

# Leith Times

April - Dec 2006



Congratulations to everyone on a well run and enjoyable Winter Harrier Season. As it's been a while since the last issue of Leith Times and there are a lot of races to cover, this issue is mainly based around photos with a few captions and short articles picking out some of the season's highlights.

Thanks heaps to those who contributed articles and pictures for this issue. Articles or photos for the next issue can be emailed to Andrew Lonie at

## In this issue:

- Ponydales
- Barnes Cross-Country
- Edmond Cup
- Otago Cross Country – 2006 and 1956!
- Timaru Gorges
- National Cross Country
- Clyde-Alex
- Peninsula Relay
- National Road Champs

## News from ex-members:

- Emily Solsberg goes from strength to strength...

## Noticeboard & corrections

- Farewell to Conor Delahunty who left with his family to a new job in Sydney at the end of October. He will be missed, especially by the Masters Men teams and the Monday and Tuesday night runners!

- The report on the Waipori Footrace in Issue 165 stated that 'Grant Koedyk (Masters Men) was rightly pleased with his 1.35.55'. No doubt he would have been, but can still take credit from his time of 2.35.55. This article also mentioned Ray and Margaret's contribution to the race organization but omitted to mention Ed and Carol's marathon track marking effort the day before – apologies for this!

## Chris Sole's training sessions

- Mondays and Tuesdays, 5.05 pm Steady run starting from Chris Sole's place, 5 Monro St, Maori Hill
- Wednesday 1 pm Steady run from Chris Sole's place 5 Monro St
- Thursdays, 5.05 pm Hill session starting from Chris Sole's place, 5 Monro St, Maori Hill
- Friday, 12.30 pm Steady run from Chris Sole's place 5 Monro St

Also:

- Sunday, 9 am Longer run leaving from John McGlashan field, Maori Hill. Contact Harrier Captains Richard or Meredith to confirm.

## News from ex-members

Earlier this year ex-Leithian Emily Solsberg won the Edge to Edge Marathon in a time of 3.34.43. This marathon, which runs along the coastal Pacific Rim National Park on Vancouver Island, has great coastal scenery but is also known for sharp rising hills at the 20km and 37km mark. Emily's proud mother Elizabeth reports:

*She was trying to beat 3:30 but did not do too badly considering part of the race was along a beach AND there were HILLS! Nothing like Wellington's marathon last year. She has been training religiously and did very well in a half marathon several weeks ago in Victoria, coming in 1:33:37, 36th overall out of 481 participants, 2nd in age group and 8th woman finisher! Your advice/training programme seems to be working! We are so proud of her.*



Emily Solsberg after finishing the Edge to Edge Marathon, wearing appropriate club colours.

More reports of Emily's progress came in July:

*She was in a "mini-triathlon" on Saturday at Shawnigan Lake on Vancouver Island where she lives, and set a new course record! Then Sunday she ran in #4 of GUTBUSTER series near Nanaimo and came in 3rd! This was a half marathon over hills (mnts?) and through water etc Em's keen now to think about trying for the Canadian Mountain Running team...*



Emily Solsberg in the Victoria Half, in which she recorded a personal best 1.33.37

## **Ponydales**

Formerly known as Wesleydale, the Leith cross-country got its new name from the Wakari pony club where Ed had sorted out a fantastic new course. Reaction on the course was highly positive from all clubs attending and the location was very accessible to all. People now are even suggesting it would be a good course for Cross-Country Nationals!



Trevor King lines up one of the junior races.



Neale McLanachan showed what a big step up he has made this year, footing it with Luke Hurring and Andrew Davidson at the Ponydales and gaining third fastest lap time of 9.25, only six seconds behind Andrew and three behind Luke.



Lil Clearwater was part of the Leith U16 girls team that finished first in their grade.



Three Peaks: Chris Sole claimed the King of the Mountain title by being first man to the top of Swampy Summit, as well as winning the Masters Men title. The Open Men was won by Steve McKinstry closely followed by Andrew Lonie.

