

Saturday February 13th. Shield Final Doncaster

It's a long time since Collingwood Harriers has had six teams through to last day of the summer competition with such a chance of success.

Last week's venue finals were a real shot in the arm to the Club after a number of years trying to build our numbers again after a lean period. The new track certainly has been a factor and a resurgence of interest from those coming to the end of their career in Little Athletics has produced a number of very promising athletes. As we have seen in the past numbers produce more numbers and some of our present people have been able to lure friends along to give our terrific sport a go.

Our membership has seen over fifteen new faces this summer season, most of them juniors, so it was with great anticipation that we travelled to Doncaster on the 13th.

Mention must be made once more of the terrific support Collingwood Harriers gets from our officials. Some are there every week, some when they can make it, but nevertheless the sport cannot operate without them and as stated many times before we are very fortunate to have so many highly qualified officials to represent us.

Those present on Saturday, in alphabetical order, were: **Diana Barnett, Ian Fisher, Lyn Humphris, Judy Mason, Brian Moore, Matthew Webster, Kevin Wigmore, Brian Williams** and **Tony Williams**. **Diane Mastrullo** could not make it this week but has flown the flag for the Maggies a number of times during the season.

Thanks to all the supporters who turned up on Saturday to back our teams. Lots of family members were in attendance which only added to the atmosphere and although the noise level of the barrackers perhaps didn't match that of some past seasons there is certainly some potential and as some of the new parents get into the swing of things, Collingwood is a certainty to be back at the top of the noise tree!

Although it is always fraught with danger to single people out, mention must be made of **David** and **Sally Sheils** who bring **Will** up from Warragul to run with our Club. It is this sort of commitment that helps make our Club so good to be with. Another of our very promising athletes, **Pier Akec**, has also benefited a great deal from the (inconspicuous) support of **Lavita** and **Rob Mossop**, a couple who have no actual connection to Collingwood Harriers but who are determined to give a recent arrival to Australia every chance to make a name for himself. Every week they travel from South Morang to Fitzroy to pick Pier up and then transport him to that week's venue and then return him home.

Others help by providing rides for other athletes at times and the Club thanks them all for their support.

Thanks to all who have helped with organization of teams during competitions. **Santo Lantieri, Grant Sargent, Danny Hecker, Madeline Lantieri, Rob Barnes, Ian Minter** and **Claire Garganis** have all done their bit during the season for the betterment of the Club, but again one must be singled out for an honourable mention for his tireless work, particularly with the juniors. **Peter Neale** provided invaluable support to our efforts and it is fair to say that without his assistance and on occasions, foresight, it is fair to say that the Club may not have had the amount of success it has experienced this season.

SHIELD FINAL - MEN'S DIVISION 3

Having finished second to St.Kevins at the Venue Final we were pretty confident that we could top them on the scoreboard at Doncaster because our team was strengthened by a couple of athletes who were eligible to drop down from our Divvy 1 team of last week. Of course the unknown factor was the other teams including Glenhuntly and Waverley.

We got off to a great start when we finished second and third out of only five competitors (possible 14) in the 400m hurdles. Despite a fall at the top of the straight **Troy Kameme** got up to chase **Sage Scott** home to both finish just behind the sole Glenhuntly rep. The Clubs not entering a competitor were giving up a lot of points early!

A big bonus was our walker, **Anand Thillaisundarum** who took first place in the 3k event. Anand walked in our top team last week leaving us without a walker, but this week he knocked off the St. Kevins' athlete, the only other Divvy 3 competitor, again giving us a big point's bonus.

Tim Holmes won the high jump with 1.65m and a good placing to **Troy Kameme** saw Collingwood win the event from Glenhuntly.

Another of our 'Divvy 1 dropouts' **Julian Warhurst** delivered the goods with a win in the 800m. in a smart 2:06+. **Tim Holmes** produced a much faster run than the previous week because he didn't have the 400 sticks and the 200m beforehand. **Craig Servinis** again ran his heart out for the Club and although both Glenhuntly and St. Kevins both scored more points than our boys, the differential was not great!

Our sprinters were not the highest point scorers in the 200m., but the other clubs were mixing the results so no-one was gaining enough to make a break on the field in the over all results. **Tom Lantieri** was our fastest with a season's best followed by **Troy Kameme** and **Sage Scott**.

