

UP-FRONT

Editorial

By: Bryan Mayall

Welcome again to the first summer edition of our Up Front for the 2017-18 season. Well done to those Masters who have toughed it out over our exceptional wet winter season. I am sure you will be ready to explode out of the blocks as we eagerly await the track season and another exciting programme awaits us.

I am sure you will have been inspired by the exceptional performances of the athletes competing at the recent IAAF World T&F Champs recently. Unfortunately Joan and I were away on holiday in North Queensland for the majority of the competition. I was only able to get very limited reporting and so grateful for Marion who kept me up to date. I was absolutely over the moon when I heard that Tom Walsh won the Men's Shot Put, to really put New Zealand on the map.

More recently you tennis buffs would have been enthralled by the comeback story of Sloane Stephens.

From a world ranking of 957th in early August to US Open Champion and coming off a left foot surgery after a 11 month break was amazing. Her dramatic three set semi-final win over Venus Williams certainly had all the drama, as she battled back from three match points. Certainly would have to be right up there as far as comeback stories go.

However the comeback performance in recent times would have been the fantastic win of Emirates Team NZ winning the Old Mug 7 – 1 over their old adversary US Oracle. We still remember that bizarre 8-9 loss in 2013, so all was forgiven. Our Malcolm Clarke has written a great article in this edition on his experiences at Bermuda.

Finally all the very best for those Masters as you prepare for another track and field season.

Also thanks to my contributors who have made this edition possible.

Coming Events 2017 - 2018

October 1 AMA Oceania Postal Throws Pentathlon Mt Smart 9.30
 October 8 WBOP Masters Warm Up Meeting. Porritt Stadium 12 noon
 October 15 AMA Gideon Tait Meet. Mt. Smart 9.30
 November 12 WBOP Masters Warm up Meeting Porritt Stadium 12 noon
 November 24-26 North Island Masters Championships Inglewood.
 December 10 WBOP Christmas Meeting Tauranga

2018

January 28 AMA Meeting Mt Smart 9.30
 February 4 WBOP Masters Championships Tauranga
 February 18 WBOP Masters Trophy Day Porritt Stadium 12 noon
 March 2-4 NZMA Masters Championships. Whangarei
 March 18 AMA Meeting Mt Smart 9.00

OFFICE BEARERS

President: Murray Clarkson 075769575
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 Membership Secretary: Fay Riley
 Treasurer: Fay Riley 07 5769575
 Committee: Marion Clarke, Sheryl Gower, Jill Sherburn, Dave Couper

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Subscription Reminder

Subscriptions are now due for the 2017-18 season. Contact Fay Riley at murrayclarkson@xtra.co.nz for a membership form.

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Presidents Report

Murray Clarkson

Who's been training indoors? The Gym membership comes into its own at this time of year with inclement weather and low temperatures. Unless, of course, you have a piece of equipment hidden in the closet for such occasions. Trying to be "Macho" does not cut it when you get older!!

Summer is coming and brings with it complaints that it is too hot to train. The winter events are almost over and I will give a brief summary of the major ones so that those who do not follow these events can see that we are still active.

North Island X/C Champs Taupo

Masters Women – Karyn McCready 4th W45. Six other non-members competing. Masters Men – Craig Wilson 12th M50 Gavin Smith 2nd M60 Trevor Ogilvie 1st M65 Murray Clarkson 1st M70. 16 non-members competing.

WBOP X/C Champs Tauranga

Masters Women – Karyn McCready 1st W45 7 non-members competing. Masters Men – Trevor Ogilvie 1st M65 Murray Clarkson 1st M70 Craig Sinclair 8th M45. 22 non-members.

WBOP Road Champs. Hamilton

Masters women – Karyn McCreedy 1st W45 Dianne Barrett-Kendall 3rd W55 10 non-members. Masters Men – Craig Sinclair 6th M45 Trevor Ogilvie 1st M65.27 non-members.
I have no results from the NZ X/C Champs in Auckland and we had no athletes competing in the NZ Road Champs in Christchurch.

At a local level, we had a successful run at Hamilton Gardens thanks to Craig Wilson who advertised and organised the event – thank you Craig. The run scheduled for McLaren Falls went ahead but only a few turned up. A group walk/run was enjoyed by those taking the time to come along.

A.G.M. We had a turn-out of 16 members and our financial accounts were discussed. Although we were able to post a small surplus, this is not always going to be the case and we need to encourage the non-members who are competing to join us. This is over to everyone. Our Fees remain at \$15 and we have 22 members registered so far this year. The uniform subsidy is to continue for another year.

We look forward to kicking off the new season with the warm-up meetings in Oct/Nov. The Christmas meeting is not likely to be held in Tauranga so I will be talking with Steve Rees-Jones with a view to combining it with the Open day at Porritt on the same date. Members will be informed by Flyer. Keep warm and active.