## **Barnes Cross Country**

This race was run in (unusually) fine and mild conditions on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May at Kettle Park.

Leith did extremely well at the Barnes Cross Country race with Clare Pascoe first woman across the line, leading the women to a teams race victory with Claire Kinraid and Jan Coffey. In the Women U16 race, Leith also was successful in the teams with Emily Thomas (2<sup>nd</sup>), Talia Allison (3<sup>rd</sup>) and Charlotte White (5<sup>th</sup>) narrowly heading off Hill City.

The men won their team's race convincingly with Alan Funnell (2<sup>nd</sup>) Gerald Scoones (4<sup>th</sup>), Graham Anderson (6<sup>th</sup>), Greg Cook (7<sup>th</sup>), Neil Gaudin (10<sup>th</sup>) and Dave Rush (12<sup>th</sup>). And to cap off the success, Neale McLanachan ran a blistering 17:03 to claim fastest time honours, by a margin of half a minute over Ariki's Eddie Smith.



Clare Pascoe (back) on her way to winning the Barnes, with Claire Kinraid who was also part of the winning Leith women's team.

## **Edmond Cup**

Brian Pascoe

The Edmond Cup Steeplechase races were run at Wingatui in very cold conditions and the ground condition was soft and uneven. These combined conditions contributed to slower than usual times for the races. Leith had a strong representation of athletes at this event with thirty two people running throughout the grades. First to run were the girls U14 and U16 Sara Thomas, Talia Allison and Lily Clearwater ran well for 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> in the U14 and Charlotte White and Emily Thomas were 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> in the U16. The next race was the MM50. Marc Boullé ran a good race to finish in 1<sup>st</sup> place in this very competitive grade. He was ably backed up by Dave McLean, Ed Stevens, Alistair MacAlevy and Peter Nees. Kirsty Morris continued to improve and finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the senior women's grade. Julia Clearwater, Clare Kinraid and Alison Perry all ran well to finish in the trying conditions. Jan Craig and Jan Brosnahan both ran to their usual high standard finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the

MW45. Rachel Sloan was our sole entrant in the WU19, finishing in 3rd place. New club members Alex Spencely M16 and Cipher Shobayashi M14 competed well for the club and are enjoying their first season of running. The boys and girls 12 and under grade saw Liam McCall, Hayden Cleminson and Rebecca Thomas running. They ran very well and are a credit to their club. As predicted Brian Pascoe, Steve Skilling and Richard Hendry won the three lap relay. Steve had one of the fastest times for his lap. The last race of the day was the senior men's event. Due to injury and illness we had quite a lot of withdrawals from the men's grade. But we still had seven runners who finished for a placing in the team event. Neale McLanachan ran very well to finish in 3rd place. Other team members to finish were Luke Kendrick 10th, Mark O'Donnell 17th, David Shennan 18th, Andrew Perry 22nd, Peter Hughes 24th and Michael Pryde 29th. Well done to everyone who competed in this event, we look forward to a hot day with firm underfoot conditions next year, ha ha!

### **Otago Cross Country (2006!)**

The Leith highlight of the Otago Cross Country champs was Glen Ferguson winning the Masters Men 8000m race in 28:19. This was a class field with athletes such as Geoff Anderson and Lachie Cameron also competing, not to mention Alan Funnell, Ian Thomas and Conor Delahunty who were also in good form and not far behind. Leith also won the Masters Men team in this event (Ferguson, Funnell, Thomas).

Leith was also successful in the MM50 teams with Marc Boullé, Ed Stevens and Graeme Anderson finishing 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. In the MW35 teams there was also a Leith victory with Tracey Bransgrove (who ran a very good time of 25:12), Jan Coffey and Cindy Bradburn finishing 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> respectively. The other two Jans (Craig and Brosnahan) were 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> in MW45 competition.

