

The annual sort of “end of season” club handicap gift was held at Krilor Park athletics track this evening the 10TH of March.

An interesting mixture of participants, young, old fast and strong and some not so fast or strong. The handicapping is supposed to even things out and give everyone a chance.

The heats of the womens 110 were very closely contested. In the first heat the overall backmarker Judith Robinson was first just edging out Nicole Gunn. In the second heat Jacqueline Roberts was warming up for a great evening as she just out ran Rhiannon Matthews with both going through to the final. In the third heat a visitor from Keilor Little athletics Sophie Lloyd squeaked in from Jamie Tonneli.

The final was extremely tight with Jacqueline Roberts holding off Judith Robinson and Nicole Gunn. There appears to be a tradition in the Roberts family of winning a race at the gift and Jacqueline was on her way to exceeding the efforts of older siblings.

The mens heats were different. Damien Hughes (more of a longer distance type) won the first heat from David Abfalter. In the second heat Andrew Matthews completely outfoxed the handicap system for an easy win from Michael G???? His grandstanding as he crossed the line was noted..... In the third heat Jake Holstien ran down a flying Alex Tonneli (7 years old) at the line.

Andrew Matthew had 7.5 metres subtracted from his handicap for the final. It was on, from my perspective it looked like Michael G???? in first place but the judges gave it to Andrew Matthews.....

The Roberts family appear to have a mortgage on the 800M. Isobell won it a couple of times and now Jacqueline Roberts stepped up for an easy win.

The mens 1600 metres was a strange mixture of young and old runners and a walker who went around in 8 minutes. At the start a lot of the oldies were complaining (as usual) about handicap times. A lot of the sprinters were sitting around puzzled by people who could go around the track more than once.

At the start the front markers seemed loney as they headed off. Then came the faster types and it was on. It got a bit confusing for a while with the slower runners being overtaken but at the end it was the front marker Alex Tonelli with David Abfalter chasing him as they came down to the finish. Alex by a couple of metres!!!!

This year there was a handicap shotput competition for those who like to throw things. How do you organise something like this for people who throw things of different weights? The basis of the competition was that for each competitor a seasons best shot was used as a 100% figure. If in the gift competition you threw less than that you got a % of less than 100%, if you threw more you got something more than 100%. Confused? Aside from some strange computer problems which were quickly overcome (old computer approach, save data before fiddling).

It was close, Courtney Holstien won with a performance of 114.81% from Rhianon Mathews with 114.1%.

All the running and throwing was followed by a dinner in the clubrooms and presentations.