

The KAC - 10 August 2011

Race Report

This year we celebrated the 40th annual running of The KAC (known for much of its time as the Martini). Two club members, Ross Martin and Ian Meakin, and a third skier, Ken Baxter, had competed in every race held, so commemorative bibs were minted and issued, and their numbers to be retired from use to mark this feat.

Unfortunately, Ross was not able to compete in his 40th event, although he had already entered before the cycling accident that led to his death only weeks before the race. A photo of Ross and an extract from the letter he wrote in 1972 to Club Captain Geoff Nott, suggesting what is now The KAC, is at Alpenhof. His suggestions for organising the race then remain as the practice today.

Entries saw 26 club members put up their hand amongst 228 overall. There are also many members at both Alpenhof and The Lodge who contribute their time in organising and marshalling, making it one of the biggest club days, and one to be proud of. It remains one of the most popular events on the XC calendar.

The race itself was held in marginal conditions, with thin wet snow barely covering parts of the course. Thankfully the weather was less than its usual KAC self, heavily overcast with only moderate wind, and good visibility. The course turned out to be quite fast.

Line honours went to Warren McCourt, (Men's Classical, in 37:18), followed by Camille Melvey (Women's CL) and David Hislop (CL) getting in ahead of Ben Sim (Men's Freestyle, in 25:35), Richard Martin (CL) and Anthony Evans (FS). A very competitive lot of both CL and FS skiers came in in very close time, including Carla Zijlstra (Women's FS). The Geoff Nott Trophy for overall handicap winner went to the master Bob Cranage (CL) – he probably kept a few secrets back during his waxing clinics held at our lodges in the preceding days. The Carl Bongers Shield on handicap for new entrants was won by Doris Trueman, a former Olympic XC skier for Great Britain, now living in Tasmania.

KAC took out the Club trophy for most finishers with 24, with Ian Meakin completing his 40th race, accompanied by Margaret.

My thanks again to all the volunteers from KAC and other clubs and organisations who give their holiday time to make this the biggest and most fun-when-you-finish event of XC Race Week.

KAC

Rod Hislop,
Andrew Carruthers
David Hislop
Linda Mather
Peter Ward
Andrew Horsley
Christine Lee
Ian Hordern
David East
Georgia Hislop
Tony Harker
Kai Mather
Susan Salter
Carolyn Major

Margaret Hughes
Peter Southwell-Keely
Ulla Drake
David Wilson
Margaret Meakin
Michael Carr
Ian Meakin
David Macdonald
Mark Hancock
Graeme Hearl

DNS
Ross Martin
Kerry Fyfe