



## **Brimbank Park Cross Country Championships Saturday 31 July 2010**

This year, the 16 K cross country race returned to the tough Brimbank Park course. This course runs on river flats and then up one of the most challenging hills in Victorian cross country races. The senior men have to negotiate this hill twice running two 6 K circuits with a shorter 4 K loop completing the course.

Box Hill turned out a depleted team and our main hope in the men's race was Steve Kelly. The start was on the lower flats adjacent to the Maribyrnong River. Four athletes immediately headed to the front of the field: Liam Adams (Ess), Kane Willie (Knox), Wondwoson Geleta (Sth Melb) and Steve Kelly (BH). Liam Adams wasted no time in breaking up the field as well as the small group at the head of the field putting in a surge after the reaching the top of the first big hill. Sam Crowther (Knox) was in a forward position along with Dane Verwey (Fra), David Carver (Geel), Nathan Hartigan (Ball Harr), Brady Threlfall (Ben) and Scott Rantall (Geel). Most of Glenhuntly's leading athletes were missing and Brett Colman (Geel) damaged his calf and withdrew early into the race.

Our next best placed athletes were David Jimenez and Steve Griffin who were quite close together in the early stages. As the race progressed, David started to run past many other athletes and eventually improved his position from the 50s and 60s to 36<sup>th</sup>, which was an impressive effort. Further back in the field, Bert Pelgrim, Chris O'Connor and Graeme Olden completed the Division 1 team

Meanwhile at the front end of the field, Liam Adams continued to pull ahead of the other competitors. He won the race with a margin of 50 seconds over Kane Willie. Willie also ran strongly after falling adrift and consolidated 2<sup>nd</sup> position from Geleta, defeating him by 52 seconds who ran at his best for the season, holding off a determined Steve Kelly by a narrower margin of 9 seconds. It did appear that Steve was making inroads into the bronze medal position but in the end he couldn't quite bridge the gap. Geleta has been in a similar position previously in winter races but has been prone to fade. However, this time it all held together for him and he outlasted the pursuing Kelly. Chasing Steve Kelly was a group of four fast finishing runners, Sam Crowther, Carver, Verwey and Rantall. They were not able to bridge the gap, so Kelly held fourth position by a relatively narrow margin.

David Jimenez (40<sup>th</sup>) Steve Griffin, (64<sup>th</sup>), Bert Pelgrim (74<sup>th</sup>), Chris O'Connor (120<sup>th</sup>) and Graeme Olden (134<sup>th</sup>) completed the Box Hill Division 1 team. Frankston, had they been in Division 1, would have pulled off an unlikely and unexpected victory, however, they had to be content with winning Division 2. Box Hill could only manage seventh place, one of our weakest placings in recent years. Chris O'Connor finished 11<sup>th</sup> in his age division. Graeme Olden was 15<sup>th</sup> and Peter Stefanos 28<sup>th</sup> in the same division, and Bert Pelgrim placed 5<sup>th</sup> in his age division. The Box Hill 45 – 50 team placed 6<sup>th</sup>.

The women's race was a one-sided affair, with Anna Thompson (GH) breaking clear early and exposing the lack of depth in the field. Thompson was able to exert her influence very early in the race and no-one was able to get close to her. She is clearly in good form and looks set to do well in the national championships on August 21. Kate Seibold Crosbie (Knox) battled with Beverley Thomas (Ess) and Sarah Klein (Fra) before breaking clear and winning the silver medal along way behind the winner. Klein passed Thomas to claim the bronze medal and after Thomas, our first Box Hill athlete, Brook Condon claimed fifth, just seven seconds behind fourth place. Rachel Johnson has been running in excellent form this year and claimed another top ten placing completing the course in

ninth place, just over a minute behind Brook. Julie Norney has continued to impress with her improving fitness level, and this time placed 15<sup>th</sup>, fifteen seconds behind Rachel. Our Division 1 team was completed by June Petrie, who now appears to have recovered from her recent marathon. June ran very competitively and placed 27<sup>th</sup>, 58 seconds behind her sister.

