

GEELONG XC, SAT JULY 12, 2008

Senior Report

I always felt that there was an unfair discrepancy between the open men's 16km cross country and the open women's 4km event. But never more did I feel this way than coming up the hill towards the end of my 3rd lap! I'm told it stems from tradition with the men having raced over the 10 mile distance since the late 1800's and the fairer sex being told that it was unladylike to participate in such events (perhaps supported by Nike's Run Ugly slogan!) before being allowed to partake in a token 4km loop.

I thought I had done well to spend a couple of seconds to sort out the above discrepancy. Then I took a look at the junior girls - U'14 4km; U'16 & U'18 6km; U'20 3km! I can't answer that one! The plus for the open teams, however, was that 4kms is less than 6kms and thus we warmly welcomed aboard our "senior juniors" Georgie Buckley and Kate Sly!

Eastern Park provided a near perfect day for running, albeit a little chilly and blowy for our 15 officials and other spectators. As you might expect, our numbers boomed with the prospect of travelling only a couple of kms to the race track, a stark contrast to Coliban.

The first open race was the women's 4k held in conjunction with the U'14 girls. It was certainly interesting to note the number of U14's very close to "Beijing Olympian to be" Lisa Jane-Weightman at around the 2km mark. What would become of these little ones in the 2nd half I didn't get to see! With the addition of the above named senior juniors plus Rebecca Wiasak, who had made the trip from Canberra for the Geelong Guild centennial dinner, our open division 1 women had their best result of the season notching up a fantastic top 3 finish behind Knox and APS. As can be seen from the results below, Georgie Buckley in particular had a great run to finish 2nd Geelong open athlete a mere 9 secs behind Kristen Wyatt.

Soon to follow was the men's 16k which consisted of 4 x 4km loops. It was pleasing to see that Geelong had a large contingent and that we should finally score some points for division 3. Troopy announced prerace that he would build into it after his Gold Coast Half Marathon the week before and finish somewhere between 1st and 20th. And just to prove that plan, his warm up would be done during lap 1! Ryan Christian assured me in the days prior that he was back on track and that his innards were in tip top shape. All the same, I made a mental note to try to stay ahead of him...

As usual, the start was a mad dash through the goal posts. Sure enough, towards the end of lap 1, Troopy came waltzing past us all. I thought about offering to be his pacemaker in the hope that it might suddenly provide me with magical running powers as it had done the week prior for Mr Shelley, but he was gone before I could kindly offer. Troopy was later to admit that the presence of the great John Landy at the race was his inspiration. He began to wind up each lap before passing the previously out of sight Chris Hamer and hitting the lead 2/3rds of the way through the final lap. This no doubt proved the highlight of the day for our open divisions and paved the way for an unexpected 2nd place in division 1, narrowly ahead on points of Glenhuntly and Ballart YCW. I'm also pleased to

report that we are now on the scoreboard in Div 3 finishing equal 7th with Keilor St Bernards on 1009 points - every position does count!

A big thanks to all of those who helped to set up the course in the morning and to those who volunteered their time to be officials in the afternoon.

Results:

Mens Open 15k

Lee Troop	1 st	50.50
Nick Wightman	27 th	55.16
Brett Coleman	28 th	55.19
Michael McNaughton	32 nd	56.03
Ryan Christian	33 rd	56.05
Wes Benson	51 st	57.26
Hugh Thyer	95 th	61.13
Jack Verstraten	129 th	63.22
Andrew Chalmers	198 th	68.23
Drago Skok	282 nd	80.51
Peter Samon	305 th	94.34

Women's Open 4k

Kristen Wyatt	22 nd	15.10
Georgie Buckley	24 th	15.19
Ashlea Clifton	25 th	15.21
Rebecca Wiasak	31 st	15.35
Kate Sly	36 th	15.53
Julie McNamara	43 rd	16.04
Cathryn Hoare	49 th	16.36
Sharon Pedersen-Jones	66 th	17.07
Sara Keranen	80 th	17.44
Sarah Hardiman	101 st	18.57
Eliesha Byrt	108 th	19.41

Junior Report

It was very pleasing to see 16 juniors competing in various events throughout the day. This is the largest number of juniors we have had for the season.

Eliza Curnow made a promising return from a serious leg injury in the Under 20 Women 3km event to finish in a very creditable 5th place.

Clare Hodgson has been running consistently well this season and again produced an excellent run to place 3rd in her Under 16 age group over the 6km distance. If Clare continues to run at the same level displayed recently, she could look forward to selection in the Victorian Schools team after the Bundoora event in two weeks time.

There were six Geelong girls running in the Under 14 Women's 4km event. Claudia Verstraten put in a strong performance to finish 3rd, while Jmara Hockley-Samon was hot on her heels finishing in 6th position only 16 seconds behind. Wendy Parish

performed well to finish in 17th place, Darcie Verstraten finished 21st and Matlida Skok ran well in her first AV race for Geelong one place behind Darcie. After playing netball in the morning, Shantelle Maurer found the extra distance challenging, but still managed to complete the 4km in a reasonable time of 18.49 minutes.

Jack Hockley-Samon ran a respectable 17 minutes for the Under 14 Men's 4km event, which was a great effort for his first outing as a Geelong Region team member. We hope to see Jack running in the blue and white singlet more often in the future.

Jackson Hamill-Beach made up for his recent disappointment at the Western Zone Schools cross Country in Ballarat, by being the fastest Geelong Under 16 male to complete the 6km in 22.42 (13th), ahead of Lewis Clark 23.25 (17th) and Jesse Shields (23rd), who was feeling the effects of a heavy cold. Jordon Skok put in a fine effort for his first race with the Geelong region team finishing 25th.

Thanks must also go to the many people who officiated throughout the day to help make it a successful event.

U14 Women 4km

Claudia Verstraten 17.11min	3 rd	15.22min	Darcie Verstraten	21 st
Jmara Hockley-Samon 22 nd 17.14min	6 th	15.38min	Matilda Skok	
Wendy Parish 18.39min	17 th	16.48min	Shantelle Maurer	31 st

U16 Women 6km

Eliza Curnow 24.19min	5 th	11.34min
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U20 Women 3km

Clare Hodgson	3 rd
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U14 Men 4km

Jack Hockley-Samon	23 rd	17.00min
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U16 Men 6km

Jackson Hamill-Beach	13 th	22.42min
Lewis Clark	17 th	23.25min
Jesse Shields	23 rd	25.51min
Jordon Skok	25 th	25.58min

Geelong Region Team Awards:

GEELONG

Junior Women:

2 votes: Clare Hodgson
2 votes: Claudia Verstraten
1 vote: Jmara Hockley-Samon

Junior Men

3 votes: Jackson Hamill-Beach
2 votes: Lewis Clark
1 vote: Jesse Shields