

The 21st Three Peaks Mountain Race

Sunday 25 April 2004

Weather: Fine and Sunny with soft wet underfoot conditions



26km Race

This year's champion, Mike Anderson was the first of the three Open Men runners who took the podium honours overall for the day. He had a brilliant run to win in 2 hours 5 minutes 2 seconds, with both Flynn Morris-Clarke second in 2:06:53 and Richard Murphy third in 2:08:04 chasing him all the way for the title.

Open runners Ian Edmond (4th in 2:08:47) and Leith's Neale McLanachan (5th in 2:09:13) were not far behind in the chasing bunch. Next to cross the line was the first Master Men's 40-49 runner Graham Sinnamon who had a tremendous run to finish 6th overall in 2:11:53. Leith's Alan Funnell finished 7th overall and 6th in the Open Men's grade in 2:13:29. Skimming through in overall position of 8th was Nicholas Browne (7th Open Men's runner in 2:14:42). The second Master Men's 40-49 runner was Steve Masson who was ninth overall in 2:15:15 and third MM40-49 runner was Dave Sharp who was 11th overall in 2:16:22. James Richardson was tenth overall and 8th in the Open Men's grade in 2:15:22.

The Master Men's 50+ grade was a very keenly contested affair, especially between Leith's Dave McLean and Taieri Athletics Gene Sanderson. Gene Sanderson prevailed in the end with his never say die attitude finishing in an excellent new MM50+ record time of 2:19:00 (16th overall) with the equally as tough Dave McLean in 2:19:10 (17th overall). Phil Morris hung in there for a third place finish in this grade in 2:36:35 (19th overall).

Master Women's 45+ runner Jenny Mark had an incredible run to be the first female runner to cross the line, winning the overall women's title. Her time was 2:26:58 which gave her an overall placing of 20th for the gruelling race. Alison Bradshaw was also in scintillating form to win the Open Women's title in a speedy 2hr 29mins 58secs finishing as second female across the line and 24th overall. Both Bradshaw and Mark ran strongly throughout the gruelling, strenuous course. Despite

the hot weather conditions, they handled the tough climbs up Flagstaff, Swampy and Mt Cargill with aplomb. Second and third Open Women's runners to cross the line were Anna Berthelsen who finished 31st overall in 2:33:48 and Sarah Chisnall who finished 36th overall in 2:37:00. Also having a great day out in the sun were Master Women's runners Jan Craig (2nd MW45, 43 overall) in 2:43:02 and Dalise Sanderson (3rd MW45, 46th overall) in 2:44:39. Master Women's 35-44 grade runner Janice Finnie also had a good run finishing 49th overall and first in her grade.

2-Person Teams Race 26km

Woodhaugh Gardens, Flagstaff, Swampy (team changeover), Mt Cargill, Chinford Park

The teams race was a keenly contested affair this year with the Leith Men's team still in with a slim chance of victory heading up to Mount Cargill. The Men's team of Ben McHale (Start to Swampy Summit in 0:59:03) and James List (Swampy Summit to finish in 1:05:18) for a combined time of 2:04:21 were too strong for the chasing Leith men's team of Marc Boule (Start to Swampy Summit in 1:00:41) and Steve Skilling (Swampy Summit to finish in 1:09:04) which ended with a combined time of 2:09:45.

Both these teams also respectively finished first and second in the overall teams' placings after their second leg runners Steve "Skillo" Skilling and James List had put in a tremendous effort to pass the mixed team's second runner Pippa Jerram (1:22:41) after its first leg runner Ben Revell (0:55:53) had put it in a commanding first place at the top of Swampy Summit but which in the end finished with a combined time of 2:18:34 to win the Mixed Grade and finish fifth overall. In addition they also had to overhaul the second runner of the Men's team of Andrew Davidson (0:58:24) and Trent Shallard (1:19:10) which had a combined time of 2:17:34 and which eventually finished fourth overall.

Showing up well at the end and steady throughout was the third team across the finish line which was the Men's team of Craig Renshaw (1:08:47) and Quentin Rew (1:07:58) which finished with a combined time of 2:16:45.

The first placed women's team of Katherine Smyth (1:01:35) and Alice Baker (1:20:34) for a combined time of 2:22:09 ran very well to finish a creditable sixth out of all the teams.

Thanks once again to all those competitors. We hope you enjoyed the run and achieved your personal goals for the race. Thanks also to all the spectators, supporters, farmland owners, marshals, timekeepers, race organisers and to all who helped in any way to make this a fantastic event once more. See you all again next year.