The Division 1 team won the gold medal in an excellent performance and sit second on the table for the season.

Julie Norney won the silver medal in her age group. June Petrie won the silver medal in her age group, as well.

Daniel Balassone was our sole representative in the under 20 6 K race and ran a very determined and solid race. There was a strong field and there were a number of interstate runners who were seeking to test out their form against the Victorian competitors. The winner, Ethan Haywood came across from Western Australia. Daniel ran competitively to place 9<sup>th</sup> overall, and overtook a number of athletes during the race particularly in the second half of the race. He placed 5<sup>th</sup> in the Victorian Championship. He was only 74 seconds down on the winner of the Victorian Championship, and looks to have a great future in the sport.

In the Under 20 4 K Cross Country, Amy Carrig excelled herself and was third across the line. The first placegetter, Charlotte Wilson (NSW), was ineligible to win the title because she was running by invitation, so Amy won the silver medal in an excellent performance. Natalie Ambrose has been running well all season and again performed very creditably in the under 18 race over 6 kilometres, placing 5<sup>th</sup> in a strong performance.

Box Hill is in third place in the Men's Division 1 season ladder behind Geelong and Glenhuntly, and our Division 1 Women's team is in second place behind Glenhuntly.

## Placings

### Men's 16 K Cross Country

1	Liam Adams	Ess	53:23
2	Kane Willie	Knox	54:13
3	Wondwoson Geleta	Sth Melb	55:05
4	<b>Steve Kelly</b>	<b>BH</b>	<b>55:14</b>
40	<b>David Jimenez</b>	<b>BH</b>	<b>61:00</b>
64	<b>Steve Griffin</b>	<b>BH</b>	<b>63:42</b>
74	<b>Bert Pelgrim</b>	<b>BH</b>	<b>64:14</b>
120	<b>Chris O'Connor</b>	<b>BH</b>	<b>68:08</b>
134	<b>Graeme Olden</b>	<b>BH</b>	<b>69:44</b>
182	<b>Marcus Hanley</b>	<b>BH</b>	<b>74:18</b>
209	<b>Peter Stefanos</b>	<b>BH</b>	<b>76:12</b>
262	<b>Andrew Tunne</b>	<b>BH</b>	<b>90:38</b>

### Division 1 Team Placings

1.	Geelong	150
2.	Glenhuntly	185
3.	Collingwood	233
4.	Knox	278
5.	Keilor St Bernards	378
6.	Essendon	401
7.	<b>Box Hill</b>	<b>436</b>

### Men's under 20 6 K Championship

5	Daniel Balassone	BH	21:27
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### Women's 6 K Championship

1.	Anna Thompson	GH	22:39
2.	Kate Seibold-Crosbie	Knox	23:10
3.	Sarah Klein	Fra	23:26
4.	Beverley Thomas	Ess	23:40
5.	<b>Brook Condon</b>	<b>BH</b>	<b>23:47</b>
9.	<b>Rachel Johnson</b>	<b>BH</b>	<b>24:49</b>
15.	<b>Julie Norney</b>	<b>BH</b>	<b>25:04</b>
27.	<b>June Petrie</b>	<b>BH</b>	<b>26:02</b>
55.	<b>Hannah Deal</b>	<b>BH</b>	<b>28:04</b>
58.	<b>Kristine Hopkins</b>	<b>BH</b>	<b>28:27</b>
103.	<b>Rebecca Law</b>	<b>BH</b>	<b>32:14</b>

### Division 1 Women's placings

1.	Box Hill	56
2.	Glenhuntly	56
3.	Essendon	59

### Under 20 4 K Championship

2.	Amy Carrig	BH	16:12
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### Under 18 6 K Championship

5.	Natalie Ambrose	BH	25:57
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