In the senior events, Neale McLanachan was the standout performer with a third placing behind Luke Hurring and Stafford Thompson.

Other good performances of the day were Richard Hendry winning the Open 4000m event

in 15:17 and Sarah Thomas winning the Girls Under 14 3000 metre race in a time of 12:40.



Neale McLanachan followed a third placing in the Edmond Cup with another at the Otago Cross Country, despite a recent bout of flu.

### **From Cliff's Scrapbook: Otago Cross Country 1956**

Cliff Donaldson

An extract from the Otago Daily Times:  
Headline: *Leith Club successful in Cross-Country Race.*

"Today's race gave me more than ordinary pleasure because it is the first time that Leith, my own old club, has won the Otago Cross-country Championship", stated Dr N.R. Jefferson, President of the Otago Centre, N.Z.A.A.A., when presenting trophies at the conclusion of the events at Wingatui on Saturday.

K.E. Williams (Leith), the New Zealand cross-country champion, was the individual winner. The other three members of the winning combination were: J.Sprague (5th), C. Donaldson (8th) and F. Perry (9th), who collectively registered 23 pts, for a comfortable victory over

Caversham whose total was 39 pts. On the form he displayed, Williams appears to have an excellent chance of retaining his New Zealand senior championship when he defends the title at Napier in two week's time.

Results: Senior Championship, Individual Placings:- K.E. Williams (Leith) 38min 44sec 1, T. Marshall (Nth Otago) 39m1s 2, R. Cain (Cav) 40m7s 3, G.Smith (St Kilda) 40m 43s 4, J.Sprague (Leith) 40m 45s 5, A. Murray (Univ) 41m 5s 6, L. Stewart (Civil Service) 7, C. Donaldson (Leith) 8, F. Perry (Leith) 9, J. Mears (Cav) 10.

Footnote: K.E. (Kerry) Williams did win the National event at Napier.

Also: I personally remember this race very well, as I virtually got out of my sick bed with the 'flu to run the Otago Race.

Other results were: Juniors:= A. Treadway (AirForce) 1, N. Madigan (Cav.) 2, I. Martin (Civil Service) 3.

Colts: P. Dey (Cav.)1, T. King (Celtic United) 2, J. McAra (Leith) 3.

## Timaru Gorges

This year Leith fielded three teams for this event – a men's team in the A Grade, a mixed team in the C Grade and a women's team in the F Grade.

As has often been the case in this event, the men's team of Neale McLanachan, Luke Kendrick (fastest time lap 2), Mark O'Donnell, Andrew Lonie, Julian O'Hagan, Richard Hendry, Marc Boullé and Alan Funnell punched above its weight with some tactical and gutsy running. The gutsiest run of the day was undoubtedly Alan Funnell, whose knee packed up shortly into the final leg, providing an opportunity for Otago University's Tim Hargrave to catch up. However despite offers to be relieved by another runner, Alan grimly hung on and then ground his way into the lead to bring the team home in second place overall, behind winners Canterbury University. **See Marc Boullé's full report for this team at [www.leithharriers.com](http://www.leithharriers.com).**

**Mixed team report by Carol Stevens.** Laps one and two got away to a very good start with the

Scoones/Roberts partnership, Julia looking very fresh after recently returning from Australia, took the team into third place at the end of the hard, undulating lap one. Dallas took over for lap two. As a spectator I thought Dallas was taking a jog along Bondi Beach. He soon got into his work and almost got the team into first place by the end of the lap. This proves that sprinters can run 8ks.

Alistair McAlevey and Ron McLay-Barnes ran laps three and four respectively, with Alistair running a very solid hill lap keeping the team in touch, with Ron covering the long slightly uphill lap four with ease finishing at Cave.

The two shorter laps, five and six were left for Bill Kenny the legendary 70 year old, and the baby of the team, Julia Clearwater, both of whom put in very good efforts.

