



TRENTHAM UNITED HARRIERS & WALKERS

Trentham Team Third in Ekiden Walking Relay

The Trentham United team placed 3rd in the B grade of the Racewalking New Zealand Ekiden relay championship on Sunday 24 May 2009. The weather was damp and cool, but the course was sheltered from the southerlies battering Wellington.

Michael Walton led the team out with a blistering 42:18 for 7.195km, an opening lap only slightly slower than the top two A grade teams. Michael handed over to Stuart Hood. At just 13 years old Stuart walked 37:26 for his 5km leg - more than twice the distance he has ever walked before. Richard Willis was our next walker, clocking 49:17 for 7.5km before heading home with the flu. Tim Dutton then walked a fantastic PB for the 10k leg, breaking the 1 hour barrier for the first time with 59:48. Andrew Shelley took over to walk 46:16 for the second 7.5k leg. Christine Taylor brought then team home with 34:05 for the final 5km leg. Total time for the team was 4:29:09 over the marathon distance of 42.195km – our fastest time over the three years we have competed.

The top 5 (of 15) teams in the B grade were Run Walk Hawkes Bay, 4:15:53; Manawatu Striders 1, 4:22:59; Trentham United, 4:29:09; Scottish Red, 4:41:01; Manawatu Striders 2, 4:51:44. A grade teams were Auckland Racewalking 4:00:30; Palmerston North Athletics 4:03:07; Scottish Gold 4:15:01; Taranaki Racewalking 4:15:09. The results spreadsheet is available [here](#).

The Racewalking New Zealand Ekiden Relay Championships are held each year on a 2.5km circuit at the old CIT campus. Racing on a circuit allows the event to be judged, and also means that all teams are able to watch the full race. A grade walkers are judged to full racewalking standards, while B grade walkers are judged only for loss of contact and were able to use any style of walking.

Michael Walton hands off to Stuart Hood



Richard Willis hands off to Tim Dutton