P.S. While compiling this I have heard of the passing of Graeme McCabe. Although not a supporter of Masters Athletics, he was, however well-known and held many positions with Athletics NZ. and the Waikato Centre.

Our condolences to his wife Brenda and Family.

NZMA Winter Indoor Meeting AUT Millennium Stadium Bruce Solomon

The 3rd NZ Masters Indoor Champs was held at the AUT Millennium on Sunday 20 August. It was a well-run event and greatly enjoyed by all plus 40 athletes. The competition was held a month later than last year and this was a good idea as the Indoor centre was much warmer. However, the starter pistol for the sprints did not think so, with many “clicks” rather than bangs.

There were only five WBOP Masters athletes competing against a mostly Auckland representation.

WBOP did our Region proud with Tania and Dave both achieving NZ records in their shot put age category - NZ Record achievers:

W50	Tania Hodges	1 st	Shot Put	11.03m NZMA Record
M40	Dave Couper	1 st	Shot Put	10.12m NZMA Record

Other results achieved were:

W40	Michelle Bitcheno	2 nd	Shot Put	7.04m
		2 nd	50M Sprint	12.24sec
M50	Bruce Solomon 1 st	50M Sprint	6.95sec	
		3 rd	Long Jump	4.43m
M50	Steve Te Whaiti 1 st	Triple Jump	9.82m	
		2 nd	50M Sprint	7.04sec
		2 nd	High Jump	1.45m
		2 nd	Long Jump	5.14m
		2 nd	Shot Put	10.63m

The 50M Sprints are run over three heats throughout the duration of the Champs. Bruce Solomon and Stephen Te Whaiti cleaned up the M50 age category with the following results:

M50 – 50M Sprint	Position	Heat 1	Heat 2	Heat 3
Bruce Solomon	1 st	<u>6.95</u>	6.95	7.03
Stephen Te Whaiti	2 nd	<u>7.04</u>	7.07	7.18
Andy Richardson	3 rd	<u>7.33</u>	<u>7.31</u>	7.35
Wayne Bradley	4 th	7.74	<u>7.72</u>	

Annual General Meeting Report Bryan Mayall

This years AGM was held on 27 August 2017 at the Cambridge Athletic and Harrier Clubrooms.

Murray Clarkson our President welcomed the 16 members present and presented his annual report. Some of the highlights in his report were.

- 1) He reported that membership numbers had decreased further to 72 members. It was hoped with the amalgamation with ANZ that we would be recruiting new members.
- 2) Our centre was well represented at our National and International events with many of our members having success. Also this season we will see the Oceania Championships being held in Dunedin and the National Track Champs at Whangarei.
- 3) Our finances continue to be in a healthy state with the WBOP membership subscription being kept at \$15
- 4) Murray also reported that the Winter Series have not been well attended apart from the Cross Country day at Waipuna
- 5) Our very tight programme has meant that members find it difficult to attend some of the meetings. The good news is that the resurfacing of the Track at Tauranga will be completed by the end of this year which is very encouraging.
- 6) Murray also reported that to have a new uniform has proved to be a popular success. Special thanks to Fay Riley for organising and distributing the uniforms.
- 7) Over the past year we said a very sad Farewell to our fellow athlete and friend Brendan Magill

Murray Clarkson was once again re-elected President for a further term with Bruce Solomon as Vice President and Secretary and Fay Riley as Treasurer. Committee members elected were Marion Clarke, Sheryl Gower, Jill Sherburn and David Couper. Fay Riley has taken over as Membership Secretary a roll previously held by Judy Chandler for many years.

At the end of the meeting the winner of the Wynn Abel Trophy for the WBOP Athlete of the year was announced. The winner this year was Brenda Davis who was the only nomination. Brenda has had an outstanding year in the throwers events in her very competitive W45 age group.

The winner of the Committee Award Trophy this year was Judy Chandler.



Brenda Davis with Wynn Abel Trophy

Photo Bruce Solomon



Judy Chandler with Committee Award Trophy

America's Cup Bermuda Insights from Malcolm Clark

Knowing a member of the Team NZ shore crew [Rob Salthouse] and keeping updated on their website I just had a gut feeling Team NZ had something special that would at least give them a fighting chance of winning the challenger series and therefore being the team to challenge for the Americas Cup. Hopefully it was going to be third time lucky after narrowly missing out in Valencia and San Francisco, both of which I had attended. I should add that Rob is married to a distant relative Kathy and she has been at all three events.



So I committed to going after a brother [Norman] showed interest in December 2016. Consequently I managed to find reasonable accommodation for about US\$425 a day.

