

Venue Final Saturday February 6th. Box Hill

A day of mixed fortunes - mostly good - some terrific!

The day got off to an annoying start with A.V.'s decision to hold the hammer at Doncaster. While the reasons were OK, the timing was terrible. Everyone has known for some time that the hammer facility at Box Hill is not up to scratch. A decision should have been made (much) earlier! All hammer throwers had to make their way to Doncaster sometime during the day. It worked, but it was not easy for everybody.

Collingwood had eight teams in the mix. We were pretty confident about our **U/14 boys**, but the other teams were unknown quantities. Diamond Valley's failure to make the Divvy 1 finals was a blow for us, as this released some good athletes to their **40+** team, thus weakening our hold on that competition. Our **U/14 girls** had only 4 athletes eligible to compete so were thought to be up against it! The **U/16 boys** had a great second half of the season and finished on top of the ladder, but could they match it with the big clubs in the final situation?

You may recall the comment in the report after Round 8 – 'Their big challenge is to make the finals – should they get there, *you just never know!*'

This declaration was about our **U/16 girls**. Well they did make it and went in with a chance.

Our senior teams had mixed predictions. The **Divvy 1 girls** had very few available and a couple of those were severely hampered by injury. Our **Divvy 3 boys** had a good chance, however the '**pride of the fleet**', **Division 1 men** were going to have their backs to the wall in their competition. Despite finishing on top of the ladder, we knew the opposition would have all their big guns in attendance for the day.

Despite having a few people unavailable, **Collingwood still had their best turn up for the season. We had 61 athletes at Box Hill on the day – six more than any other day this season!**

Two of our Divvy 1 team were in South Australia, which of course weakened that team and subsequent lower teams. Our leading U/16 female sprinter, Elli Hesse was sidelined with a particularly bad calf injury. This left us without a relay team in this age group – poor team management – hopefully it won't happen again!

There were **thirty-nine** season best performances on the day! Many of these are sure to be PBs as well. **Lily Walker** recorded six personal bests on the day, five in the U/16s and one in the Divvy 1 team. **Charlie Cromb** had three 'best evers' with the Harriers, while **Jessica Neale, Catherine Corbett, Troy Kameme, Chris Boylen, Danny Hecker** and **Ian Morelli** all had two bests.

Little **Anthony Neale** knocked fifty seconds off his best walk time while **Tim Amanatidis added over 20 metres to his best hammer distance. Yes 20 mts!** His compatriot **Nick Rosa** added 6 mts to his best in the same event!

Paul Twining broke the Club 60-64 5000mts record for the third time this season while the U/16 boys obliterated the 4x400mts. record by slicing **twenty-three seconds** off the mark set earlier this season. This was the first time that **Pier Akec, Sean O'Neill, Will Sheils** and **Jacob McCormack** had all been at the track on the same day. We knew it would happen as soon as we could get them all together.

Tom Lantieri and **Daniel Cobern** were the only two sprinters to record a season's best on the day in the 200m. This was a terrific achievement as there was a decent head wind for much of the day. Incidentally, **Daniel** was our only individual winner in Divvy 1 men, with a good session at the high jump. **Corinna Minko** did likewise in the Division 1 girls with a win in the long jump. It was great to see Corinna back after that terrible injury suffered a couple of weeks ago.

At the end of the day the **U/14 boys were victorious**. Never really in trouble the boys had to stick to their guns as Diamond Valley had a real go! **The U/16 boys also won!** This group produced some very good performances – there is a bit of real talent in this group! **The big performance of the day was the great result in the U/16 girls. Despite having no relay team or walkers, the girls had a very convincing win. They triumphed because we had a lot of girls willing to do any event to make up a team.**

The 40+ team went down to a determined Diamond Valley team. The two throwers from the top team were probably the difference. Our team finished second, so still go through to the Shield final. **Divvy 3** were second at the end of the day.

The **U/14 girls** had a topsy turvy day. Declared the winner at the end of the day, it now seems they did not win. We are waiting to see if they got through in second place. Whatever the result, we will long remember the efforts of the fabulous four!

The **Open girls** were brave, but just didn't have enough bodies. A big mention must go to **Sofie Fabre**, who since the Christmas break has almost carried the team to the finals. A big season's best in the 800m was a great reward for her efforts. The **Division 1 men** were simply not good enough on the day. It shows the Club what we need. We have picked up some good athletes and have some terrific prospects for the future but just at the moment we are a little under done!

Troy Kameme did nine events in division one and three, while **Tim Holmes** did eight. A number of others did a stack as well. The Club cannot expect to win the big one when we are so dependent on a few. Even iron men run out of puff doing so many events in four and half hours.

Both boys did the 400 sticks, the 200m, 800m, the 400 relay, hammer, shot put, long jump and high jump. Troy also did the 5000mts at the end of the day.

Officials: Collingwood again had a great turn up of the important people. **Ian Fisher, Kevin Wigmore, Diane Mastrullo, Diana Barnett, Judy Mason, Tony Williams, Brian Moore, Matthew Webster** and **Lyn Humphris** all did the big jobs. At different times during the day some parents and athletes helped out at the long jump, our allotted task for the afternoon. These included **Claire Garganis, Daniel Sanders, Katie Howard** and **Grant Sargent**. My apologies to anyone I've missed! Thanks also to the taxi drivers who got people to Doncaster for the hammer.

A big thank you to **Jim Hopkins, Rob Barnes** and **Ian Minter** for their help around the tent with scoring and other duties. Jim fought the good fight trying to keep the scores up to date throughout the day, however the muck up with the hammer competition made this an almost impossible task.