



RUNNING COMMENTARY



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The club website is <https://newbrightonolympic.wixsite.com/athletics>
Please send any photos, videos, results or items of interest / relevance to Tony Prisk at tony.prisk@outlook.com.

Articles

Do you have something interesting which could be included in our magazine?

If you feel that it is interesting we would love to share it with other members. Articles for the next issue should be sent in by the middle of September.

A big thank you to those members who have contributed to this issue.

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From the Editor:

It is great to see our winter athletes running well at both ends of the spectrum. We have a very strong under age contingent running well in the school cross country races and the recent Kennett Cup and Canterbury Cross Country championships. Our Vets have also run with distinction at these recent cross country events.



Tony Prisk



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To see some of my work, check out the PDF versions of
Cant-A-Long, the Canterbury Master's magazine,
on the Canterbury Masters website.

Junior Winter Runners:

Our junior winter runners have been doing well, not just at club events, but when representing their school in cross country.

For many it started with their school cross country. At Marshlands School Mason McLachlan got 1st in his school with his brother Logan McLachlan coming 3rd. At Waitakiri Primary School Samara Taurima came 1st, while at Queenspark Primary School Paige Woodrow came 1st in his age group. An impressive start before heading to Zones where Mason came 1st, Logan 6th, Samara 7th and Paige 3rd.

At the Primary School Cross Country Championship our junior runners worked hard in fields of almost two hundred in their respective age groups. Mason was 14th, Logan 73rd, Ollie Petersen - 45th, Otto Church - 2nd, Jacob Woodrow 101st, Paige 92nd and Samara 94th. All these runners should be incredibly proud of their efforts.



The older junior runners were also impressive with their results at the Canterbury Secondary Schools Cross County Championship. Payton Kimber-Reynolds, Leah McCallum and Luke Johnston had great runs with Luke finishing 3rd in Year 9 Boys, Payton 6th and Leah 15th in Year 9 Girls. The spectators commented on how well Luke did to work his way up to 3rd, while Payton worked hard to stick with the top five runners and how all three managed the hurdles with style.

These young athletes then went on to compete in the NZ Secondary School Cross Country Champs in Timaru on the 15th and 16th June. Payton, Leah and Luke all had good runs in Year 9 events. Payton was the 7th Canterbury girl finishing in 27th place overall - an amazing result. Leah finished 55th in the same race. Luke finished 36th out of 116 starters and was part of the Christchurch Boys High team which won the Silver Medal in the Teams Race. Luke was in the winning Canterbury team in the 6 person Relay Team in Year 9 Boys. New Brighton Olympic has a bright future with such amazing young winter athletes.

Josie Grey



Cross Country Update:

One of the challenges of Cross country running is that no two courses are the same and in fact the same course can be radically different each year depending on the weather prior to the day of the event. Just consider the difference in the conditions at Halswell Quarry this year compared to last.

Another difference is how we handle the differences in terrain and for instance, hurdles/steeplechases.

On July 6th, the South Island Championships, aka the Kennett Cup, were held at the Old Ascot Golf Course. The course is deceptive, including many little ups and downs and grass of variable lengths. Then of course, there are the hurdles. Runners have the choice of leaping over or running around each hurdle, with the non leapers needing to cover a little more distance. I've never been a leaper, even when young, so I always admire the techniques on display. It is especially impressive when the runners are not much taller than the steeplechases.

We had some noteworthy performances on that day with Tayla Cox 2nd in the U10 and Otto Church winning the U12. Damien Cook won the M35 grade, while Jason Baillie and Simon Ralph led the M45 grade.

Two weeks and much rain later, Halswell Quarry provided plenty of mud and a good reason to wear spikes. It required stamina and a willingness to slither. Some people love mud, apparently. The fields seemed a little sparser than previous years.

Podium finishes came from Tayla Cox and Luke Johnstone, both 3rd in their age groups. Ruth Love-Smith was 3rd in the W40 group and Carolyn Forsey was 3rd in the W55 category. Ryan Kiesanowski and Damien Cook were 2nd and 3rd in the M35 group. We will count Jason Baillie as winning the M45 group even if he hasn't registered yet. Matt Love-Smith was 2nd in the M50 age group, possibly giving him bragging rights at home. New member Ian Salek announced his arrival by winning the M55 group, with Dave Candy 3rd. Ron McTaggart was 3rd in the M65 race. In the M70 group, John Mulvaney was 3rd. Well done to all our runners. It was a tough course.

I would like to give a huge thank you to the Club members who joined me as Duty Club for the day. Bruce Woods, Stephen Graham and I helped set up the Course. John turned up with the Gazebo and also helped. Janette Coughlan did some marshalling. Leyton Tremain, Lyall and Luke Johnston helped take down the Course. I may not have raced, but I sure did jog up that long hill a few times. It was indeed a challenging day to be an official and we need to appreciate those people who do this for every interclub event.



Margaret Flanagan

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