

Round 8 Saturday December 5th. Box Hill

The threatened showers didn't arrive and either did a lot of the athletes. Numbers were down in all events although Collingwood's roll up was pretty good.

We welcomed another three first time members and another three first appearances for the season. Veteran **Paul Twining** turned up to support our 40+ team, while talented **Julian Warhurst** was back, having put year 12 behind him. Good to see **Sean O'Neill** back again. His presence certainly strengthens the U/16s.

Charlie Cromb is another to make the transition from Little Aths and his talents (over 10m in the triple jump yesterday) will be of great value to the U/14 squad as will newcomer **Andre Chambers** who made his debut in the one lap event recording a promising 61.17 secs. **Shane Jolley** also looked good in his 400, although Shane had already run a quick leg in our Divvy 1 relay earlier in the day.

One of the highlights of the day was the number of athletes who had a go at something new. This is always good for two reasons. Apart from the obvious points gained for the Club, there is always a chance a potential champion will be unearthed.

Our youngest competitor **Anthony Neale** had a go at the 2k walk. A hard way to start a walking career, but Anthony will get valuable points in the shorter trundle in the under 14 finals.

It is a long time since Collingwood has had eight relay teams on the one day, but we saw it yesterday. Four of our junior girls combined to give our senior Divvy 2 team their first relay team of the season. Well done girls!

The under 16 girls had three 1500m runners. **Ailsa Buckle** has done it before however **Rachel Barnes** and **Hannah Garganis** did the job to get the points. The under 16s need this sort of effort to make the finals. At the start of the season they did not have the clientele they have now and thus did not win too many premierships points. Their big challenge now is to make the finals – should they get there, *you just never know!*

Elli Hesse was also very impressive for our 16s with a 13.25sec.100m. Only **Corinna Minko** in our Divvy 1 team did better for the Maggies on the day with 12.72secs. **Tilly Southwood** had her first hit out in the 400m for the Club. Terrific finish down the straight and will improve greatly with some more training out of the blocks.

Consistent **Daniel Cobern** cleared 1.90m again in the high jump. Just can't take the next step at the moment – but it'll come! **Craig Servinis** recorded his best for quite a while in the same event. His 1.45 was handy for the club.

Boylen's Babes continue to blitz the pole vault competition. **Adam Garganis** made his competitive debut in the event with 1.75m for the under 14s. **Tim Amanatidis** (U/16) cleared 2.35m in only his second go while **Jess Neale** broke her **Club U/14 Record** for

the second time this season since establishing the initial mark some months ago. Her 2.20m added 5cm to the old record.

Ken Duxbury's run in the 3000m in a tick over 11 minutes was his best for a while.

Our middle distance tyros continued their run of PBs.

Mason Barnes ran the 1500 and the 400 yesterday for another two best performances. That makes 12 PBs out of 13 events in the black and white this season over 400, 800, 1500 and 3000m. His 4:21.7 was a six second improvement while he knocked half a sec. off his best 400 time with 54.1. (His throwing effort behind the trees after the 1500 was not a club record!) Fourteen year old **Jason McCormack** joined in the fun, this time slashing eight seconds off his best to record 4:31.9. That's 5 PBs out of 5 runs over 800, 1500 and 3000m for Jacob this season. Promising 12 year old **Ben Cox** also improved his time over the 'metric mile' recording 5:28.4, a 5 second best.

Officials: We needed extras this week as Collingwood had some extra duties to perform. Luckily **Santo Lantieri** and **Grant Sargent** were able to help out. The Club was missing **Kevin Wigmore** who was down in Tassie helping out at the National Schools competition, but **Judy Mason, Diana Barnett, Lyn Humphris, Tony Willams, Ian Fisher** and **Brian Moore** all performed above and beyond, as usual.