

VMA 10,000m Track Championship
Collingwood Venue
May 18, 2010

How is it possible to conduct such a successful Championship yet again?

I think it boils down to three components.

Planning: the Venue identified the tasks which needed to be undertaken to successfully conduct the event;

Commitment: the response from attendees at the Venue and AV accredited officials to act as a volunteer was excellent;

Enthusiasm: VMA Members responded with an extra 10 competitors on last year, a 25% increase.

The one factor that we have no control over is the weather. But at Collingwood we have a maxim “that it doesn’t rain on Tuesday nights”, well, not very often. And, true to that assertion, the weather on the night was ideal for distance running.

The number of entrants dictated that the event was again conducted in two divisions. The number of male competitors increased whilst the ladies held their numbers from last year. The home Venue, Collingwood, once again provided a quarter of the field. Some of these may have been lured by the incentive of including this event in their Magpie Marathon, the Venue’s most popular event which is in progress at this time.

There was even an international and interstate entrant. One was a visitor from the Welsh Masters, Barrie Roberts, who is visiting his daughter during her stay in Melbourne. Barrie confessed before the event that he had never run 10,000 metres on the track before and is more suited to middle distance running. He performed creditably and took home a Silver medal for his effort.

Our other visitor was from NSW Masters, and Wayne Bullock showed everyone in the second division a clean pair of heels as he lapped the entire field in recording the fastest time overall, 34:22. The fastest female was Bronwen Cardy with 40:34.

10,000 metres on the track is generally considered to be as tough a test of spirit as any other track event and every competitor endured their own personal battle. And, as is always the case, there were tales of triumph and disappointment. Hopefully the competitors enjoyed their crusade.

Closest battle for a medal was in the M60 category between Jeff Walker and Gary Stewart where just two seconds separated them for the Silver and Bronze medals respectively.

This event is the first to count for this years Dot & Colin Browne Shield. The top scorers were Lavinia Petrie with 95.96%, Bronwen Cardy 94.23% and Ted Paulin 85.89%. It looks like the battle for the Female Individual Trophy will be close again.

Lastly, I would like to say a huge “thank you” to the many volunteers and AV Officials who gave of their time to ensure that the event was conducted so successfully. And, I understand that the provision of a cuppa for the lap scorers was very much appreciated.

Graeme Paul
Co-Venue Manager
Collingwood Venue.