

SHOE CLINIC BELL HILL CHALLENGE 2014

SATURDAY, 1 NOVEMBER 2014

REPORT

280 runners and walkers lined up on the start line at Baldoon Farm at the foot of Bell Hill in calm warm conditions. The field was led by Vajin Armstrong across the paddocks behind the Baldoon Homestead and then up the steep hill climb to the summit. For spectators it was a great sight to see the line of colour from the starting area as competitors made their way up the marked route to the summit.

Vajin Armstrong was first to the top, well clear of the rest of the field, reaching the summit in just under half an hour, with the lead woman, Lisa Brignull, leading the women's field to the summit.

The wind started to pick up as competitors made their way over the top and organisers were a little concerned that the wind may get stronger in the valley at the start/finish area which could have affected the rest of the day. However, the wind was a welcome relief for competitors and never affected the rest of the event.

Armstrong continued to open up a considerable lead over 2nd-placed Keith Flanders as he descended Bell Hill and down the forestry tracks and finished in 1:32:01, with Flanders finishing in 1:39:27, very closely followed by Ian Reeves who finished in 1:40:49. Armstrong was pleased with his run, having won the Southland Marathon only two weeks earlier. He said at the prize-giving that he is training 200kms a week and his next goal is the Kepler Challenge in December.

Women's champion Lisa Brignull maintained her lead, finishing in 1:55:26, 10 minutes clear of 2nd-placed Emma Passmore from Westport, who was followed closely by 3rd-placed Lisa Taylor.

The 12km Walk Section was won by Shelley Butler who finished in 1:49:10, with Ian Walker taking the Men's title, finishing in 1:50:04.

Most competitors found the course a little slower this year with the forestry roads uneven and rocky under foot due to work on the forestry roads just prior to the event.

Entries were slightly down on last year but the Shoe Clinic Bell Hill Challenge continues to be popular, attracting runners and walkers looking for a challenge and the opportunity to take part in an event with stunning scenery in the foothills of Canterbury under the Southern Alps.

The Shoe Clinic Bell Hill Challenge will be on again in 2015 at the same time of the year.

Podium Results:

Run Open Men	1st	1:32:01	Vajin Armstrong	Christchurch
	2nd	1:39:27	Keith Flanders	CHRISTCHURCH
	3rd	1:40:49	Ian Reeves	CHRISTCHURCH
Run Open Women	1st	1:55:26	Lisa Brignull	Christchurch
	2nd	2:05:48	Emma Passmore	WESTPORT
	3rd	2:05:48	Lisa Taylor	CHRISTCHURCH
Run Male 40+	1st	1:51:33	Mel Orange	CHRISTCHURCH
	2nd	1:51:37	Stuart Frew	New Plymouth
	3rd	1:54:21	Tony Milne	CHRISTCHURCH
Run Female 40+	1st	1:55:26	Lisa Brignull	Christchurch
	2nd	2:05:48	Lisa Taylor	CHRISTCHURCH
	3rd	2:11:31	Dawn Pascoe	RICHMOND
Run Male 50+	1st	1:50:16	Rod Vardy	LINCOLN
	2nd	1:57:35	Peter Richardson	CHRISTCHURCH
	3rd	2:00:54	Peter Richards	CHRISTCHURCH
Run Female 50+	1st	2:08:23	Liz Coke Margaret	NELSON
	2nd	2:19:10	Hazelwood	PICTON
	3rd	2:24:32	Marie Marshall	CHRISTCHURCH
Walk Open Men	1st	1:50:04	Ian Walker	CHRISTCHURCH
	2nd	1:51:53	Mark Field	CHRISTCHURCH
	3rd	2:01:28	Gordon Meachen	CHRISTCHURCH
Walk Open Women	1st	1:49:10	Shelley Butler	CHRISTCHURCH
	2nd	1:50:08	Jo Straker	CHRISTCHURCH
	3rd	2:01:09	Sherryl Richardson	GREYMOUTH
Walk Male 40-49	1st	2:01:42	Jason Mangan	CHRISTCHURCH
Walk Female 40-49	1st	1:49:10	Shelley Butler	CHRISTCHURCH
Walk Male 50+	1st	1:50:04	Ian Walker	CHRISTCHURCH
Walk Female 50+	1st	1:50:08	Jo Straker	CHRISTCHURCH