

Masters Men's Report (5th)

Trevor Ogilvie, Peter Quax, Colin Earwaker, Duncan Smith, Dave Conshaw, Bruce Edwards, Tony Broadhead, Chris Corney

The Lake City masters team set off for the NZ National Road Relay Champs last Friday the 2nd of Sep, with some visions and hopes of getting a medal... Saturday dawned fine but a bit chilly, so the shivering of anticipation could easily be put down to the temperature. Everyone was looking forward to running on what promised to be a hilly but scenic course. The team dutifully wore their mascot headgear, with a positive mind set and determination to do their bit for the team. Competition was going to be very tough though, and reality was that a good majority of our team were no longer 'spring chickens'.



Trev Ogilvie was the lead out runner, competing against runners from the Senior Men's A race. The lap was flat to undulating, and as usual Trev gave a good account of himself; later on being voted by his team mates as runner of the day and awarded the team baton for keeps. Trev finished his lap in 4th place and we were pretty happy with that. Looking at the results later, we were all pleased to see that Trevor Ogilvie set a new Open Masters (over 50) Lap 1 record in a time of 00:30:59 for 8.4km.

The baton was then handed over to Pete Quax, who was rather nervous at the prospect of once again competing in a national relay. A headwind for the first 4km, and then a further 1.6km of hills made it challenging to keep up the speed. It turned out he didn't disgrace himself though, and had a reasonable result. Pete maintained the team position, although losing ground to the Hamilton Hawks, but closed in on Nelson.

Colin Earwaker had a long climb to start with, and was chasing Sjors from the Lake City Senior Men's team. By the end of the lap little had changed in the way of placings. However Colin also set a new Open Masters Lap 3 record of 00:32:16 for 9km. The team was still within range of a medal and the remaining team runners knew that some pressure was on them.



Duncan Smith, running under an injury cloud, decide to forgo the warmup option and save himself for the road. He was determined to give a good account of himself, and excelled despite any injuries. After a reasonable climb, followed by a steep decent on a gravel road, Duncan came home with the third fastest time on his lap.



Another with an injury, Dave Cronshaw, elected to take on one of the toughest laps. This included running part of the way up the Bombays, before coming back down and under the Southern Motorway. Dave made the hills look ordinary and had by now put the team up into 4th place. We were getting closer!

Bruce Edwards had talked himself up into going for a fast time on the longest lap of the day. Photographic evidence shows him flat on the ground at the finish with what

was close to a PB for 10km. You can't ask for any more than that from a runner. Nelson had played their

trump card with Phil Costley though, who ran one of the fastest times of the day for this lap. So it was gutting to see him pass us and move Nelson up into second, despite our runner having such an excellent run. Lake City Masters Men were now back in 5th.

Tony 'da-pony' Broadhead took off up another long hill and was another who produced one of the fastest times for his lap. He also got the photo of the day – check out Facebook. The guy gives 100%, and by the end of the lap although still in fifth, the gap to third place was only about 2 minutes. Could we do it? It was going to take a superb effort from last man out of the blocks, Chris Corney...



Alas it wasn't to be, Chris by his own admission didn't have the greatest day in a pair of running shoes. Flying in from an overseas trip the night before, obviously set him back a bit. While the mind pushed him on (along with his team-mates) the body resisted and the final outcome was a fifth placing out of a field of 12 teams in our category.

Generally the team was pretty happy with the result – we had all tried our hardest but we were beaten by 4 better teams, still resulting in a creditable 5th place.

Saturday night was good fun after all the hard work, being able to let your hair down and get to know your fellow club members a bit better. We went out for dinner then to the road relay social where there were plenty of Lake City members on the dance floor showing their moves. Our beer-skulling team went into action and put in a good effort but were knocked out in the first round. There were quite a few other funny stories that could be told about the weekend but we reckon 'what happens on tour stays on tour'. The trip home was reflecting on a great weekend. We are now seriously looking at the option of fielding an Over-50's team next year. That just might be a winning combination. Bring it on!

By Peter Quax & Tony 'da-pony' Broadhead