Pete Hughes ran lap seven, arguably the toughest leg of the relay, with the infamous hill being the biggest challenge of the day. Ed Stevens did the final 9.4 km lap, bringing the team home in a credible fifth place.



Leith team members gather to watch the final leg into Timaru. From left: Luke Kendrick, Neale McLanachan, Rachel Feldman, Claire Kinraid, Julia Clearwater, Clare Pascoe, Sarah Goldsmith.



Mark O'Donnell tackles the Pareora Gorge hill on Lap 3 of the Timaru Gorges.

**Women's team report by Clare Pascoe.** The van left Dunedin at 6:45. Russell, Jacinta's partner, was our driver. On arrival in Timaru, the team soon lined up to get off to a cracking start, with Clare Pascoe taking the lead from early on.

The baton was then passed to Claire Kinraid, who set off at a fast pace down the hill to settle into a steady run on the flat. Whilst the rest of us watched a calf being born, Claire stormed past, and then passed the baton onto her Mum Jacinta.

Jacinta thoroughly enjoyed the challenge of the hills and kept up a steady pace throughout. Sarah Goldsmith was next, and while nursing an injured hip came into Cave with a great time.

Sarah Wyllie, in her 1st and last race for Leith before heading overseas, was not fooled by the marshals, who told her the finish 'was flat'. Rachel Feldman took it over and hoofed it along to pass onto Vick Williams for the grunty hill, which was a 'piece of cake'.

Last but not least, Christine took us home with minimum support as the team were cheering on

Leith Men No 1 - Alan Funnell was setting a cracking pace holding off University of Otago. But Christine provided us with a great sprint finish, which the team managed to witness and cheer her in.

Overall it was a great day enjoyed by all, on and off the road. We ended up having a meal at the Speight's Ale House before heading back to Dunedin in time to watch the rugby at Christine's.

## **National Cross Country Champs**

This year Leith made up the bulk of a very strong Otago Masters Men team competing in the National Cross Country Championships in Stratford on August 6. Glen Ferguson, Conor Delahunty and Alan Funnell were all in top form going into the race and did not disappoint.

Glen Ferguson continued his impressive comeback with an excellent fourth placing overall and a bronze medal in the M40-44 age group. His time in the 8km race was 28.23. Conor Delahunty was the next Otago and Leith runner, coming in 7<sup>th</sup> overall and winning the silver in the M35-39 age group. Alan Funnell completed the Otago silver medal winning team line up with a time of 29.31, 14<sup>th</sup> overall and a bronze in the M35-39 group.

Neale McLanachan was the only Leith senior athlete to complete, finishing in a very creditable 20<sup>th</sup> place in a time of 42.29 for the 12km race. This was after a duel with former clubmate Steve O'Callaghan.

## **Port Road Races**

**Junior races report by Rod McCall.** The U12 children's race (one lap of the Union St, Forth St, Dundas St, Butts Rd 2.4 km loop) had a large field of 16 runners. This has been consistent with all the U12 races this season. It's good to see and it's good for the sport. Leith had 2 runners competing, Liam McCall and Paige Aitcheson. Both ran strongly over the 2.5k distance. Liam was placed 5th in the boys and 7 overall. His time was 10.31. Paige placed 4th girl and 9 overall in a time of 11.06. Both runners were not far off a podium spot. Well done to them both.

In the U14 race (two laps – 4.8 km), Talia Allison ran very well to finish second in this race in a time of 24 minutes 25 seconds for the 4.8 km circuit.

**Senior race report by Marc Boullé.** In the 12.8 km race, Peter Nees ran exceptionally well to finish fourth overall and the second man home in a time of 59 mins 12 seconds. Nees also won the Civil Service trophy for the first Masters Man 50 to finish.

Meredith Molloy, keen to defend her woman's title from last year, almost matched that feat by finishing second woman and third overall in 50 minutes 44 seconds. This was also 4<sup>th</sup> fastest time and a huge improvement of over 4 minutes from her 2005 time.

