

Brisbane Marathon, Half Marathon & 10k

Sunday 30th April
by Matt Phillips

YEARS FROM now when race contestants from the 15th Annual Brisbane Marathon Festival tell and retell their tales, they are likely to reflect on the humidity that snuck up on the field and took its toll on many runners. The humidity was recorded at 92% and the temperature was 19 degrees when the gun went for the marathon at 6am. This prompts comparisons with the near identical humidity recorded for the greatest marathon ever run in Australia – at the 1982 Brisbane Commonwealth Games when Rob de Castella out duelled Juma Ikangaa on Coronation Drive and ran away for an amazing win. Most of us can only dream of running like Deek but at least this year's marathon competitors can say they toughed out similar conditions to Deek in a Brisbane marathon!

Taking an early lead in the marathon with a brief surge at the 5k mark was Ironman triathlete, Justin Hunter, backing up barely a month after running a 3.24 marathon on his way to a 9.41 finish in the Port Macquarie Ironman Triathlon. The 32 year old Hunter went through the half in 80.39, just 36 seconds ahead of ageless QLD veteran, Ron Peters and an exciting finish was looking likely until Peters was forced to pull out of the race. Peters' withdrawal suddenly afforded Hunter a clear advantage to his nearest rival, Mark Hinder and he made no mistake, running a strong second lap in rising temperatures to triumph in 2.43.45 with Hinder and

Ron Eglinton filling the minor placings more than ten minutes in arrears. Despite the big win, Hunter admitted that it wasn't all plain sailing saying 'I started hurting at the 37km point and but said to myself, Bigger it – I should be able to hold on!'

In the women's event, star ultra runner and recent Caboolture Dusk to Dawn 6hr winner, Siri Terjesen was the hot favourite. Competing in her 82nd marathon and backing up from a 2.58.35 fourth placing at the Canberra marathon three weeks prior, the 30 year old Terjesen quickly seized the lead and then spent her race unsuccessfully trying to shake the gritty Angela Clarke who was rarely more than two minutes adrift. With Clarke slowly catching on the second lap, Terjesen said 'I was really conscious that she was gaining and I really had to hold myself together the last five kms.' And hold herself together the popular Terjesen did, stopping the clock in 3.13.13 with Clarke and Peggy MacQueen filling the other placings.

The Half marathon event saw local ace Brad Smith, bidding for an amazing fifth consecutive win at this race after winning two marathons and then two half marathons in the last four

years. Indeed, Smith started like a man on a mission gaining an early break on Sydneysider, Chris Truscott and going through 10k in 33.23 with Truscott ten seconds adrift. However, Truscott, with a sub 2.30 marathon on his resume wasn't about to become yet another bridesmaid to Smith, catching up to the classy local on Riverside Drive around the 16k mark and going straight past him. However, Smith fought like a man who owned the race, but Truscott gradually put more distance on his rival before winning in 73.06. A humble Truscott was apologetic at breaking Smith's streak but pleased that he was able to finish strongly after not considering himself in contention until the 16k mark.

The women's Half saw Clare Geraghty continue her amazing rate of improvement this year with yet another runaway win. Sticking to her pre race plan to keep her 5km splits under 18.30, the speedy 19 year old raced to a 77.42 personal best with consistent performers Glenda Banaghan and Courtney McLennan coming in second and third respectively. Geraghty said the thrill of running through the finish chute as the winner never fades – 'Moments like that are why I run.'

Run in warming temperatures, the 10k event saw reigning Brisbane Road Runners Club Champion, Jodie Willett win her second race in a row. Willett saw off an early challenge from Danish



Half Marathon winner – Sydney's Chris Truscott

competitor Helle Fredericksen and then spent the second half of the race battling severely cramping quads that restricted her stride leading her to dryly note 'At 6k, I realised it was going to be a tough day.' Nevertheless, Willett held on to win in 38.36 ahead of the well performed Jenny Young.

Local 1500m specialist

Michael Whiting outgunned Welshman Christian Cobbold in the men's 10km, clocking 33.23 after the duo had earlier gone through 5k together in 16.35. Describing the key moment of the race, Whiting, said 'At 7km I said to myself, I'm going to have a go now and dropped Cobbold right there, before running 3.15 for that km. Still, I didn't feel I had it won until 500m to go.'

After some lean years early this decade, the Brisbane Marathon Festival has clearly rebounded thanks to the enthusiastic efforts of race organisers, Intraining and major sponsor Mizuno. The marathon saw 162 finishers, up from 118 last year, a 37% increase that promises a bright future. **RAYL**



Marathon winner – Justin Hunter



Off and Running in the 2006 Brisbane Marathon

RESULTS

Marathon Men

1. Justin Hunter	2.43.45
2. Mark Hinder	2.55.41
3. Ron Eglinton	2.56.43
4. Daniel Thomas	2.57.05
5. John Searston	2.58.45
6. Paul Jackson	3.00.22
7. Stuart Morrison	3.01.01
8. Glenn Paice	3.02.50
9. Rowan Clarke	3.03.00
10. Bruce Cook	3.03.23

Women

1. Siri Terjesen	3.13.13
2. Angela Clarke	3.15.08
3. Peggy MacQueen	3.19.43
4. Katherine Squire	3.23.08
5. Sharyn Ryder	3.25.45
6. Jane Christensen	3.28.32
7. Deborah McIntyre	3.30.42
8. Emma Hossack	3.45.59
9. Daniella Bruennert	3.49.13
10. Llewellyn Swan	3.50.45

Half Marathon Men

1. Chris Truscott	1.13.06
2. Brad Smith	1.14.04
3. Brendan Seipolt	1.15.07

Women

1. Clare Geraghty	1.17.42
2. Glenda Banaghan	1.22.24
3. Courtney McLennan	1.23.16

10km Men

1. Michael Whiting	33.21
2. Christian Cobbold	33.43
3. Keith Williams	34.26

Women

1. Jodie Willett	38.36
2. Jenny Young	38.53
3. Helle Fredericksen	39.00

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