Ian Morelli and **Craig Servinis** were second overall by just two points in the shot put, while **Ian** teamed with **Peter Neale** to obtain a similar result in the hammer, this time going down by just one point but picking up stacks on the others.

Mitchell McWhinney jumped a big PB in the long jump recording 6.20m. His win along with **Troy Kameme's** 4th again gave Collingwood a win in this event.

The 5000m had us worried as we expected Glenhuntly to dominate. Although we were a lot better off than last week when we only had one competitor and because we didn't have any idea of the progressive scores, this was seen as a dicey event. **Simon Blyth**, another down from Divvy 1, ran a 40 second season's best, together with **Chris Waldron** and the dependable **Troy Kameme**, who knocked over a minute of his previous best this season, teamed to get us a good number of points. Again no one club could dominate enough to score a landslide.

This left just the 4x400 relay. **Julian Warhurst, Tim Holmes, Peter Neale** and **Troy Kameme** finished fourth out the five who entered teams. This was enough to bring home the bacon. Only half a second slower than last week it was a great performance especially considering that Troy had run the 5k *before* the relay this week!

Final Points: **Collingwood – 333**, Glenhuntly – 283, Uni – 252, St Kevins – 217.5,
Western Aths – 194, Waverley – 135.5, Ballarat YCW – 45

SHIELD FINAL - MEN'S 40+

Another of our teams to finish runner up last week when Diamond Valley proved just too strong, particularly in the throws. Despite finishing well clear on the ladder we had to lower our colours on the day.

Collingwood got off to mixed start with a good effort to take the points in the 400 hurdles through **Danny Hecker** (season best) and **John Schuijers** but dropped a few in the 3000m walk. Luckily the big winner in the walk weren't thought to be a real danger overall. Evergreen **Bob Gardiner** was our first home while **Bruce Conboy** knocked 25 secs off his previous best this season. Bruce's effort was particularly meritorious as his health has been less than A1 in recent times.

Chris Boylen and **Danny Hecker** were prominent in the high jump picking up stacks on *most* teams. They later combined to gain equal second overall in the shot but well behind Diamond Valley. Danny had a season's best toss in the weight event.

Paul Skipper, Danny Hecker and **Shane Derby** finished second overall in the 800m with a terrific points tally, however Waverley scored 5 more! Paul's run was a 10 sec season best while Shane also took a substantial slice off his best this season.

Paul, Danny and **John Schuijers** all won their heats of the 200m but Waverley scored heavily as well so we did not pick up a lot. Paul and Danny both recorded their best for the season.

The 5000mts really knocked us around. Despite **Ken Duxbury** taking 15 secs off his best this season and **Paul Twining** breaking the Club 60-64 Record for the fourth time this season we lost a lot of points in this event. **Shane Derby** was our third runner, but found it a bit harder this week having first done the 800, unlike the venue final.

Diamond Valley again cleaned up in the hammer but we didn't do too badly against the others, points wise. This was another of **Danny Hecker's** eight events teaming with **Steve Griffiths** to finish fourth overall.

The 4x400 relay was again successful holding off a determined D.V. to win in grand style. **Chris Boylen** joined **John Schuijers, Paul Skipper** and **Danny Hecker** to record another impressive win adding to their sparkling efforts in this event all season..

Danny Hecker and **Chris Boylen** did well in the long jump, but needed to have a big win to make up the leeway, a task out of the equation at the finish.

Final Points: Waverley – 467.5, Diamond Valley – 450, **Collingwood – 436.5**,
Wendouree – 330.67, Essendon – 279, Keilor St Bernards – 262.67
Knox – 250, Chilwell – 115.67, Bendigo YMCA – 45.

Last week DV beat us by 19 points. We're getting there!

SHIELD FINAL - GIRL'S UNDER 14

We got through the Venue Final with only four competitors, but how would we go against the might of the competition with such a small band? They were terrific! Hats off to **Hilary McAdam, Cassie Page, Jessica Neale** and **Catherine Corbett** for giving it a red hot go!

Although overwhelmed on the day, our fabulous four did beat Doncaster, the team that won the venue final last week!

Jessica Neale and **Catherine Corbett** got off to a promising start with second overall in the 200m hurdles. This event followed soon after Jess had competed in the 1500m walk, gaining some valuable points.