Kirsty Morris was second fastest woman in 48 minutes 1 second. The team of Molloy, Morris and Claire Kinraid won the women's teams race (3 to count).



Meredith Molloy ran an impressive time of 50:44 in the Port Road Race and was 2<sup>nd</sup> woman and 3<sup>rd</sup> overall.

## **Clyde to Alex Road Races**

Traditionally a highlight of the harrier season, the 2006 Clyde to Alex was no exception with a happy return to a full Leith busload, some excellent performances, favourable running conditions and a great trip home on the bus.

The weather was a gusty norwester with mild temperatures, ie perfect conditions to set some fast times and Leith runners did not disappoint with many personal bests recorded.

The day's events started with the 10km walk in which Janette Anderson was 6<sup>th</sup> woman and 10<sup>th</sup> overall in a large field, with a brisk time of 1.12.17. Leith did not have any competitors in the junior races, so on to the 10km race:

In the Open Women Kirsty Morris and Meredith Molloy were 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, both recording PBs with 36:09 and 39:03 respectively. Kirsty shaved off almost 3 minutes from her time last year. Next was Sarah Goldsmith in a time of 45:20, followed by Claire Kinraid in 51:00. Also competing was Karen Hartshorn, who joined the Leith bus and ran under 50 minutes for the first time with 48:43. In the veteran women, Jan Coffey (6<sup>th</sup>) ran well to break 45 minutes. Clare Pascoe, Jacinta Neilson and Rachel Feldman also ran well, recording 9<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> places.

The Open Men field was very competitive this year with Luke Hurring filing a race record in 29:25 and Eddie Smith (2<sup>nd</sup>) also running under 30 minutes. Leith had an impressive nine runners in this grade and at least 5 obtained PBs (and not just for 10k, some were recorded at the 3 and 5k mark as well! Neale McLanachan started fast and although slowing a little in the middle of the race was able to finish strongly in a PB of 32:09. Ten seconds back Andrew Lonie also recorded a PB of 32:19, just managing to edge out Benje Patterson. Conor Delahunty (33:05) and Alan Funnell (33:29) continued their good National Cross Country form with two more PBs. Geoff Williamson and Mark O'Donnell were next Leith men with 35:22 and 35:45 (PB). Grant McDougall had a great run to record 38:24, heading a group of five which included Julian O'Hagan and Steve Munro a few seconds back.

Leith was also well represented in the Veteran Men (40+ for this event) with seven runners – over a quarter of the field in that grade. Glen Ferguson won this grade decisively in an excellent time of 31:38, not far off his best. He was also fifth overall. Next were Dave Rush in 34:57, Brian Pascoe (still suffering the effects of injury) in 36:37, Rod McCall in 37:04, Pete Hughes in 40:35, Marc Doesburg in 45:36, and

Martin Hickley in 47:20. Ron McLay Barnes still claimed fastest time of 8 minutes flat on the bus though.

Finally the 'Masters Men' (50+): Marc Boullé also won this grade with a time of 36.47, strangely enough exactly the same time he would run two weeks later at the National Road Champs. He managed to stave off arch rival Gene Sanderson by 18 seconds. Dave McLean, Ed Stevens and the in-form Graham Anderson were clustered around the 39 minute mark in a group which also included Shorty Morris and Meredith Molloy. Pete Nees continued his good form from the Port Road Race with a good time of 43:48, and Tim Bain finished in 54:52.

The highlights of the trip home were joining up with Arika at the Beaumont Hotel for a meal, watching the rugby (not much of that with the packed out pub and small screens) and a spot of karaoke. The Leith men could not (in fact did not!) compete with the Arika boys who proved to be seasoned entertainers; fortunately the Leith reputation was held up by the Leith women with a great rendition of ABBA's 'Dancing Queen'.



Julian O'Hagan enjoying the bus ride home.

