

## Brimbank XC Report - Sat July 31, 2010



Race 7 of the XCR series took us back to Brimbank Park after several years of other venues including the best one – Eastern Gardens!

For the open men it is certainly one of the toughest races on the calendar being 10mile (16k). But first up were the junior events. Race 1 saw the U14 Men compete over 4km. Isaac Hockey was keen to continue his recent winning streak and lay claim to a series U14 victory. Unfortunately he took a heavy fall mid race whilst in the lead & lost several places, eventually finishing 5<sup>th</sup>. Credit to Isaac though to finish the race after such a heavy fall & to take the disappointment of it all in his stride – well done! Also running in the U14 event were Jack Verstraten & Jack Hockley Samon to place 3<sup>rd</sup> overall & retain the lead in the teams series ladder.

The next race featured all of our women with our U16 & Open women competing over 6k. It was a chance for the juniors to go head to head with the open runners with Holly Curtis clearly enjoying that challenge to beat all home! Holly & Ricci Curtis together with Claudia Verstraten dominated the U16 age group to take out a clear team victory, their first for the season over Western A's – great effort! The open women's team lacked some of our recent depth that was disappointing but all ran well to finish 7<sup>th</sup> in Div 1, led home by Kristen Wyatt.

Div 1 Men were keen for a team victory to keep us in the hunt for the season premiership – 4 pts down on Glenhuntly. On the start line it looked like a formality with a strong first 6 runners & Glenhuntly clearly weaker than usual. But 4 kms in & Brett Coleman was out courtesy of a strained calf. Suddenly the formality was gone & Jack Verstraten, now our 6<sup>th</sup> runner, informed that the pressure was on!! The entire team stepped up with some fantastic running. David Carver had his best run for the season to finish 6<sup>th</sup> followed closely by Scott Rantall 7<sup>th</sup>, an amazing effort given he'd run a 2.28 marathon the week prior! It also demonstrates the great team spirit currently alive & well in this team. As runners came across the line both ourselves & Glenhuntly were doing the sums, clipboards in hand! It was great to see Jack Verstraten come into the finish after a great run to help us secure an important team victory much to the excitement of everyone – great work!

**Next Race:** Steigen Geelong XC Championships – Sunday Aug 8. Check website for details.

**Check the next page for our Round 7 prize winners.**

## Awards



The **Steigen Team Player Award** goes to **Matilda Skok** in recognition of her great team spirit & willingness to be team photographer after her run for 2 races in a row. And if you check out some of the photos for this round of the open men, you'll see that she started shooting like a pro from positions only a junior could get themselves into!



The **Barking Dog Award** goes to **Jack Verstraten** for keeping us in the running for a season premiership having suddenly found the pressure really on at a time when he should have been able to sit back & relax a bit. And what's more, this has happened 2 races in a row - I wonder what he'll think if named in the Div 1 team at the Sandown relays! Well done Jack, we hope yourself & the family enjoy the Barking Dog.



The "**Complete Meal Award**" goes to all of our kind officials who generously gave up their time on the day. These included Doug & Wendy Byrt, Anne-Marie Hoare, Mick Low, Nicole Spehar & Mark Hockey. Thanks from the whole team!



The **Steampacket Lunch Award** was again enjoyed by **everyone** present. A big thanks to Steampacket for their ongoing support & generosity.