

Duathlon produces dead heat

THE Darwin leg of the Australia Duathlon Series produced a nail-biting finish and ended in the first ever dead-heat at Hidden Valley race-way yesterday.

Grant Preddy and Kyle Gear were neck-and-neck over the 5km run, 20km bike, 2.5km run with Gear putting in a desperate sprint in the final metres to cross alongside Preddy.

Officials were unable to split the two and called the first ever deadheat for an NT Championship, with the pair recording a finish time of 54 minutes and 56 seconds.

At the end of the first run, it was Preddy who led the field just four seconds ahead of Brearley and Gear, with Anzin a further second back. Slick run-to-bike transitions had the leaders out on to the speedway in that order.

During the seven-lap bike circuit, cyclists reached speeds in excess of 50km per hour along the Hidden Valley straight, averaging 39km per hour over the 20km.

The lead changed often during the bike leg with Gear pushing strong on the final lap to head through bike to run transition in first place.

Preddy was next off the bike just ten seconds behind, but was able to overtake Gear over the hilly cross country course.

They continued to push hard all the way and in the end, both athletes were rewarded for effort.

Michelle Mitchell took out the women's title in 59:41 from Debbie Geertshuis (1:03.04) and Shaye Hatty (1:04.06).

- JESS WEBSTER