Irishman Conor had to be dragged away from his beer in order to keep to schedule for the Undy 500 with Arika in Lawrence – as it was Arika jumped the gun and were all at the finish by the time Leith got started, although Eddie Smith did have the grace to hide in a dark alley and spring out to burgle the Leith race 100 metres from the finish.

Another great Clyde to Alex trip, one of the best by all accounts; we hope to see similar numbers competing next year!

## **Peninsula Relay**

### **Leith # 2 Team Report by Peter Hughes.**

Starting well back in the handicaps 42mins we had two main aims - catch Arika Masters team off 39min and stay ahead of Leith #1 off 52min.

Legs 1-3 saw Peter Hughes, Graham Anderson and smoking Chris Sole take 2 minutes out of Arika. (Leith #1 hadn't caught us).

A good downhill and Grant McDougall handed over to Jon Henning for a quick blast to Broad Bay. Still no sign of Leith #1 (coffee was good at Portobello eh Graham?).

Greg Cook raced through to Macandrew Bay to a fired up Scooter, who did just that through the long seventh leg (still no #1 Team!).

Late replacement Mark O'Donnell ran strongly but comfortably to the finish - Arika Masters only about a minute ahead of us, and YES! no Leith #1 team yet - a good day. After a finalisation of placings we ended up third overall - a very good day! Thanks Team.

*The Leith #2 Team ended up with 6th fastest time of 2 hrs 27.16 mins. The predicted time was 2 hrs 29 mins.*

**Leith # 1 Team Report by Marc Boullé.** We started off 52 minutes with Caversham # 1. Rod McCall was our first runner footing it with Caversham's Ian McDonald who lasted about 1.5 km before letting Rod get away. Rod did a steady 17:06 to the Shiel Hill Tavern (4.4km) handing to a revved up Steve Munro who powered up the hill to Centre Road (3.2km) to finish with a solid 12:59.



David Rush took over then and set off on the undulating 3rd leg (4.7km) to Pukehiki. David Rush accomplished this in 17:22 handing to a determined Steve Skilling who set about his task of tackling the demanding downhill 4th Leg (7.1km) with a vengeance. Our transport battled to keep up with his blistering pace but managed to get Marc Boullé to the start of the 5th leg in Portobello in time to meet Steve who ended up with 3rd fastest time of 22:14 for the leg.



Peninsula Relay: Rod McCall springs up the first leg to Shiel Hill tavern.

Marc Boullé, relishing the prospect of the predominantly flat short 3.2km leg to Broad Bay, was quick into his stride putting in a bit of a burner on the last 300m of the leg to finish in 11:49 (3rd Fastest) to hand over to Alan Funnell for the 6th leg. Alan put in a steady run over the 4.9km leg steadily narrowing the distance between him and Hill City's Kellie Palmer to finish in Macandrew Bay with 3rd fastest time of 16:39.

Fresh from a postal run warm-up, Ray Knox arguably put in the run of the day for the Leith #1 team to chase Courtney Quirin of Hill City and eventually passing her by Andy Bay Inlet on the

long 8.4km to Teviot Street. Ray finished with fourth fastest time of 29:11.

Andrew Lonie now took over for the final 3.9km to Wickliffe Street and he put in a real blast on this leg to finish with second fastest time of 12:12 to bring the team home in 6th position with third fastest time in 2 hrs 19.32 just 1 min 32 secs adrift of our predicted time.

#### **Leith Mixed Team Report by Clare Pascoe.**

The Leith Composite team consisting of Alison Perry, Peter Nees, Jacinta Neilson, Jan Coffey, Talia Allison, Rachel Feldman, Clare Pascoe and Bill Kenny all ran exceptionally well to finish midway in the field. The weather conditions were perfect and a great day was had by all with everyone performing to their best ability.

The team had started off go and held on to the lead until the 6th lap. This was a great effort considering the quality of the chasing teams. The mixed team finished with a time of 3 hrs 13.56 secs to finish in a creditable 12th position.

