

SHOE CLINIC BELL HILL CHALLENGE 2015

SATURDAY, 31 OCTOBER 2015

The Shoe Clinic Bell Hill Challenge saw close racing as 220 runners and walkers lined up in brilliant weather on Canterbury's Baldoon Farm.

Christchurch runner Nick Hann led the early going and was still the clear leader at the summit of Bell Hill. He was followed by Tom Ferguson, who is the owner of Baldoon Farm, then Ben Aynsley from Greymouth and Nick Hirschfeld from Hanmer Springs.

Hann reached Bell Hill summit in 28 minutes and looked likely to hold his lead to the finish line, until he tripped and fell while descending on a rough section of the 4-wheel drive vehicle track.

Hann gathered himself and continued to hold his lead for most of the race. But with 3.5k remaining he was caught by Aynsley, who swept past to win what was a very interesting and exciting race by 33 seconds. Behind these first two, Nick Hirschfeld passed Ferguson to claim third, four minutes behind Aynsley's winning time of 1hr 30min. In his fall, the unfortunate Hann suffered an injury to his knee that required stitches.

The women's race followed a similar pattern, but without the injuries. And this time the early leader, Christchurch's Megan Hopper, held on for a narrow win. Hopper a clear leader to the summit, followed by Maggie Chorley. Chorley was faster downhill and closed the gap all the way to the finish, but came up 17secs short of Hopper's winning 1hr 50min 14secs.

Organisers had to make changes to the send half of the traditional course this year due to logging operations. The new route had added obstacles with wind-blown trees across the track in places. Organisers were pleased with the turnout and are looking forward to an increase in entries next year.

Chris Cox

Race Director

Podium Results:

Run Section

Open Men

1st	Ben Aynsley	1:30:00	GREYMOUTH
2nd	Nick Hann	1:30:33	CHRISTCHURCH
3rd	Nick Hirschfeld	1:34:26	HANMER SPRINGS

Open Women

1st	Megan Hopper	1:50:14	CHRISTCHURCH
2nd	Maggie Chorley	1:50:33	Christchurch
3rd	Claire Gray	1:52:29	CHRISTCHURCH

Vet Men 40-49

1st	Sven Zaalberg	1:46:19	CHRISTCHURCH
2nd	Gavin Williams	1:49:04	CHRISTCHURCH
3rd	Ben Reid	1:50:25	CHRISTCHURCH

Vet Women 40-49

1st	Megan Hopper	1:50:14	CHRISTCHURCH
2nd	Maggie Chorley	1:50:33	Christchurch
3rd	Claire Gray	1:52:29	CHRISTCHURCH

Vet Men 50+

1st	David Macdonald	1:45:53	CHRISTCHURCH
2nd	Charlie Nolan	1:51:39	SHEFFIELD
3rd	John Thomson	1:58:17	KAIAPOI

Vet Women 50+

1st	Sharon Morrison	2:19:37	TIMARU
2nd	Lyn Menzies	2:27:19	CHRISTCHURCH
3rd	Caro Todd	2:38:19	CHRISTCHURCH

Walk Section

Open Men

1st	Duncan Booth	1:57:51	CHRISTCHURCH
2nd	Graeme Albon	2:10:14	SHEFFIELD
3rd	Dave Wilkins	2:19:52	CHRISTCHURCH

Open Women

1st	Annie Hughes	2:06:29	ROSS
2nd	April Tougas	2:09:06	SPRINGSTON
3rd	Emily Macdonald	2:09:07	CHRISTCHURCH

Vet Men 40-49

1st	Jason Mangan	2:23:26	CHRISTCHURCH
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Vet Women 40-49

1st	Lisa Brennan	2:09:19	CHRISTCHURCH
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Vet Men 50+

1st	Graeme Albon	2:10:14	SHEFFIELD
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Vet Women 50+

1st	Annie Hughes	2:06:29	ROSS
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