

Summer Junior Club Captain's Report 2017-2018 Season

This season we had around 290 registered Junior athletes! Although the logistics of organising 25 groups at club night was challenging –we managed to ensure that all the children had 4 events each Wednesday! We were fortunate to have a good group of our 14yr old leavers who came back to help out -taking skills sessions on the back field. This meant that all of our athletes were able to learn valuable skills for the different athletic events.

The athletes settled fairly quickly into our usual pattern at club nights – a mix of skills, coaching and competition with a firm emphasis on good behaviour, manners, sportsmanship and obeying the rules.

The children learn very quickly what is expected of them at club night and in general they were a well-behaved group of athletes this season.

Clare Greasley and Anna Bridge did a great job organising the parent-help roster and most nights we had our full quota of helpers on hand ☺ It takes between 35-40 adults to successfully run club night with our large numbers of athletes!

As usual –we implemented our popular 5 * Award scheme – awarding hundreds of certificates. This season we had 2 athletes achieving the top Level 5 award – Fin Curtis and Sam De Roo–a fantastic achievement!

Debbie Gillett and Steph De Vere had the daunting task of running the Kiwisport Programme with a group of 40 young 5/6yr olds! In spite of the huge numbers, the vast differences in ability and the challenging behaviour of 6yr old boys –there was practically no drop off from this group throughout the season. They did an amazing job – organising, coaching, maintaining discipline and making sure the kids had fun each week! The Kiwisport kids really enjoyed their sessions and made huge improvements in their athletic events ☺ Lots of them took part in our Club Champs Day and several of them competed at Colgate Games , Saturday Inter Club and Canterbury Champs meetings in the 7yr Grade !

Our Junior Club Champs this season was rained off on its scheduled day. Due to the unavailability of myself and several of our key officials to attend the following Sunday –the decision was made to run it over 2 Wednesday nights.

This decision was popular with some families –and not so popular with others. However we can never please everyone and the children themselves still enjoyed the event. It was well-attended and the children enjoyed the mix of competitive and fun events. The Curtis family took out the coveted title of “Chav champion Family “ in the family relay races.

This season 3 of our Chav athletes had the honour to be selected to represent New Zealand at 2 competitions in Australia.

Art Aitken competed in 800m/1500m at the Pacific School Games in Adelaide. Julia Burnham (High Jump, 90m Hurdles, 200m hurdles) and Ella Mitchell-Hay (100m, 200m, relay) took part in the All-Australian Secondary School Games –also in Adelaide. It was a huge honour for these athletes to compete for their country. They were very grateful for the financial contributions from the Chav club . Our final night of the season was also dogged by rain this year and so our fun games had to be played in the hall at Waimari School. This did not deter the children in any way -all of whom entered into the team games with great enthusiasm. We did manage to get outside for our popular tug-of –war competition. After a delicious shared tea -our annual prize-giving took place.

Many of our athletes received trophies, certificates and medals to mark their achievements throughout the season.

This function is always tinged with sadness too - as we have to farewell our 14yr old athletes –many of whom have been with us in the Juniors for many years ☹ and have played a very important part in the Chav club.

Club Captains Julia Burnham and Thomas Clarke talked about their years at Chav–and it was obvious from their speeches that they had loved their time at the club and were sad to be leaving –but excited to be moving on to Senior athletics.

Our major trophies were presented to:

Julia Burnham– Junior Club Captain’s trophy and Best u14 Athlete

Art Aitken –Chav Special award for setting a new Canterbury Record in the Boys 11yr 1500m

Hamish Gillett –“May Paterson Trophy” for outstanding effort at Interclub.

We wish our 14yr old leavers well as they venture into Senior athletics next season. We hope they take with them fond memories of their time at the Chav Juniors, that they continue to make progress and enjoy their athletics. We will miss them all in the Juniors –but it is time for them to move on and accept new challenges as Seniors ☺

We continued to provide quality coaching for our 10-14yr. Saturday athletes.

The improvement seen by these athletes over the season was huge and reflects the work done by our squad coaches on Monday and Tuesday nights.