#### **Leith Women Team Report by Marc Boullé.**

The Leith Women Team consisting of Jan Brosnahan, Meredith Molloy, Jan Craig, Julia Clearwater, Lily Clearwater, Rachel Sloan, Kirsty Morris, Sarah Goldsmith finished in 13th Position.

The team started in 7th position off 24 minutes. At the end of Jan Craig's leg 3 the team had pulled back one position to be lying 6th. By the end of leg 5 the team were back in 7th position and looking strong. However, the chasing teams were gathering momentum and the team eventually managed to hold on to 13th position with a time 2 hrs 50 secs.

### **National Road Champs**

With the national 10km road champs being held in Christchurch this year, a strong contingent of Leith athletes attended. All were running for the Otago centre on the back of good performances in the Clyde to Alex 10km and other recent races.

Athletics Otago organised excellent transport and accommodation with a choice of three vans going up at different times on the Friday and a comfortable, quiet (apart from the athletes!) motel. Many thanks also to the team managers

Richard Barker and Julie Wilson, who did a great job of the organisation including running everyone around between the course, town and the motel.

The Bottle Lake course was testing to run as it involved several there-and-back laps with tight turns, however being designed for rubbish trucks the road was hard and flat with no camber, and the pine trees provided some shelter from the windy conditions. It was also a good course for spectators who were able to see the athletes pass several times, and it was exciting to run with plenty of Otago support on the sidelines.

Bill Kenny was awarded the silver medal in the M70-74 age group, clocking an impressive sub-50 minute time of 49.43 in the hot and windy conditions. Bill certainly looked very relaxed having a kip before the race in the Athletics Otago tent which must have helped!



Glen on the podium with his silver medal in the Mens 40-44 age group at the national road champs. Richard Bennett with gold at right.

Leith had 3 out of the 4 runners selected to run for Otago in the M50-54 age group: Marc Boullé, 'mad' Dave McLean and Ed Stevens. Dave had even invested in a pair of running socks rather than his standard wool-flecked work socks for the big event. Marc 'Mr Consistent' Boullé attained 7<sup>th</sup> place in a time of 36.47. Dave and Ed came in

just either side of the 40 minute mark in 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> place in their age group.

Another sterling performance from Glen Ferguson, who was 2<sup>nd</sup> in the M40-44 age group and 4<sup>th</sup> masters man overall, led the Otago Masters Men team of himself, Graham Sinnamon, Richard Fogarty and Peter Bromley to a bronze teams medal.

In the Senior Men's event Otago had put forward a strong team which included the in-form Luke Hurring and Eddie Smith. Luke and Eddie were 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> in 30.30 and 30.44, leading the team to a silver medal. They were well backed up by Andrew Davidson (9<sup>th</sup>), Benje Patterson (21<sup>st</sup>), James List (26<sup>th</sup>), Andrew Lonie (28<sup>th</sup>), Neale McLanachan (30<sup>th</sup>) and Tom Refoy-Butler (31<sup>st</sup>). Elliot O'Sullivan, also ran bravely for Otago, but suffering the effects of the flu, had to pull out.

In the Senior Women's event Kirsty Morris was unable to perform to full potential for the same reason but was nevertheless close to 40 minutes in the difficult conditions, just ahead of Meredith Molloy, also running for Otago. Julia Scoones ran well for 10<sup>th</sup> place in a time of 38.50. The Otago women's team performed outstandingly to claim the gold medal with Kellie Palmer, Maria Akesson, Courtney Quirin and Sarah Chisnall filling up places 2 to 5 behind national champion Jess Ruthe (who beat half the Otago senior men runners!).

Leith did not have any masters women running but the Otago centre did, with several medals resulting: Julie Wilson, Gold W45-49; Marion Maxwell, Bronze W45-49; Dalise Sanderson, Silver W50-54; Barbara Patrick, Gold W55-59. In the Mens U19, Sam Kidd, Callan Moody, Tony Payne and Tom Hunt proved a great team winning the teams gold medal and also providing some great support during the senior and masters race.

