



CANOE RACING NEW ZEALAND

(Affiliated to the ICF through the New Zealand Canoeing Federation)
P.O. Box 36-589, Northcote, Auckland, New Zealand

RESULTS:

South Island Marathon.

11th April 2004

K1 Men

Under 22; Hayden Bowen, 2.22.30, 1; Aaron LeCompte, 2.29.10, 2.

Under 19 Fred Tear, 2.25.05, 1:

Open Darryl Fairbairn, 2.22.13, 1.

Over 35 Mike Mead, 2.23.11, 1.

Over 55 Brett Leask, 2.45.23, 1.

K1 Women

Open Mary Fitzpatrick, 2.42.51, 1:

Multisport Div. I Men

Open; Craig Shepard, 2.21.16, 1; Paul Massie, 2.28.39, 2;
Mike Anthony, 2.58.58, 3.

Over 40 Arnie LaFleur, 2.32.51, 1.

Over 50 Keith Alderson, 2.35.34, 1; Graham Ewing, 3.08.37, 2.

Multisport Div II Men

Open Rob Creasy, 2.56.26, 1.

K2 Men Open Rod Vardy/Richard Wyatt 2.28.42, 1.

Report.

The course was at least 26 kilometres, starting at the Clubhouse at Kerr's reach down the Avon River, out around a moored yacht at Monks Bay. Up to and around Ferrymead Bridge and back across the Estuary to paddle back up the Avon. There was a portage of about 100 metres completed on the outward and inward legs of the race, at a small reserve about seven kilometres from the clubhouse.

With clashing of events and a long holiday weekend the field of competitors was small but a number of quality paddlers made the effort to attend this event.

Race conditions were near perfect for a marathon event. High tide was at 9.30am at Lyttelton. That meant that tide was against the paddlers until the Estuary and again once they turned at Monks Bay and all the return distance making for slower than expected times. There was a light easterly breeze about an hour into the race resulting in small cross-waves on the Estuary. It was a fine sunny day, temperature in the high teens.

The race resulted in a surprise win by Craig Shepard over pre-race favourite Hayden Bowen. Bowen along with Fred Tear took the lead into the first transition and they were not caught until they made a wrong course choice leaving Monks Bay. This allowed master paddler, Mike Mead to join them at the lead until Ferrymead Bridge, where hard working Craig Shepard and Paul Massie managed to join the lead bunch. At the second portage Hayden Bowen broke away from the field with a fast transition and re-entry. He was pursued by Craig Shepard who eventually caught him near the New Brighton Bridge. Shepard managed to break free of Bowen about 3 kilometres from the finish to claim the SI Marathon Trophy for fastest men's time

Mary Fitzpatrick although being the only woman to race, put in a very creditable performance, out-paddling several men competitors, and deservedly claiming the Trophy for fastest Woman.

The race served as a timely reminder to the younger and some older paddlers that when racing in excess of 2 hours competitors must take not only water but also food to maintain energy supplies and consequently good work output ie speed.