

"2008 Caboolture Historical Village National 24/48 hr Run/Walk Event"

Thursday evening saw Caboolture Motel play host with dinner to nineteen people consisting of competitors, crew people and volunteers. It was a social night to mix & meet. Well done to Sharon & Chris, thanks.

Friday morning came with clear sunny skies. The Village shone clear & fresh ready for this great endurance challenge ahead. As 9am approached a couple of short speeches were made by the President Roger Dunstan and Deputy Mayor Councillor Greg Chippendale before starting the competitors off to the sound of an old cow bell.

The start consisted of 6 runners & 5 walkers all being males, coming from NSW, VIC, SA & NZ.

Quickly from the start Martin Fryer took the lead, clocking up 22 laps in the 1st hour followed by Tony Collins with 20 laps then Robert Boyce & David Billett with 19 laps. The walkers were very challenging with Andrew Ludwig, Deryck Skinner & Lou Collins covering 15laps, followed by Ian Valentine & Craig Welsh from NZ on 12laps.

In the first 12 hours Martin continued being the pace setter repeatedly running over 10kph with Robert consistently holding 2nd place just under 9kph. Closely behind was David traveling around 8kph. The master tactician Tony Collins was keeping a close eye on proceedings ahead. As for the walkers, after 12 hours Andrew was covering over 7kph followed by Ian on 7kph & Deryck just over 6.5kph.

As the next 12hrs progressed, Martin showed human aspects by slowing, allowing Robert to close the gap slightly. Whilst behind, David took time off allowing Tony to pass, moving to 3rd just 10 laps behind Robert. The walkers still strong, with Andrew now showing Deryck his heels, after passing Ian who withdrew after 21hrs. The weather was still fine with a cooler night. Saturday repeated the previous clear sunny day with a slight increase in the temperature gauge.

Before we knew it, we were into another great event, the 24hour. This event initially stated with 8 competitors, 2 of which were ladies. But sadly, Shaz Scholz injured herself prior to the event. Her withdrawal was filled by hubbie Justin who had the week previously completed an ultra. Wanting to support the event & help out they traveled up with Shaz on crutches. Hence the start still numbered eight, with now only one lady.

On the start line was a list of pedigree runners from the west coast to the east and New Zealand. When the word "Go" was shouted, the pace was on. Quickly in the first hour Tim Cochrane was one lap up on Mick Francis, with Dave Southerland from NZ, Nathan Fawkes (WA), Lindsay Phillips (QLD), Paul Every (NSW), & Justin Scholz (Vic) behind, on the same laps. Tina was just out there doing her thing keeping out of trouble. By the 3rd hour the weekend before did its damage to Justin forcing his withdrawal. Sadly another three hours on saw Paul Every withdraw. I think that was due to the hot weather. As for the others Mick was taking control from Tim with Dave from NZ showing great strength. At 9pm Mick was controlling 1st place then Dave from NZ running like a man on a mission from Nathan in 3rd, then Tim, Lindsay & Tina. During the next hour, the 13th saw the withdrawal of more top class runners Dave & Tim, catapulting Nathan into 2nd, Lindsay 3rd & Tina 4th. For the remaining 11 hrs the positions did not change only the distances apart increased.

At 6pm was the start of the 6hr event, with originally seven starters. Two did not arrive while Kerrie Bremner trackside, withdrew to assist Martin in his goal of finishing the 48hrs, with an Australian record. Four males set off for their 6hr event. John Pearson ran freely around for 6hrs displaying great strength & vigor, reaching 65.5k. Brendan Greenwood being sponsored each lap was raising money for a Solomon Is church Pastor in need of a kidney transplant, achieved his

goal of 50k, in 2nd place. Blair Venn was 3rd, followed by Tony Collins crew person Mark Tuxford. Does this mean Tony's running is contagious or you don't need to be crewed for so often? With the 6hr run was a 6hr relay. The team named themselves "Run for Nathan", for that was what they were here to do. Each lap was being sponsored, as like Brendan's. Half way into the 6 hr event, two other events started, a 3hr & 12hr. The 12hr started with three competitors being Susannah Harvey-Jamieson, Deane Nobbs & Paul Monks, while the 3hr starters were Michael Shultz, Mellani McArthur, Joe Raftery, Karen Wiersma, Adrian Pearce & Alun Davies.

In the 12hr event, Deane Nobbs ran fast and steady for 4hours, when into the 5th hour she was passed by Susannah who went on confidently showing her strength & stamina to win with 230 laps, from Deane 210 laps & Paul 140. The 3hr competitors were headed by Adrian but there after remains a mystery, as they took their sheets before enabling printing.

During all this excitement the 48hr event continued. With 9 hours remaining, Martin was still strongly focused on his plan & goal. He was 162 laps up on his closest competitor Tony Collins, while David Billett a further 57 laps behind. As for the walkers, Andrew Ludwig was leading Deryck Skinner by 4 laps. After all the hours on the track the strength & endurance of these top competitors was amazing. Through the early hours of Sunday morning the temperature reduced, noticeably comforting some competitors allowing them to move quicker & more upright. The sun rose Sunday morning displaying another clean fresh Village with huge activity trackside. With the last couple of hour remaining the reserved energy & spring in the tired legs returned, pushing competitors forward more enthusiastically.

The event finished by sounding the siren of a retired fire engine. Suddenly that energy was lost as competitors slumped, after putting so much into the last few laps. Finally, was the expression read on their faces, it's finished.

Time was allowed for showering & comforting, before presentations. During the presentation Martin told us of his now new record as Australian born Ultra Champion. He is very deserving of this title. Well done to all finishers. Many spectators were astonished at what you were doing & what you had done. Thank you to all competitors for supporting the inaugural Historical Village 24/48hr events. Commiserations to those who did not finish, maybe next time.

I wish to thank very much the small group of volunteers. Mainly my wife Betty for her many hours in the kitchen cooking, Ann, Diane & Kim for being at the start Friday to lapscore & continuing on to the finish, with very little rest, and Joe for his computer work & updates. Thanks to others who popped in & relieved where possible. Although not programmed for this Ann, Diane & Kim worked it very well. Betty found cooking so many meals for different palates very demanding. She learnt Tony Collins likes his scrambled eggs & mash potatoes very moist, once achieved Tony was happy. Thanks to the Caboolture Historical Village Society for allowing this inaugural event. I know they had to turn away couples wanting to book the area for weddings which was costly to them. Although a handsome cheque will be forwarded to the Society, it is still short of wedding bookings.

I would like to thank the businesses for their support and donations being – Endura, Iplex Pipelines, Caboolture Motel, Club Caboolture /RSL, Twisted Arm Tavern, Eagle Boys Morayfield, Woolworths Morayfield, CJ'S Pastries Caboolture, The Run Inn.

Thanks again to all competitors & volunteers. Remember we are not professionals but lovers of the sport, so if you believe there is somewhere we came improve for you in the future we are happy to listen.

Cheers

Geoff & Betty Williams