The Monday nights squads -Juniors (10-12) and Seniors (13/14) focus on Sprints, Hurdles, Jumps, Throws and Relays and Tuesday nights are middle-distance training nights . We had around 50 athletes in the 2 Monday squads and around 10 training with Ryan Sutherland on Tuesdays.

We provided extra coaching sessions for those athletes attending the Colgate games, those selected in Canterbury Rep teams and those involved in Secondary Schools Competitions.

Our Chav Junior coaching programme continues to be highly successful –with our young athletes benefitting from the expert help of our experienced coaches.

Inter club meetings this season continued to be held at Rawiti Domain Canterbury Champs were in Timaru on the all-weather track.

We were allocated 2 catering days this season. Thanks to those who provided the delicious baking and helped on the BBQ. This meant we were able to make a nice profit to help with club funds. Thanks to our loyal group of regular athletes and to the fact that Chav athletes are expected to do their 4 events each week –we were awarded the 3 club trophies this season:

1. The overall points at Inter club trophy
2. Club Relays trophy – which we won by almost 500 points from the next club!
3. The trophy for the most club points gained at Canterbury Champs

Our numbers of Saturday athletes this season was over 90 and it was pleasing to see a big increase in the 7/8/9yr girls’ grades -however we still struggle to attract 7/8/9yr boys to Saturday competition and we were light in the Boys 10/12/14 grades ☺ We had large numbers in all of our Girls’ grades.

This season we had many individual athletes being successful –with Colgate Games medals, Canterbury Champs winners, Canterbury Rep honours and Secondary Schools titles all coming their way ☺

Running the Chav Junior Club is a huge job and involves many people and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the following:

- My Junior Committee members – Paul, Graeme, Rebecca, Catherine, Diana, Kirsten and Bronwyn who all did a tremendous amount of work throughout the season –both at the track and behind the scenes.
In particular – Rebecca who has been my assistant for the past few years and whom I will miss a lot this season. I found her great work-ethic and calm presence at big competitions invaluable at somewhat stressful days at the track! I tried and failed to talk her into staying involved this season ☺ After all I am proof that you don’t need to have a child in the club to take on a position of responsibility!
- Gary Prest and his helpers for once again marking out the track and keeping the grounds looking good throughout the season.
- Sarah Johnson for the amazing action photos of our Chav kids ☺
- All of our regular Wednesday event chiefs and parent-helpers ☺

- Neru Leifi, Scott Lambie and Frances Cadman for running the SP for us on Saturday mornings ☺
- Rozie Robinson for all the help she gave our athletes with Track Walk this season
- Our invaluable group of coaches :
 Juniors -Rebecca, Kate, Jordyn, Ryan, Jared, Kyle, Brigit, Laura
 Seniors – Jill, Fiona, Ben, James, Bridgette and Olivia– all of whom did an amazing job of coaching our young athletes. They are all enthusiastic, knowledgeable and up-to-date with modern coaching methods -all of which benefits our athletes greatly.

And so - yet another season at Chav has come and gone!

I think that was number 22 for me as Junior Club Captain!

Every season brings it challenges and it's ups and downs throughout the year – but we survived them all and had fun along the way ☺

Many things make my job as Club Captain enjoyable and rewarding.

I consider myself lucky to be able to work with such enthusiastic and well-behaved young athletes at Chav . I am fortunate to be able to guide and encourage them to try new events, to develop their athletic talent and to “be the very best they can be” ☺

I am also very fortunate to have wonderful support from all of our Chav families.

And so I look forward to a new season starting next month at Chav. It will be an exciting season with the new all-weather track at Nga Puna Wai being used for our Saturday Inter Club Meets and for Canterbury Champs!

I look forward to seeing lots of our existing members again and to meeting new athletes who join the club for the first time. I also look forward to working with my Junior Committee for another year –with 5 new members on board we should have lots of new ideas to make the Chav Junior Club an exciting club to belong to!

Marilyn Morrison –Junior Club Captain