

HBSC2018 – Schools Sprint Orienteering Championship report

Showgrounds showpiece for sprint.

The Hawke's Bay schools orienteering championships opened with the sprint event on a new map at Hawke's Bay Showgrounds last Wednesday.

The mix of parkland and farmland provided plenty of challenge for the runners.

Parking space was at a premium as cars poured in to support the more than 300 runners entered.

Before the races for the school runners on the day it had been a race for organisers to be ready. The Horse of the Year pack-out was accomplished just in time with the last truckloads of sawdust leaving barely two hours before the first runners started.

Sprint racing is usually close and upsets are common as this year's championship proved. Senior boys' favourite Ronan Lee of Lindisfarne mispunched allowing a close finish between last year's winner Thomas Culham (Havelock North High) and Bayley Stephens-Ellison (Napier Boys'). Culham won by five seconds in spite of a 30-second error early in his run.

The other close finish of the day came in the junior boys' grade, Napier Boys' Jack Tremain finishing five seconds ahead of Havelock North High's Lorcan Rabbitte.

The senior girls' grade was fought out between Havelock North High's Jenna Tidswell and Napier Girls' Carolyne Nel, both internationals, with Tidswell showing her class with a 1m 36s margin to spare.

National title-winners Will Tidswell (Havelock North High) and Tessa Burns (Woodford House) won their respective intermediate grades comfortably, Burns by 1m 45s and Tidswell by an impressive 4m 21s.

The Tidswells, Lee, Culham, Burns and Nel all went on to race in Auckland over Easter in the national championships, as did primary boys' winner Max Franks. For the Tidswells and Nel their races at nationals doubled as trials for the national team to the Junior World Championships to be held in Hungary.

In the high school boys' challenge Napier Boys' lead Havelock by 106 points to 92 after the sprint with Karamu third on 58. In a tighter race, Havelock seniors lead Napier Girls' 95 to 88 in the girls' challenge.

The year 7 and 8 boys' challenge has Havelock North Intermediate on 33pts, Lindisfarne on 26 and Taradale Intermediate 23. In the girls' equivalent Havelock North Intermediate have 39pts to Taradale Intermediate's 31. Eskdale on 12 pts heads the rest.

Over 50 starters contested each of the primary school grades. Te Mata Primary leads the boys' challenge on 34pts from Haumoana Primary who have 30. In a close contest for third Mahora School (18pts) currently edge Arthur Miller (17). The girls' primary challenge currently has Te Mata School on 38, Eskdale on 27 and Haumoana 23.

The schools' long course championships will be held on 13 May and the relays on 10 June. Venues are still to be confirmed.

Results from Wednesday's sprint championships were:

Senior Boys:

1. T Culham (HAVE) 18:29,
2. B Stephens-Ellison (NAPB) 18:34
3. B Kommeren (LIND) 19:14

Senior Girls:

1. J.Tidswell (HAVE) 16:48
2. C Nel (NAPG) 18:24
3. A McIntyre (HAVE) 21:10

Intermediate Boys:

1. W Tidswell (HAVE) 14:53
2. C Potts (HAVE) 19:14
3. A Barron (NAPB) 20:59

Intermediate Girls:

1. T Burns (WOOD) 14:50
2. L Stephens (HAVE) 16:35
3. R Williams (HAVE) 18:40

Junior Boys:

1. J Tremain (NAPB) 15:12
2. L Rabbitte (HAVE) 15:17
3. R Redpath (NAPB) 18:52

Junior Girls:

1. N Wain (TRDL) 17:26
2. A Elmsley (KRMU) 18:12
3. K Read-Butcher (HAVE) 20:22, 3.

Year 7 & 8 Boys:

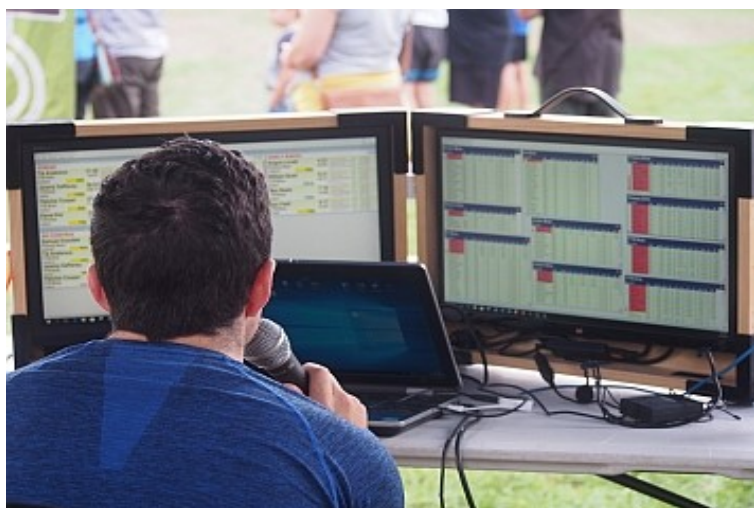
1. M Harvey (TARI) 12:53
2. H Massingham (HAVI) 15:31
3. A Rawnsley (NAPI) 16:23

Year 7 & 8 Girls:

1. Z Elliott (HAVI) 14:39
2. E Bryant (TARI) 15:35
3. S Ward (HAVI) 19:14



Leading the charge . . . Amy Culham (right), Jenna Tidswell and Thomas Culham (all Havelock North High) win the start. Tidswell and Thomas Culham were also to win the finish in their grades.



Duncan Morrison calls the action from his commentary spot

Primary Boys:

1. M Franks (HAUS) 16:54
2. R Russell (PAVS) 17:24
3. O Rabbitte (TMAS) 18:01



*Riley Russell (Parkvale School)
(blue and gold) digs in for a
final sprint.*

Primary Girls:

1. L Burns (HAUS) 17:02
2. L Beale (TMAS) 19:21
3. L Simmons (TMAS) 20:40



*Lily Beale (Te Mata School) (left), Lydia Burns
(Haumoana School) and Lucy Simmons (Te Mata
School) are the primary girls' placegetters.*