

Cannon race off with a big bang

DON LILFORD

The annual Cannon Race went off with a big bang from a World War II artillery piece last weekend, followed by a series of smaller explosions from Hout Bay's historic cannons as competitors rounded buoys and landmarks on their way to the finish on the beach in front of the Chapman's Peak hotel.

This year it was the turn of the runners to take the honours from the paddlers who dominated the event in 2007.

Johann van Blerck provided Sentinel News with this report of the race, the objectivity of which is not guaranteed.

"Strong winds slowed paddlers this year allowing the runners to score their fourth win, redeeming their poor showing last year when the paddlers won for the first time. Many elite paddlers were away competing in a WCCU race which further weakened the paddling field.

"Andrew Hardie came through in fourth place overall when he won the paddle race, with Paul Wilson and Chris Grinton filling second and third places.

"Runners will have noted that all paddlers finished the race long before the runners completed their

course!"

Official results:

Runners: 1 Kane Reilly (27.10); 2 Ross Cameron (27.38); 3 Mark Owen (31.04); 4 Themba Ndude (32.42); 5 Iain Stewart (32.42); 6 Mark Gedrych (34.41); 7 Will Battersby (36.16); 8 Glen Sullivan (36.29); 9 Tracey Heard (first woman 37.09); 10 Nicky Steel (37.46); 11 Guy Baxter; 12 Jeanette Terblanche; 13 Steven Simpson; 14 Andre van der Spuy; 15 Eric Tollner; 16 Robert Graham; 17 Ryan Sandes; 18 Jo Matterson; 19 David Maxwell; 20 Caryn Kennedy; 21 Paul Fairhurst; 22 Graeme Allan; 23 Amy Leibbrandt; 24 Jannine Venter; 25 Adele Venter; 26 Michelle Priestman; 27 Keith Enzlin; 28 Julian Wheatland; 29 John Falconer; 30 Mathew Hartley; 31 Sue Trauter; 32 Cherrille Gordon; 33 Colin Huckle; 34 Martin Bongers; 35 Candyce Hall; 36 Lawrence van Blerck; 37 Graham Heard; 38 Geoffrey Shapiro; 39 Tanya Wheeler; 40 Genevieve Wheele; 41 Monique Beatie; 42 Sam Marais; 43 Tania Gray; 44 Bev Harvey; 45 Paula Wheatland; 46 Sav Puglia; 47 Robbie Puglia; 48 Karen Hartley.

Paddlers:

1 Andrew Hardie (31.34); 2 Paul Wilson (31.42); 3 Chris Grinton (33:23).



Members of the Cape Field Artillery fire their piece, a relic of the Battle of El Alamein in World War II, to start the annual Hout Bay Cannon Race. The flag in the foreground is not the "old" South African flag but the standard flown by the Dutch East India Company.

