

SHOE CLINIC BELL HILL CHALLENGE - SATURDAY, 2 NOVEMBER 2013

The annual Bell Hill Challenge attracted a record entry of 370 runners and walkers.

Competitors lined up for the 10:00am start on a perfect day at Baldoon Farm at the end of Dalethorpe Road, south of Sheffield and Springfield. Competitors ascend a very steep climb to the summit of Bell Hill and then following forestry trails back to Baldoon Farm at the foot of the hill. Runners ran 19kms and walkers competed over 12kms.

Vajin Armstrong was 1st to the summit in an incredible 24 minutes, followed 2 minutes behind by Nick Smith and Martin Lukes. Armstrong maintained his lead for the rest of the race and was never threatened by Lukes or Smith. Experienced endurance runner Martin Lukes passed Nick Smith to take 2nd place. Men's champion Vajin Armstrong was 2nd place in last year's event.

In the Women's race Marg Chorley was 1st to the summit in 32 minutes, followed by Gabby Patterson in 35 minutes and Presasta Armstrong in 36 minutes. Both Patterson and Armstrong were passed by Emma Goddard on the descent, with Emma finishing 2nd and Patterson finishing 3rd.

Marg Chorley (nee McKenzie) used this event to get back into mountain running. She was one of Canterbury's top runners prior to taking a break to have a family and was thrilled with her 1st place.

Times were slower than last year with conditions being wet and slippery and trees down across the forestry roads as a result of the nor-west storms that hit Canterbury several weeks ago.

Race Director Chris Cox is very pleased with the turn-out and the growth of the event in its 3rd year. Bell Hill Challenge is now becoming firmly established as one of the premier mountain running events in Canterbury.

PRIZE RESULTS

Run Men Open

1 st	Vajin Armstrong	1:28:28
2 nd	Martin Lukes	1:32:16
3 rd	Nick Smith	1:34:05

Run Women Open

1 st	Marg Chorley	1:53:40
2 nd	Emma Goddard	2:01:27
3 rd	Gabby Patterson	2:02:13

Run Men 40-49

1 st	Martin Lukes	1:32:16
2 nd	Vaughn Madsen	1:39:44
3 rd	Will Parker	1:45:06

Run Women 40-49

1 st	Fiona Maguire	2:05:55
2 nd	Sandy Frew	2:06:19
3 rd	Sharon Madsen	2:07:26