## **Otago Road Champs**

Marc Boullé

**Boys U12 2500m 1 lap.** Liam McCall and Hayden Cleminson continued with their good form shown during the season to finish 4th and 6th respectively with times of 10 minutes 20 seconds and 10 minutes 33 seconds.

**Open 5000m 2 laps.** Mark O'Donnell was unable to compete in the Otago Championship 10k Road Race due to a birthday celebration in the family, but he was able to compete in this race, which he did in fine style by winning in 17 minutes 40 seconds. Julian O'Hagan was second with a flying finish to post a good 18 minutes 23 seconds. Bill Kenny ran well to finish 8th in 23 minutes 3 seconds while Jim Flynn who is recovering from a severe knee injury finished 10th in 29 minutes 44 seconds.

**Girls U14 4000m 2 laps.** Sarah Thomas had only the boys to compete with but she maintained her form to finish with a good time of 17 minutes 38 seconds.

**All ages handicapped 10000m 5 laps.** Steve Skilling was always going to be in with a chance as the fastest runner by far in this 14 field handicap race. He was off a handicap of just over 16 minutes and set about catching the whole field. Ivan Bell of Caversham managed to hold him off by about 30 seconds. Steve finished second with fastest time of 36 minutes 1 second.

**Senior Women 10000m 5 laps.** Kirsty Morris once again, as in the Clyde Dam to Alexandra Road Race, ran a tactically sound race, letting Courtney Quirin and Kellie Palmer set the pace while she held back before setting about catching them. She finished very strongly to be only 7 seconds adrift of Kellie Palmer (2nd in 36:56) and less than a minute behind Courtney Quirin (1st in 36:19) finishing in 3rd place with a time of 37 minutes 3 seconds. This showed that her run in the National Road Championships in Christchurch, where she was battling a flu virus, was only a slight hiccup in her improving running performances. Great stuff Kirsty.

**Senior Men 10000m 5 laps.** Neale McLanachan was our sole performer in the Senior Men's grade finishing 8th in 32 minutes 55 seconds to maintain his level of performances for this winter season.

**Masters Men 10000m 5 laps.** Alan Funnell finished the 2006 winter season with a great win in the Masters Men's grade to beat Alan Keen of Ariki into second place with a time of 34 minutes 29 seconds. Ray Knox making a steady comeback finished in 4th position in 36 minutes

16 seconds while Brian Pascoe still battling a niggling groin injury was not far back in 5th position with a time of 36 minutes 50 seconds. The team of Funnell, Knox and Pascoe won the teams event.

**Masters Men 50+ 10000m 5 laps.** Marc Boullé suffered from a big head by trying to foot it with some faster runners than himself and got spat out the window to finish in second place to his eternal rival Gene Sanderson of Taieri in the Men's 50 grade with a time of 38 minutes 11 seconds. A fast finishing and rejuvenated Graham Anderson finished in third place with a time of 39 minutes 34 seconds. Alistair McAlevey now running into form was not far off the pace in finishing in 5th position in 40 minutes 13 seconds. Ed Stevens was 6th in 40 minutes 23 seconds. The team of Boullé, Anderson and McAlevey won the teams event.

## Next issue

Keep a look out for the next issue which will include coverage of track season and all the summer off road events

- Leith athletes do well in Invercargill
- Bill Kenny claims three golds at Pan Pacifics
- Glen Ferguson 4<sup>th</sup> in Kepler Challenge
- Waipori Footrace

and more!

Remember, articles/photos for the next issue can be emailed to Andrew Lonie at

## **Contacts**

---

President: Brian Pascoe  

---

Harrier Captain (Men): Richard  
Hendry  

---

Entry Steward: Marc Boullé  

---

Treasurer: Adele Poulter 03-  
4546407  

---

Harrier Captain (Women): Meredith  
Molloy 03-4531473  

---

Walkers Convenor: Janette  
Anderson ph 03-4762830  

---