - Mountain Run 13k, Mountain Bike 36k - Veteran Men

1	Thomas Zink	Wellington	3:58:12
2	Dave DellaBarca	Lower Hutt	4:12:02
3	Tom Hirst	Upper Hutt	4:20:12

##### Duathlon Individual - Mountain Run 13k, Mountain Bike 36k - Veteran Women

1	Deborah Archibald	Upper Hutt	5:13:34
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##### Duathlon Individual - Mountain Run 13k, Mountain Bike 36k - Masters Men

1	Marco Renalli	Lower Hutt	3:55:34
2	John Gardiner	Wellington	4:35:07
3	Michael Roach	Wellington	5:16:20

##### Duathlon Individual - Mountain Run 13k, Mountain Bike 36k - School Boys

1	James Robbin	Wellington	4:06:37
2	Rory Hart	Wellington	4:17:24
3	William McCormack	Wellington	4:39:50

##### Duathlon Teams - Mountain Run 13k, Mountain Bike 36k - Men

1	Daniel Clendon, Tony Keith	Wellington	3:01:14
2	Gavin McCarthy, Jodon Blake	Lower Hutt	3:03:12
3	Brondon Mai, Steve Kaiser	Wellington	3:21:34

##### Duathlon Teams - Mountain Run 13k, Mountain Bike 36k - Women

1	Jo Badham, Vicki O'Conner	Wellington	4:14:00
2	Jacinta Swain, Michelle Duffy	Lower Hutt	4:14:37
3	Emma Peterson, Conn Verstegen	Wellington	4:25:11

##### Duathlon Teams - Mountain Run 13k, Mountain Bike 36k - Veteran Men

1	Gordon Moller, Gary Moller	Wellington	3:34:49
2	Gordon Collier, Jonathan Halliwell	Wellington	3:39:55
3	Dave Banks, John Willmer	Wellington	3:40:57

##### Duathlon Teams - Mountain Run 13k, Mountain Bike 36k - Veteran Women

1	Anna Tyler, Jaquita Bradshaw	Wellington	4:37:58
2	Siobhan Quayle, Kaylene Wilson	Lower Hutt	5:12:57

##### Duathlon Teams - Mountain Run 13k, Mountain Bike 36k - Mixed

1	Kirsty Berry, Rodney Wallace	Wellington	3:45:28
2	Megan Gallen, Craig Ready	Porirua	3:55:39
3	Lisa Irving, Brett Irving	Paraparaumu	3:59:56

##### Duathlon Teams - Mountain Run 13k, Mountain Bike 36k - Corporate

1	Ben Davidson, Rob Davidson	Nelson	3:45:30
2	John Justice, Richard Malley	Lower Hutt	3:45:51
3	Carline Thomas, Chris Cameron	Wellington	4:01:05