

Taranaki Race Walking Club Pukekura Wind Up 7 April 2019

A new programme this season and as the saying goes “Those who will be last shall be first” and so it was, with the Wind Down now the Wind Up. It was also Daylight Saving and this year ‘You know who’ happened to get things right and was on time.

So, what a glorious morning to start the season off. The mountain was completely covered in snow and the sun was shining in a cloudless blue sky but it was cold in the shade though. Peter F said it had been raining for days in Hawera and was still going when he left this morning, to make matters worse, he said the sun was shining in Stratford.

Peter D & Dave W were on timing, with Francis & Arthur driving around the course making sure everyone was ok. Eric welcomed us all, cautioned us about the open road and read out the handicaps based on last year’s efforts.

Then it was the off, with Brian & Marlene on scratch with Sue a couple of minutes behind. Pretty uneventful until we turned into and were about 50m into Somerset St, when Sue caught us. Despite being warned she would pay next race, with a higher handicap, she slowly pulled away from us. I upped my pace to stay in contact but half way along Kaimata St, Marlene had to slacken off, by then Sue would have been 100m ahead of us.

Along Brooklands I heard Francis asking if Marlene was ok and stayed cruising along for the rest of the race keeping an eye on her, so thanks for that Francis.

I looked back a short time later and saw a long line of white shirts spaced at intervals catching me up. It was half way up the hill before Victoria St that Dave passed me.



Even when I told him there were two cans on the pavement behind us, it was no inducement for him to go back for them. “My handicap isn’t good enough for that” he remarked.”

Gaylene was next to pass and wasn’t very far behind Dave, whom she beat to cross the line ahead. Then Helen strode passed on the downhill section, then Michelle a short time later. The last time I looked back just as I was turning into Gilbert St, I saw what I thought was Anne coming up and started to dig it in. A short time later, Eric flashed past me and going by the finishing order, he must have overtaken Michelle during the last few hundred metres.

Now how can I mistake him for Anne, especially as she was wearing her club blue thermal? I really must get Michelle to make an appointment for me at the opticians.

Anyway, I kept up my pace and crossed the line followed by Ross and then Peter. I went back into Liardet St to see where Marlene was and saw her being cuddled and encouraged up the hill by Anne and Serena. So, there you go guys, if you want a cuddle, come last!

The walk wasn’t enough for Helen because Michelle took her to the Coastal Walkway, so she could have coloured powder thrown over her.

Then it was all around to Dave W & Lynda’s for a chat and cuppa, with Sue being given the cup as first across the line much to her surprise. Make the most of it Sue, the handicapper won’t be so generous again.

Talking of handicappers, ours was at a disadvantage today with a damaged wing which slowed her right down. Tell me it wasn’t the one you had wrapped around Marlene to assist her up the hill was it Serena?

VIEW IN THE MIDDLE