The catch was we ideally needed six or more to share the cost. He persuaded my four other brothers, a sister and a sister in law to join us so that looked after sharing the costs. Conveniently this trip also worked in with additional travel for myself, my sister and David and Sandy [brother and sister in law]

We all arrived safely and as I was the first I sussed out the necessary travel arrangements to get to the village - ended up taking about 90 minutes with having to catch a bus which only ran every hour [less frequent on the weekends] and then a ferry followed by a free shuttle service to the village entry point. The first surprise was we had to pay US\$20/day entry to get in.

This escalated to US\$50/day for the final two days we were there which was the first weekend of the Cup challenge - this was not going to be a cheap holiday!!! The bargain was a monthly travel pass for US\$69.

Malcolm Clark ready to Sail

We soon worked out that to secure a good spot to view the racing on the big screens we needed to arrive as the gates opened at 11.30am - well before the racing start time of 2pm.

This gave us plenty of time to have a look around, chat to other Kiwi supporters and even watch TNZ leave the dock as it was close by - Artemis were the only other team that were also handy.

I think we were all a little worried initially as to how competitive TNZ were going to be - were the cyclors what they were touted to be and we were making a few mistakes. But as the round robin series progressed and TNZ was the leading challenger our confidence grew - only to take a tumble when they nose dived on the start line against BAR early in the semi-final round. Fortunately they had to postpone racing the next day and the team had the extra 24hrs to carry out repairs



.Although there were a number of other dramatic events during the challenge series this one certainly won't be forgotten for a long time. With the final being the first to seven wins, by the time we left on the 19th and TNZ were 3-0 up I was quietly confident that with lessons learnt after San Francisco we were in a strong position to bring the Cup back to NZ and so it proved.

Rob was also able to show us through the TNZ base one evening [a week after the nose dive] and by then they had almost completed the repairs to their second wing sail - the recovery they were able to make from that incident was truly amazing.

Clark Family in Celebration Mode

As for Bermuda they were great hosts and the Great Sound an ideal venue to race on. However I believe the locality meant there were not the crowd numbers that were in San Francisco and the viewing from the shore was not as good. The layout of the course could vary quite markedly from day to day depending on the wind direction.

Other things of note that were interesting, we had time check out the museums and history. The islands were first settled about 1608 and there was no indigenous population. They were deemed to be strategic and from a military perspective have never had to defend themselves. The Americans during the second WW created 300 hectares of land to form a military airbase which is now the airport for the islands. The temperature was rather warm so we enjoyed cooling off in a sheltered cove only 10min walk from our accommodation.

In summary although a little expensive the experience and great outcome was well worth it and I'd happily do it all again tomorrow - certainly no regrets over making the call last December. Roll on Auckland 2021!!!

Oceania Throws Pentathlon Edgecumbe 17 September David Couper

Sunday 17th of September saw the Waikato Bay of Plenty Throwers head to Edgecumbe for the Oceania Throws Pentathlon Challenge, hosted by the Edgecumbe College Athletics Academy.



It was a sobering drive into Edgecumbe to witness the damage caused by the floods in April. 11 throwers took part in the pentathlon including new member Don Butler. Later on even Murray and Fay chalked up the hands and threw a few implements.

WBOP Athlete of the year, Brenda Davis, started things the right way by sending the hammer out to 35.59m with her very first throw. This set the tone for some very good throwing throughout the day. Tania Hodges fresh off her National Indoor shot put victory and record continued her good early season form with a hammer PB and an overall PB for the pentathlon.

Happy Group of Throwers (Photo Tania Hodges)

As did Dave Couper. Ian Clarke, back after a season off with ankle problems, showed that he hasn't lost much form. I hope that the ankle pulled up well and we will see a bit more of you this season.

Michelle Bitcheno in just her second season is showing no signs of slowing down. If not landing smack on the middle of the sector line, would have come away with a nice new PB for the hammer. Rene Otto and Bruce Solomon had a good little battle in the M50 grade with Rene taking out the Hammer, Discus and Weight Throw while Bruce had a solid Shot put and Javelin.

As did Jill Sherburn and Marion Clarke with Jill taking the early season bragging rights. Marcia still defies her age and wipes that Hammer and Weight around like a much younger person.

After the throwing was done, we gathered for afternoon tea and the trophy presentations for Brenda and also Caleb Moore, one of the officials for the day, who had won the Colt trophy from the WBOP Championships.

Now we wait for the other centres to hold their events before all the results are collated and placings were determined.

Snippets

Congratulations and happy birthday to Sheryl Gower who has made it to big W70 club on the 25 August. Also a big congratulations to Murray and Sheryl who celebrated their 50th Wedding anniversary recently.

Great to see Judy Chandler down at Porritt Stadium back in training mode with her fellow Masters Athletes.