



Burnley Half Marathon

Sunday 5 September 2010

Box Hill had stronger representation in this event, and appears to have placed second in the men's Division 1 contest and first in the women's Division 1 competition after tremendous performances from Nikki Chapple, who shattered the course record in winning the women's race, followed up with a splendid fourth position by Rachel Johnson, with Julie Norney ninth, and Steve Kelly who placed third in the men's race.

Geelong won the Men's Division 1 race very easily, with impressive performances from Box Hill, second and Glenhuntly third.

The race commenced at 8.00 a.m. on Sunday morning, in benign cool racing conditions. Later a cold wind blew on competitors. There were around 350 in the men's race and just short of 100 in the women's race, and a number of withdrawals occurred during the course of the race.

A pack of around ten athletes separated from the body of the field and opened up a gap. These athletes included Steve Kelly, Box Hill, Scott Rantall, Geelong, David Carver, Geelong, Sam Ellis, Eureka, Brady Threlfall, Bendigo, Colin Thornton and Ryan Christian. A second pack also formed perhaps 40 metres behind, which included John Meagher, Box Hill, Daniel Clark, Box Hill, Brett Colman, Geelong and Scott Nicholas, Geelong. Nikki Chapple had already established a very decisive lead over the rest of the women's field, and with three laps of the out and back course to run was in 21st position over all, a stunning and impressive commencement to the race. A little ahead of her, Steve Kelly was buried in the leading pack in eighth position. Daniel Clark and John Meagher were in 24th and 25th positions respectively, with David Jimenez, Box Hill, running with them in 26th position. Other leading Box Hill members were Steve Griffin, who held 62nd position, Bert Pelgrim 77th and Michael Dowel 78th.

The women's race saw Kylie Dick, second, Kirsten Wyatt, Geelong, third, Maryann Murray, DV, fourth, Muriel Cummins, fifth and Rachel Johnson sixth. Julie Norney was eighth and June Petrie, 37th made up the Box Hill Division 1 team.

With two laps to go, Steve Kelly and his two Geelong opponents, Carver and Rantall, had broken clear of the field and Steve was placed second and looking fresh. David Jimenez held 29th position, Daniel Clark was 35th and John Meagher was 36th. Steve Griffin was a minute behind these two. Nikki Chapple had extended her lead over the women's field and had moved forward to about 15th position. Rachel Johnson was in fifth position and looked likely to move into fourth position. Julie Norney held 8th position not far behind.

When the runners passed the finish with one lap to go, Steve Kelly had surged to the lead, but had not dislodged Carver and Rantall. Nikki Chapple had moved into 12th position, and Daniel Clark had moved to 27th position, followed by David Jimenez, 28th. John Meagher, troubled by a hamstring strain, was forced to pull out. Michael Dowel was accelerating past other runners, and Steve Griffin, also moving past others was slightly behind Michael.

In the final stages of the race, David Carver left the others in his wake to win the half Marathon title, from Scott Rantall by eight seconds, with Steve Kelly third, a further 15 seconds back. Nikki Chapple shattered the women's race record by over two minutes to record the very fast time of 70 minutes 55 s, which was only a little over two minutes behind the men's winning time, and nine minutes

twenty-three seconds ahead of the second placegetter in the women's race, Kylie Dick. Kristen Wyatt placed third, two minutes thirty-seven seconds ahead of fourth placed Rachel Johnson, who recorded her equal top placing in an AV inter event. Julie Norney ran across the line in 9th position, and June Petrie, 29th, completed Box Hill's Division 1 team, which won the title.

Daniel Clark accelerated in the last lap passing a number of opponents to finish 20th. David Jimenez held on well to place 25th, followed by Michael Dowel, who made up a lot of ground in the concluding stages of the race to finish 46th, with Steve Griffin persisting to place 53rd. Chris Bradford also ran home well to place 58th, just a little behind Steve. These results placed Box Hill second in the Division 1 teams' race, behind Geelong and ahead of Glenhuntly. Other athletes to complete the course were Bert Pelgrim, 88th, Chris O'Connor, 149th, Graeme Olden, 175th, Dave Stevens, 271st, and Andrew Tunne, 283rd. Rebecca Law completed the course in 68th place in the women's race.

Race results:

1.	David Carver	Geelong	1:08:44
2.	Scott Rantall	Geelong	1:08:52
3.	Steve Kelly	Box Hill	1:09:07
4.	Ashley Watson	Wendouree	1:09:46
5.	Brady Threlfall	Bendigo	1:10:03
6.	Colin Thornton	Geelong	1:10:08
7.	Ryan Christian	Geelong	1:10:16
8.	Sam Ellis	Eureka	1:10:31
9.	Magnus Michelsson	Collingwood	1:10:46
10.	John Dutton	Casey Cardinia	1:11:18
20.	Daniel Clark	BH	1:13:02
25.	David Jimenez	BH	1:13:27
46.	Michael Dowel	BH	1:15:40
53.	Steve Griffin	BH	1:16:14
58.	Chris Bradford	BH	1:16:50
88.	Bert Pelgrim	BH	1:19:52
149.	Chris O'Connor	BH	1:24:51
175.	Graeme Olden	BH	1:28:19
271.	Dave Stevens	BH	1:40:07
283.	Andrew Tunne	BH	1:42:34

Estimated Division 1 Team Placings

1.	Geelong	34
2.	Box Hill	147
3.	Glenhuntly	163

Women's race

1.	Nikki Chapple	Box Hill	1:10:55
2.	Kylie Dick	Glenhuntly	1:20:18
3.	Kirsten Wyatt	Geelong	1:20:29
4.	Rachel Johnson	BH	1:23:06
5.	Maryann Murray	DV	1:23:29
9.	Julie Norney	BH	1:25:00
29.	June Petrie	BH	1:34:52
68.	Rebecca Law	BH	1:48:21

Estimated Division 1 Team Placings

1.	Box Hill	43
2.	Glenhuntly	104
3.	Knox	139