

25th May 2020 Open Water Swim

Crosshaven Public Pier

(51.805299, -8.293156)

To

Rocky Bay

(51.733908, -8.330465)

Swimmers:

- Frank Thorne
- John Thorne
- Victor Danylyuk
- Marcus Austin

Rescue Boat & Kayak:

- Phillip King, Mags Austin and Justin Austin

Start Time:

- 9:45 am High Tide

Tide Times		
Hi/Lo	Time	Height
Low Tide	03:41	0.52m
High Tide	09:37	3.88m
Low Tide	16:02	0.50m
High Tide	22:00	3.95m

BST:

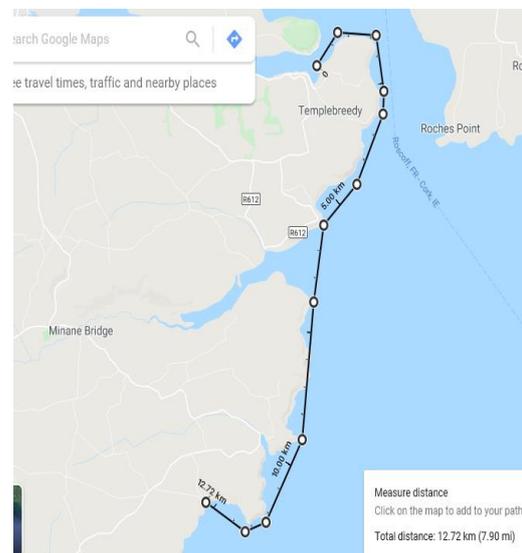
Weather:



Route:

- Crosshaven Public Pier
- Rams Head (Camden Fort)
- Graball Bay
- Weavers Point
- Church Bay
- The Dutchman Buoy #4
- Fennell's Bay
- Myrtleville Buoy #6
- Ringabella
- Morris Head
- Cork Head
- Roberts Cove
- Roberts Head
- Rocky Bay

Estimated distance ~13km



Picture By Siobhan Russell

We assembled at the Crosshaven Public Pier at 9:15am after pick-ups at Rocky Bay, where we had positioned two cars for the return journey. The rescue boat and crew left the RCYC and positioned for the start. After a Safety Brief the pod of four swimmers

entered the water and swam east towards Rams Head and Fort Camden.



Once into Cork Harbour, the swimmers were greatly assisted by the falling tide, reaching speeds of 1:15 to 1:30/100m. The tidal assistance continued through Graball Bay, Weavers Point and Church Bay. The Buoys #4 and #6 guided the swimmers through Fennels Bay and Myrtleville.



Picture By Siobhan Russell

Crossing from Bunnyconnellan's to Ringabella and Morris Head was in open water with a south westerly chop directly onto the swimmers, our speed slowed to 2:00 to 2:15/100m. We stopped for feeds every 2,000 to 2,500m, initially at Graball Bay, Buoy #6 and Roberts Cove.

We had good boat and kayak cover for this crossing so the swimmers felt safe and protected. As we made our way past Morris Head, the swell increased to ~ 0.5 to 0.7m and was directly onto the swimmers.



Just below Roberts Cove, two ribs at high speed cut through the pod. The ribs saw one of the swimmers and the support boat and slowed down. It was a bit frightening in parts...but this caused us to regroup and swim closer together with the rescue boat just in front of the lead swimmers.

The swim from Roberts Cove up to Robert's Head was the most strenuous and difficult part of the swim, conditions did not improve as we tried to get around Roberts Head as there was some currents and swells. We had been warned by some experienced swimmers about these conditions and this greatly helped getting through. The swim into Rocky Bay was uneventful...juts a few compass jellies to avoid. All swimmers arrive safely after swimming between 4 to 4 1/2 hours. After some light refreshment, the swimmers returned to Crosshaven by car and the rescue boat motored back to the RCYC.



The swimmers and rescue support crew adjourned to the Pine Lodge in Myrtleville for dinner and a few scoops.



During dinner, swimmers began to make wild plans for another long swim, heading south west again.... progressing towards a mystical island which swimmers swim around forever

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(to be continue)

