

Terang Athletic Club 27th November 2011

The Terang athletic carnival was conducted on Sunday on a well prepared and clearly marked track at Terang recreation reserve. Richard Wearmouth and his eager committee had worked tirelessly to provide a good program and the athletes provided a day of competitive racing. Thanks must also go to the committee for the manner in which they looked after the runners and Victorian Athletic League officials. The day started out with an overcast sky but finished as a warm and sunny afternoon.

Terang Co-Op Jack McCunnie 70 metres Backmarkers

In season 2011/12 the VAL will be trialling a system where many of the 70 metre races will be run in a front and back format. This will enable the limit to be increased and include more runners and at the same time allowing the better class athletes to compete in backmarkers events. The first of these backmarkers events was won by the ever consistent Matthew Eddy (4.75) in the time of 7.80 from Lauchlan Dalgleish (5m) and Augustine Carty-Cowling (4.75). With the final also consisting of Cam Dunbar, Matthew Callard, Shane Ezard, Nathan Fox amongst others, this final field would stand up as a worthy final at any VAL carnival. Eddy's winning margin was 1 1/100th of a second ensuring that the Terang judges were on their toes right from the start. Matthew made the long trek from Narre Warren and is trained by VAL stalwart Kerry McConnon. Unfortunately Matthew Callard sustained a hamstring injury and may have to take it easy for the next week or two.

Rotary Club of Terang Jack McCunnie Frontmarkers

The front markers division of the 70 metres was the start of a big day for the Ballarat/Ararat running groups with a narrow win to Marcus Cooper (1.25m) in the time of 8.52 from Paul Keating (1.5) and John Hilditch (4m). Marcus who is competitive in any event he enters staged a close tussle with Keating to win by a tight margin. Marcus, having his first run for the season, is not only running well himself but also trains a small but gifted group of athletes as was displayed later in the afternoon. Unfortunately another runner encountered a hamstring problem with Mark Hignett pulling up sore.

Grant Picone's Pharmacy, Roy Northeast 120 metres Terang gift.

The day's main event was taken out by the multi talented Lauchlan Dalgleish (7.25m) in the time of 12.57 from Augustine Carty-Cowling (8.25) and Rodney Matthews (10.75). Lauchlan, trained by Marcus Cooper, missed out on this week's AFL draft but is hopeful of gaining a spot in the upcoming rookie draft. He qualified for the semi final by finishing second to Carty-Cowling in the heat in the time of 12.74, improved to win a semi in 12.72 and then won the final clearly in a very respectable 12.57. The win was Lauchlan's second victory after winning the novice at Maryborough on new year's day. Carty-Cowling who had a very consistent 2010/11 season looks set to continue his good form into 2012. Once again the makeup of the final with last year's winner Rod Matthews, Adam Coote, Cam Dunbar and Kevin Brittain would not be out of place at any VAL carnival.

Nexus Service Club, Tony Arundell Women's and Vet's 120mts

The womens and veterans 120 metres handicap was won clearly by Chris Livitsanos (18.75m) in the time of 13.53. Chris defeated fellow Ballarat athlete Rod Matthews (2.75) with Tom Hecimovic (17.75) in third place. Chris was also having his first run for the season and showed his liking for November following on from his last win in the Vet's 300 metres at Movember 2010. Hecimovic sporting a solid growth of vegetation on his lip looked very much like "Pancho" from the adventures of the Cisco Kid. With only a few days to go in November, let's hope Tom doesn't find a December charity. Tom had a very busy day making the finals of the vets 120m and 400 open after competing in the heats of the 800mts. The hamstring carnage continued with VAL president Matthew Boyes pulling up mid race with the dreaded "twang".

Star Printing Women's and Vet's 300 metres

Martin Barrow went to Terang with only one VAL win to his name after several years of competing but by the time he left the track that tally had climbed to three. Martin won his last start of the 2010/11 season with a win in the 800mts at Ballarat and started his 2011/12 season with a win in the 300mts veterans at Terang. Martin running of 25 metres gradually made ground from his back mark to be in a striking position on the home turn to run down the early leader Julie Torrini (76m) and David Woods (17m) in place. Torrini, who has been away from the VAL for a season or two is in good form and will surely manage a win in the next few weeks. David Woods has carried on his good early season form with a handy third. Barrow is trained by former class sprinter Justin Lewis.

Wheatsheaf Hotel/Terang Community Op Shop 400 metres.

Not letting the dust settle Martin Barrow (48m) lined up twenty minutes after his 300 metres win and managed a convincing victory in the 400 metres open in the time of 49.27. Martin went from being the "chaser" in the 300mts to being the "chased" in the 400mts but battled on doggedly to hold out Jayson Hayes-Hornibrook (23m) and Robert Keenan (30m). Hayes-Hornibrook looked a good winning chance on the home turn but just couldn't muster enough to overcome the Barrow lead. Robert Keenan ran an even race and once again will be very competitive in this season's circle events. James Clarke (22mts), born and bred in the Terang area, and a former Keilor Gift winner continues on his VAL comeback with a very handy fifth just behind Eric Sapac (20m).

Terang Lions Club 800 metres

One of the most impressive wins of the day went to Daniel Lawlor (60mts) in the final of the 800 metres handicap. After the heats it looked a two horse race with the two heat winners Chris Cato (48m) running 1.57.8 and Daniel running a very confident 1.55.97. In the final Daniel, trained by Wally Meecham, always looked in control and moved to the lead at the 200m. Chris Cato chased hard and Dominic Hoskins (34m) looked an outside chance on the home turn but Lawlor held the placegetters comfortably in the home straight. Backmarker, Corey Lawson (32m), struggled to tack onto Hoskins early and couldn't make contact with the main bunch throughout the event.

Terang Newsagency 1600metres Laurie Heffernan Handicap

Alex Bacalja (110mts) produced the easiest win of the day when, from the backmark, he cruised to the lead at the bell to never look in danger of losing the first prize cheque. Alex, fresh from an easy win at the VRTA meeting, held out a determined David Page (185m) and Carl McMeel (150m). Bacalja has recently joined the Hipworth stable and looks set for a big year. Carl McMeel was another making a VAL return after several years off the scene.