These girls were joined by very promising newcomer **Hilary McAdam** in the 800mts. All three girls ran PBs with Hilary just .2 sec outside the Club U/14 record with a five second improvement on her best.

Our hurdlers teamed up again, this time in the high jump, where they, despite losing ground to the two leading teams, gained big points on all the others.

Cassie Page opened her day in the 200m, combining with **Hilary** and **Jessica**. Again the leading teams, Essendon, Croydon and Keilor St Bernards were far too strong, but the girls were certainly not disgraced.

Jessica Neale and **Cassie Page** joined forces again in the shot put to finish an overall second, this time dropping only four points to KSB.

The 3000mts did not help us much as we only had one starter. Yes it was **Jessica Neale** again! Jess put up a brave effort to pick up valuable points.

Hilary McAdam carried the flag in the long jump as Jess was still recovering from her mini-marathon on the track. Nice jump too but the leading clubs were by now out of sight.

The relay team was not hard to select! All the girls gave it a shot with **Jessica Neale** just about out on her feet. **Catherine Corbett** and **Cassie Page** did a great job!

The Collingwood spirit was most evident however when **Hilary McAdam** took off for the last leg. With the team over 100 metres behind, Hilary could have been excused for jogging her leg. Not this girl! She ran as if her life depended upon the result. Top effort!

Final Points: Keilor St Bernards - 430.5, Essendon - 416.5 Croydon - 343, Knox - 330, Casey Cardinia - 324, **Collingwood - 291.5**
Doncaster - 244.5, Chilwell - 56, Ball YCW - 34, Preston - 27

SHIELD FINAL - GIRL'S UNDER 16

Another winner from last week, but an unknown quantity in the big time! At full strength these girls may have been right in the mix but a mixture of injuries and 'unavailabilities' certainly didn't help our cause.

Having no walkers certainly didn't help and the eventual winners Knox were away to a flyer with a one/two result!

Our hurdlers gained good points with **Zoe McWhinney** and **Lily Walker** doing the job for the black and white. **Zoe** knocked a second off the Club U/16 record, a record she only recently broke for the first time. Lily's time was a PB.

Our 800m girls all ran PBs but couldn't make much off an impression in the point's tally. **Lily Walker, Rachel Barnes** and **Hannah Garganis** were terrific as they have been all year. Lily knocked nine seconds off her best, Hannah eight seconds.

Zoe McWhinney and **Lily Walker** teamed to gain an equal second in the high jump, dropping only two points to Preston. Zoe's 1.50m was not far off her best.

Our 200m team of **Zoe, Tilly Southwood** and **Hannah Garganis** managed third place overall but the two leading teams, Knox and Glenhuntly continued to widen the gap.

Lily Walker was joined by under 14 **Jessica Neale** to wage war in the hammer throw. Jess threw a PB but this event didn't turn out to be as decisive for us as it was in the venue final where our girls were the big points winners!

Lily was up again soon after, this time in the shot. Joined by **Hannah Garganis**, the girls did their best with Lily again recording a PB.

Lily has recorded **nine Personal Bests** over the two weeks of the finals. Great timing!

Rachel Barnes and **Lily Walker** ran the 3000mts for us. It is fair to say that neither girl would list this as their favourite event, however they both gave it their best with Rachel slicing one and a half minutes off her best ever time.

Unfortunately Lily wasn't able to front up for the long jump – may have had trouble getting off the ground after her seven and a half laps. Collingwood was nevertheless prominent in the horizontal leap as **Zoe McWhinney** was the outright winner of the event in a new Club U/16 record, (her second for the day) of 5.27 m.

Final Points: Knox - 516.17, Glenhuntly - 443.67, Preston - 389.5,
Keilor St Bernards - 296, **Collingwood - 271.17**
Croydon - 248.5, Ballarat YCW - 79

SHIELD FINAL - BOY'S UNDER 16

This was the team of surprises. After a slow start to the season, things got rolling as we were strengthened by more and more boys joining as we went along. This now one of most promising groups we have had at Collingwood for many years. They were not even in the four early, but as things picked up The Maggies moved through the field and finished on top of the ladder. A good win last week was more than encouraging.

We were probably doomed right from the start as this team had no hurdlers or walkers. We were 103 points behind Knox after two events! However from then on the Black and White boys were back in town!

The high jump didn't help a lot either with only **Nick Rosa** making it to the starting line. His 1.50m leap gained valuable points and at least got us on the board.

