



Patrick Rowan & Associates
CERTIFIED PRACTISING ACCOUNTANTS



Sandown Road Relays Report - Sat Aug 28, 2010



The Sandown Road Relays were always going to prove pivotal in our quest for a season victory in Men's Div 1 with Glenhuntly just 2 points ahead. And so it was with much excitement that Craig Mottram came into the team during his brief return to Australia from Europe. Our aim to keep this quiet proved a "worst kept secret" with rumours flying in the preceding week & confirmation of those rumours in the AV wrap the day before!



Sandown put on one of its finest days. Normally a wind swept race track, there was not a hint of air movement to be seen. And in these ideal conditions, Geelong managed to put on one of its finest performances in the team's history with five team wins & two 3rds from our 7 teams.



Our Div 1 Men were as strong as we've had. Dave Carver was a stand out leading off & smashing all expectations to run 18.33, the 4th fastest of the day. His improvement & confidence over the course of the season has been great to watch & he's yet to miss an AV race! With Mottram heading off in 4th already with a lead and Jason Woolhouse & Brenton Rowe to follow, the only question that remained was could the Geelong record of 1.52.15 in 2007 by McDonough, Tucker, Jeremiah, Troop, Wightman & Rantall be broken. And the answer... yes, by 3 secs!



Glenhuntly finished 2nd over 4 mins back taking us to equal top position on the season ladder. Mottram easily recorded the fastest time of the day at 17.34 but not without controversy. His goal was 17.32 to knock off his coach's (Chris Wardlaw) PB. He recorded that on his watch but it seems AV didn't!



Our Div 1 Women welcomed Eliza Curnow into the squad for the first time this year & thrived on the boost in depth & numbers. Having nearly been kicked out of Div 1 in 2009, the team has gone from strength to strength this year & a fantastic 3rd place at Sandown clearly demonstrated that. The Women were very excited to be on the podium & rightly so!



The U14 Men were keen to cement their place on top of the season ladder in the penultimate round. Having had the national school titles the week prior in Brisbane, there was initially some doubt as to whether we'd have a team but Isaac Hockey, Jack Verstraten Jnr & Jack Stekelenburg put the team together & recorded another fantastic win – well done!



Our other team victories came in Div 4 & 7 Men (a clean sweep by our Open Men's teams) & Div 4 Women. And the other 3rd placing to the U16 Women – well done!



Next Race: Burnley Half Marathon – Sunday Sep 5 (Open athletes only).

Check the next page for our Round 8 prize winners.

Awards



The **Steigen Team Player Award** goes to **Leslie Elms**. Not for the first time this year, Leslie offered to either step up to fill team numbers or help out as an official / timer. As is always the case in the relays, the team changes by the second up until the gun sounds! When the Men's Div 7 & O40 teams had to be combined due to withdrawals from illness, Leslie happily agreed to help out with timing & even lend his singlet to Craig Mottram!



The **Barking Dog Award** goes to **Darren Riviere**. Daz has been coming back from injury & knew that he wouldn't be right to run at Sandown. But he was the first to put up his hand to help out with timing even before he knew Craig Mottram was racing! Thanks Daz & I hope you can win back support from the family at The Barking Dog after you ditched them for the day!



The "**Complete Meal Award**" goes to those who most closely predicted their times. And the winners this round... Eliesha Byrt (3sec), Craig Mottram (4sec) & Brenton Rowe (7sec). Congrats to all!



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