**WESTERN ATHLETICS vs GLENHUNTLY 74th CHALLENGE 2020**

**The Arthur Beames contest for the Mrs. A.A. Theobald Shield**

**This year’s contest was held as a “VIRTUAL EVENT” due to the ongoing pandemic. South Australia had its borders closed so Glenhuntly members could not travel there.**

**It proved to be an excellent event with 90 entries from the two clubs plus an open invitation to friends and family to participate. Thank you to all who made the effort. This event has stood the test of time since 1947 (women’s event since 1999).**

**CONGRATULATIONS to our outright winners: Male Dejen Gebresallasie (Invitation) who ran the 3km in 8:36.0, and Female Vanessa Wilson (Glenhuntly) who ran 9:23.0.**

**The results from eligible club members to contest the shield are as follows.**

**MEN’S CHALLENGE (began 1947)**

**GLENHUNTLY WESTERN ATHLETICS**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Ben Kelly 1** |  | **Paul Morgan 5** |
| **Rubin Howard 2** |  | **Harry May 6** |
| **Jack Highnam 3** |  | **Tim Callahan 7** |
| **Sam Toll 4** |  | **Hayden Petherick 8** |

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**WOMEN’S CHALLENGE (began 1999)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Vanessa Wilson. 1** |  | **Casey Wood 2** |
| **Erika Florez. 3** |  | **Victoria Closh 5** |
| **Danna Dekkers. 4** |  | **Hannah Timpani 7** |
| **Bec Kirkham 6** |  | **Jude Lowe. 8** |

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**Well done to Ben Kelly who has won his 6th challenge race to move into second place behind Trevor Vincent who won 7. Keith Lyons (1947-1960) is in third place on 5 wins. In second place was junior Rubin Howard (16) in an outstanding run of 8:59 which is an equal PB. Peter Rushen, club master, and back from a foot injury was our fastest master.There were many excellent runs in the circumstances and it was fantastic to see some of our past winners take part. Arthur Kingsland, who won in 1978 and 1982 and now lives in Newcastle, and Eric Sigmont, winner in 1980 and 1991 and first Ghy to finish in 2010 both contested this year’s run. Eric’s daughter Erica Fountain (Melbourne Commonwealth Games), Hugh Wilson, life member, took part this year 50 years after his first run in 1969 and seven more in the 1970s. Pat Kaufman, club captain in the 1980s, and his daughter Chloe, both contested this year’s event. Another former Club Captain and current competitor , Joe Murphy was another competitor, and he broke 13 minutes,;not bad for a person intheir 60s. It was also great that Club sprinters, past and present, took part. Max Binnington, Kurt Golonka, and Kulan Ranasinghe were welcome participants. Long-time contributors to the WD challenge for over 40 years, Kevin Esmore and Tony Doran, both competed this year, even after their heart operations earlier this year. Both have been fantastic supporters of this event to ensure that it has survived this length of time. Club Olympian Race Walker , Rhydian Cowley, also took part and set himself a sub 12 min challenge for the 3km walk. It was terrific to see so many of our masters athletes take part too, with Kevin Mannix, Victor Cook, Michael Ryan, John Zeleznikow, and others. Another really impressive effort came from 14yo Will Orchard who ran 10:21 for the 3km.It was interesting to see one of the venues listed as around Brighton Cemetary.**

**We also had runners from far and wide. From Alice Springs, Phuket Thailand, Nelson NZ, Newcastle NSW, and Bendigo.. Thank you for taking part.**

**Vanessa Wilson wins her first challenge event with a great performance; 9:23, 17 seconds better than she predicted. Erica Florez also bettered her prediction by 19 seconds. Dana Dekkers, cautious due to recent injuries, ran 1 min 42 sec better than she predicted with a 10:48. Dana has been a great supporter of this event, this being her 6th time. It was good to see Erica Fountain (Sigmont), Sarah Howe (Lund)a past winner, Roz Walker, and Kara Gilbert, both club masters compete too. Julie Norney, a prominent master’s athlete with the Box Hill club was fastest master woman.**

**For Western Athletics, it was good to see that 28 members took part. Paul Morgan, masters, was their fastest male while Casey Wood fastest female. Casey is the daughter of Grenville Wood, who represented Australia in the marathon at the 1983 World Championships and 1986 Commonwealth Games, Casey was third in the 2018 Australian Half Marathon Championship. Grenville is a long time supporter of this event having won it on 3 occasions and last performing as a team member in 2018. Tim Callahan, 7th this year, and Chris Dimitrik have also been a great supporter in recent years. Western Athletics Club President Gaet Aiello has been a major driving force behind his clubs continued support of the event, having made 22 appearance in their team, a record. Trevor Vincent holds our club record at 21 appearances, Gaet missed out on bettering his record this year by finishing just outside his club’s top four. It was great to see Gavin Hall compete, the Hall family being great supporters of the event since the 1970s.**

**It was terrific to see so many new faces from both Clubs take part. THANK YOU.**

**May this event progress forward to its 100th showing in the year 2046.**

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**GLENHUNTLY WIN BOTH MALE AND FEMALE CHALLENGE**

**Overall Race Winners: Male Dejan Gebresalasie (Invitation)**

**Ben Kelly (Glenhuntly)**

**Female Vanessa Wilson (Glenhuntly)**

**Overall Masters Winners: Male Paul Morgan (Western Athletics)**

**Peter Rushen (Glenhuntly)**

**Female Julie Norney (Invitation)**

**Lyn Bullock. (Glenhuntly)**

**Jude Lowe. (Western Athletics)**

**Overall Junior Winners: Male Rubin Howard (Glenhuntly)**

**Female Victoria Closh (Western Athletics)**

**Chloe Kaufman. ( Glenhuntly)**

**see results sheet for full results**

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**There were 90 entries; 50 from GHY, 28 from Western Aths, and 12 friends/others**

**and 73 finishers.**

**37 bettered their predicted time, 34 ran slower, and 3 ran as predicted.**