

## Taranaki Race Walking Club Serena's Sprint 14 April 2019

A second glorious day with ideal conditions for our race today, although Serena assures us, it's always like that in Inglewood. We arrived at the farm with the course already laid out by Dave W and with the absence of Arthur, he took over the water job as well, very important on a warm day like this.

Today's race was different from normal, on this course. Instead of a normal handicap race, we were given Eric's proposed time for 10km and then had to give our timekeeper Peter D the time we wanted to start, so we could finish the race alongside Eric. I got given the job of working out Marlene's & Sue's start times, as well as my own. Sue wasn't plugged in when I told her time over the telephone, so ended up putting a time in, 3mins over the time I told her. She was to pay for this error.

The course was 2km per lap but there was a 500m cone set out for those doing 5km. Serena had remarked before the race, that she intended doing the two longest legs first and leaving the short leg to last. A good idea I thought, better to do the 1km lap last when you are feeling tired.

MaryAnne, fresh from her time away, was first off the grid, and by the time Dave started she was out of sight. Anne was next 15s after Dave with Gaylene a further 16s behind her.

When MaryAnne had finished her first 2km, followed by Anne who had already overtaken Dave and leading him by 30m, Peter F hadn't even started. He didn't start until 14min after Gaylene, with Eric 1m 24s after Peter. By then Gaylene had finished her first lap but only had a few seconds lead before Eric took off after her.



Then we had all the 5km walkers going off after a 12min wait. First was Marlene just after 10.00am, then Brian 2min later, then Sue who was now 7min behind Brian due to her revised time and only 2min in front of Serena whose wing is getting better by the day. Just over 3min later, so Laura who had joined us for the race, set off. Lucky last was Ross, who had opted for the shorter distance, as he's not been doing any training due to an ankle injury, so started 2min after Laura. I saw these two a couple of times and were both walking well but at one stage Ross was about 100m behind but closed the gap a bit every time I saw them.

Peter F finished his first lap with MaryAnne about 100m behind him and Eric a further 60m back. Anne finished her first lap now about 300m ahead of Dave.

As I was walking towards the 500m mark, Marlene was walking back towards me; obviously doing the short lap first I thought. I found out later on, that is what Sue did as well.

By the time I got to the end of my first lap, I was only 100m ahead of Gaylene and it only took her a further 600m for her to steam past. By now everyone was on the course and nothing seemed to be altering other than distances between some walkers increasing or decreasing. At one stage Serena was only 10m behind Eric. The next time I saw them that gap was about 300m. I don't know if Eric decided to get rid of her and sped up or the pace was too much for her.

From what I could see, the races within the race were between Anne holding off Dave, Laura holding off Ross and Peter staying ahead of Eric. Everyone else was doing their own thing.

As I turned for the last time, I was relieved knowing I only had 1km to do. Approaching the 500m mark I saw Marlene coming toward me and we met at the turnaround cone.



A short distance behind me was Serena and it was only a few metres later she passed us, saying she was going too fast and would be miles out on her time. “I wish this had been a handicap race” she remarked, knowing this would have given her top points.

She was dead right of course about being too fast. So was Marlene and I but we were chuffed knowing we had both got that little bit faster. Serena crossed the line 100m ahead of me and I was about 80m ahead of Marlene. Next was Anne, who had won the race with Dave, although he had really narrowed the gap down to 80m.

Much to my surprise Ross was next but only about 10m over Laura. He’d obviously been conserving his energy for that last sprint to the line. Peter was only about 10m behind Laura and 30m ahead of Eric. Eric fended off the run in by Gaylene and won by a nose. MaryAnne was about 300m behind Gaylene with Sue 30m behind her.

Now if Sue had put down the correct time, she’d been fourth and not last. As the sergeant major used to say in the TV show, *It’s Not Half Hot Mum*, “Oh dear, how sad.”

I must admit there was some good estimates out there with seven people just up to 33sec out. No doubt this won’t be lost on our handicapper for the next race?

Many thanks for our two officials on the day, Peter D & Dave W and Serena for her home-made butter, to show what us ‘Townies’ are missing out on. I really must get the recipe for that.

**VIEW FROM THE MIDDLE**

<b>Serena's Sprint</b>	Grade	Age	dist	est Start time	actual Finish time	Race Time	diff	Pts
<b>Eric's Estimated Finish Time</b>							<b>10:48:30</b>	
Dave Barrett	M	75	10	9:31:00	10:48:40	1:17:40	0:00:10	8
Anne Fraser	W	60	10	9:31:15	10:48:17	1:17:02	0:00:13	7
Ross Allen	M	60	5	10:15:26	10:48:46	0:33:20	0:00:16	6
Laura Kehely	J	16	5	10:14:30	10:48:52	0:34:22	0:00:22	5
Peter Fox	M	60*	10	9:46:51	10:49:01	1:02:10	0:00:31	4
Eric Kemsley	M	65	10	9:48:15	10:49:02	1:00:47	0:00:32	3
Gaylene Phillips	W	60	10	9:33:00	10:49:03	1:16:03	0:00:33	2
Marlene White	V	70	5	10:00:46	10:47:30	0:46:44	0:01:00	2
Brian O'Shea	V	80	5	10:02:45	10:47:01	0:44:16	0:01:29	2
Serena Coombes	W	50	5	10:11:10	10:46:28	0:35:18	0:02:02	2
MaryAnne Costeloe	W	60	10	9:26:30	10:51:37	1:25:07	0:03:07	2
Sue Park	V	75	5	10:09:00	10:51:50	0:42:50	0:03:20	2

Timekeepers - Peter D, Dave W

Name	Total	Wind Up	Serena Sprint
<b>Points Trophy Accumulation 2019</b>			
Dave Barrett	14	6	8
Sue Park	10	8	2
Anne Fraser	9	2	7
Gaylene Phillips	9	7	2
Ross Allen	8	2	6
Eric Kemsley	7	4	3
Peter Fox	6	2	4
Helen Baverstock	5	5	
Lauara Keehley	5		5
Brian O'Shea	4	2	2
Dave Wackrow	4	2	2
Marlene White	4	2	2
Peter Dent	4	2	2
Serena Coombes	4	2	2
Michelle Nicholson	3	3	
Arthur Lester	2	2	
Frances Kemsley	2	2	
MaryAnne Costeloe	2		2