

Victorian Half Marathon Championship Held at Burnley, Sunday September 6

Men's Division 1 Team 1st

Women's Division 1 Team 3rd

Andrew White Third in Men's Race

Rachel Johnson Fourth in Women's Race

A cool cloudy day greeted runners for this year's Victorian Half Marathon course at Burnley set on the Yarra Boulevard in Burnley. Wind conditions were favourable, and the temperature was mild. Box Hill was very successful, again in this race, winning the Division 1 men's race and placing second in Division 2 and third in Division 5. In the women's race our Division 1 team was a close up second to Knox, and we won the Division 3 and Division 4 competitions. Our 40 + team won their division as well.

A large field of athletes commenced the combined men's and women's race when the starter sent them on their way at 8.00 a.m. Around 15 runners immediately surged to the lead, with Jason Woolhouse, Geelong, and Nathan Hartigan, Ballarat Harriers, surging away from the field by the 3 kilometre mark, which they reached in 9 m. 09. Sean Stevens, Keilor St Bernards looked dangerous and drew into clear third position. He was followed by a group of around 12 athletes which included Andrew White and Chris Hamer. This chasing group were not over-extended and it appeared that if one of the three leaders were to blow up, having commenced at too fast a pace, then one or more of these runners would catch them. There was quite some distance between this group and the next Box Hill athlete to emerge. Matt Coloe, Luke Yeatman and David Jimenez were running near each other, all starting in nonchalant fashion, with Matt holding 43rd position at the 10 k mark. Woolhouse had a lead of over a minute ahead of Hartigan at the 10 K mark with another minute or so back to Stevens. Andrew White and Chris Hamer remained in the bunch which was pursuing Stevens, and Andrew White reached the 10 mark in 32 m 45 with Chris a second behind him. Matt Coloe recorded 35:07, closely followed by Adrian Vincent, 35:08 and Luke Yeatman a little further back. Daniel Clark reached this mark in 35:47, and was clearly passing others at this stage of the race.

At the 11 k mark, Woolhouse had extended his lead over the rest of the field and no other athlete was making headway. Hartigan was holding second place steadily drawing away from Stevens. Andrew White and Chris Hamer were both sitting in the pursuing bunch patiently with nine other athletes including Rod de Highden, Doncaster, Ryan Matthews, Essendon, Matthew Johnsen, Doncaster, Marty Fedmowski, Mentone, and several other runners.

Andrew White and Chris Hamer maintained their tempo and were placed 4th and 6th respectively at around the 14 k mark. Matt Coloe had moved into 32nd position and was improving his position the further race went. Five places back was Adrian Vincent and David Jimenez was immediately behind him and Daniel Clarke was holding 56th position with Luke Yeatman, 65th and Steve Griffin in 66th position.

At the 18 k signboard, Andrew White seemed to surge and with Chris Hamer and Ryan Matthews, Essendon, broke up the chasing group. Stevens, in third position, seemed to be faltering and the gap was cut from 40 seconds to 22 seconds and then to 15 seconds. The question was which of the three pursuing runners would get the Bronze medal, as Woolhouse led Hartigan 1 minute 49 seconds, and Hartigan had a lead of 2 minutes and 5 seconds over Stevens with a little over 4 kilometres to go.

The first two positions remained the same with Woolhouse winning the race in the smart time of 64 minutes 30 seconds, leading in the silver medallist, Hartigan who recorded 66 minutes 27 seconds. Andrew White managed to break clear of Matthews, fourth, Stevens, fifth and Chris Hamer who placed sixth. Matt Coloe continued running impressively to

cross the line in 22nd place, picking up more runners in his final circuit. Daniel Clarke, running easily, also improved his position, to finish in 41st position. David Jimenez steadied to hold 46th position, completing the winning Division 1 team.

Adrian Vincent plugged on and completed the course in 55th position, followed in by other Division 2 team members, Luke Yeatman, 70th, Steve Griffin 74th, Bert Pelgrim, 81st and Steve Kelly who was 121st.

Our Division 5 team was led in by Josh de Stefanis, 140th, Chaai Kathirasan, 174th, Chris O'Connor, 178th and Bill Dyer, 253rd. It was most pleasing to see Josh de Stefanos return to competition after a layoff. Peter Stefanos, Dave Stevens and Andrew Tunne also completed the race.