The 800m saw something special! Despite only having two runners we scored well with both runners recording their best ever times. **Will Sheils** broke the Club U/16 record with his 2:01.92 while **Jacob McCormack** knocked a couple of seconds off his best, to stop the clock at 2:06.38.

The Hammer throw was a gold mine for the Collingwood boys. Two PBs, by two rookies, to fill the top two places. **Nick Rosa** added three metres to his best to take out the event, while **Tim Amanatidis** added over one metre to his terrific throw of last week to take second place.

Our team of **Pier Akec**, **Sean O'Neill** and **Tim Amanatidis** held their own in the 200m. Western Aths cleaned up but we were third overall.

Pier Akec and **Nick Rosa** finished third overall in the long jump, while the same two boys easily won the shot put with **Pier** being first overall in a 12.43m PB and **Nick** finishing fourth.

The 3000m saw something special, again!! Three PBs this time. **Will Sheils** smashed another Club Record, this one having stood since 1980. Will's time of 9:07.6 took over 20 secs off Steven Howes' record. **Jacob McCormack** knocked thirty seconds off his best to record 10:36.52. Under 14 athlete **Lachlan Derby** filled the vacancy in the team and recorded his best ever time to help Collingwood into second place in the event.

The 4x400 relay was another highlight for the boys. Despite having taken 23 seconds off the Club Record last week, things were a bit different this week with the relay being not too long *after* the 3k. Although going down to the strong Western Aths team, our boys were valiant, although **Will** and **Jacob** were going up and down on the one spot in the last 50m of their respective legs. The team **took another 4 seconds** off their week old mark. All credit to **Pier Akec** and **Sean O'Neill** who ran like Trojans to give the distance runners a real chance.

Final points: Knox - 433, **Collingwood - 351**, West'n Aths - 343, Preston - 342
Diamond Valley - 288.5, Eureka - 253, Casey Cardinia - 220.5,

SHIELD FINAL - BOY'S UNDER 14

'Undefeated all year' generally engenders lots of confidence, but with opposition including the strong Knox, Preston and Keilor St Bernards clubs, as well as some unknown quantities, it is fair to say that we weren't over confident about our prospects on the day.

We had all the events covered, so we knew, especially after our good win last week, that the other clubs couldn't discount us.

When only five clubs were represented in the walk our confidence grew a little as we had already got a jump on some of the opposition. **Adam Garganis** was second over the line to give us a good kick off.

The hurdles saw both our boys run PBs. **Ben Cox** and **Jack Neale** scored enough points to keep us well in the mix.

Jack had to work in the high jump around his hurdles run, but together with **Charlie Cromb**, Collingwood was able to finish in third place, again an acceptable placing.

The Maggies started their run in the 800m when we were able to outpoint all the teams bar Wendouree who finished just one point in front. Newcomer **Andre Chambers** was third home in a PB, benefiting from the timetable change that enabled him to run his preferred 800 before the 200m this week. **Jordan Minter** also ran his best time and together with **Ben Cox**, these three gave us a real boost.

The 200m was another good if not spectacular event for Collingwood, with **Andre Chambers**, **Charlie Cromb** and **Jack Neale** giving their all. Jack's run was aPB., his second for the day.

Charlie Cromb and **Adam Garganis** attained a third place in the long jump. We were being helped by the other clubs sharing the points thus not able to build up a lead.

The 3000m proved to be the turning point for Collingwood with our runners scoring a big win. **Jordan Minter** was first across the line in another PB. He looks to have a bit of ability, must be in the genes! **Ben Cox** and **Adam Garganis** also ran really well and helped us gain nearly 20 points on the nearest team. Adam's time was also a best, while Ben's time was less than a second outside his best ever.

Charlie Cromb won the shot put and again in association with **Jack Neale** gave Collingwood an overall win in the event.

With only the relay to go, it looked like we only had to finish a team to win the day. **Andre Chambers**, **Jordan Minter**, **Adam Garganis** and **Jacob Barnes** got the baton around safely to finish just two seconds off third place. Their time was seven seconds better than their effort in the venue final!

What a season!

Final Points: **Collingwood - 388.5**, Wendouree - 347, Keilor St. Bernards - 340,
Chilwell - 294.33, Diamond Valley - 273.67, Preston - 232.67,
Caset Cardinia - 213, Knox - 171.