The women's race was interesting with Karen Thorp, Knox, and Michelle Bleakley, APS, moving into prominent positions early. Box Hill was well represented with three senior teams, and they all performed extremely creditably. Rachel Johnson had been ill during the week and she started off conservatively and worked her way into the race, with a couple of male Box Hill athletes running nearby. As the race progressed, Rachel got better and better and she had moved in to fourth place after 10 kilometres. Also running well was newly joined member Jessica Eels, holding 16th position at the 18 k mark. Other Division 1 team members were Julie Norney who ran a measured race. Kate Ackland, ran a large part of the race with Amanda Harper, who has recently returned to Australia. They were in around 38th to 40th position.

Rebecca Law was our next placed athlete, followed by Talitha Crawford, Megan Sloane and Charmaine McNulty.

Karen Thorp won the Women's race in 74:37, just marginally ahead of Michelle Bleakley, second and Tarli Bird, third. Rachel Johnson performed superbly to gain her highest placing to date, in fourth position. Rachel has had her best ever season at Box Hill this year and has kept improving very race.

Jessica Eels, held it together competently in the concluding stages and finished 18th, an excellent first up effort. Julie Norney finished four places behind her in 22nd position. Other placings can be found in the results below.

Box Hill now leads the women's Division 1 competition by one point from Knox. In order to win Division 1 we will need our strongest team available at the Tan relays, as Knox is sure to have their best team on the line. Our Division 3 and Division 4 teams both won their respective divisions, a remarkable effort. And our 40+ team was also victorious again, another commendable result.

Results

Men's results

Placings		Club	Times
1.	Jason Woolhouse	Geelong	64:30
2.	Nathan Hartigan	Ballarat Harriers	66:27
3.	Andrew White	Box Hill	68:30
4.	Ryan Matthews	Essendon	68:34
5.	Sean Stevens	KSB	68:50
6.	Chris Hamer	Box Hill	68:52
22.	Matt Coloe	Box Hill	71:51
41.	Daniel Clark	Box Hill	74:54
46.	David Jimenez	Box Hill	75:09
55.	Adrian Vincent	Box Hill	75:57
70.	Luke Yeatman	Box Hill	77:30
74.	Steve Griffin	Box Hill	77:36

81.	Bert Pelgrim	Box Hill	78:08
121.	Steve Kelly	Box Hill	81:31
140.	Josh de Stefanis	Box Hill	82:18
174.	Chaa Kathirasan	Box Hill	84:13
178	Chris O'Connor	Box Hill	84:28
253.	Bill Dyer	Box Hill	90:51
311.	Peter Stefanos	Box Hill	95:35
348.	Dave Stevens	Box Hill	99:19
413.	Andrew Tunne	Box Hill	111:36

Men's Division 1 Results

1.	Box Hill	116
2.	APS	180
3.	Glenhuntly	190
4.	Melb Uni	194
5.	Bendigo	247
6.	Collingwood	272

Men's Division 2 Results

1.	Keilor St Bernards	252
2.	Box Hill	370
3.	Waverley	397
4.	Glenhuntly	436
5.	Eureka	490
6.	Traralgon	492

Men's Division 5 Results

1.	Bendigo	586
2.	Melb Uni	604
3.	Box Hill	615
4.	South Coast	681
5.	APS	798
6.	Traralgon	913

Men's 40+ Results

1.	Traralgon	42
2.	Glenhuntly	59
3.	Keilor St Bernards	70
11.	Box Hill	148

Men's 50 + Results

1.	Keilor St Bernards	21
2.	Diamond Valley	36
3.	APS	81
	Glenhuntly	81
	South Melbourne	81
8.	Box Hill	119

Women Individual Results

1.	Karen Thorp	Knox	78:04
2.	Michelle Bleakley	APS	78:10
3.	Tarli Bird	Glenhuntly	79:99
4.	Rachel Johnson	Box Hill	80:11
5.	Sandra Prosenica	Essendon	81:06
18.	Jessica Eels	Box Hill	86:33
22.	Julie Norney	Box Hill	87:32
36.	Kate Ackland	Box Hill	93:36
42.	Amanda Harper	Box Hill	94:54
51.	Rebecca Law	Box Hill	96:04
66.	Talitha Crawford	Box Hill	99:18
69.	Megan Sloane	Box Hill	99:55

102. Charmaine McNally Box Hill

111:01

Women's Team Results

Division 1

1.	Knox Essendon	34
2.	Box Hill	38
3.	Glenhuntly	49

Division 3

1.	Box Hill	107
2.	Waverley	206
3.	Glenhuntly	210

Division 4

1.	Box Hill	186
2.	Keilor St Bernards	193

Women's 40+ Results

1.	Box Hill	37
2.	Collingwood	41