

## CITY-BAY FUN RUN PAST RESULTS – GENERAL INFORMATION

by Ian Hill

To my knowledge this is the first time that (nearly) complete results of the City-Bay Fun Run for the years prior to the internet era have been published online. The reasons for doing this are two-fold:

1. To provide race results prior to 1998 for members of the 100 Marathon Club;
2. In celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> running of the City-Bay Fun Run in 2022.

The first City-Bay fun run was held on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> November 1973 from the Adelaide Town Hall to the Glenelg Town Hall in Moseley Square via King William Street, South Terrace, Anzac Highway and Colley Terrace. The start was at 10:00 am and the entry fee was 50 cents. About 1,600 entries were received.

The race was won by Derek Clayton in 34:05 from David Fitzsimons in 34:08 with Tony Bart third. Clayton and Fitzsimons are well known Olympians in the marathon and middle distances respectively. The women's race was won by Elaine Stubbs in approximately 44:25 from J. Connelly and Lee Hardwick.

It appears the exact distance of the inaugural event was never accurately determined. The 1974 finisher certificate shows "12 km" while the advertised distance in 1973 was "7 miles" (11.265 km). Australia converted to the metric system in 1974. Although the article in "History" at the City-Bay web site states "11.5 km", the conversion factor used to adjust Clayton's time to 35:58 in order to make a comparison with *all* winners since suggests a distance of about 11.37 km. A compromise of 11.3 km seems appropriate for the purposes of this exercise.

The only results definitely not available are those for 1977 because *The News* did not publish them. Instead they were placed on the window of the News building opposite the railway station in North Terrace. If you wanted to know your finish position you had to go and have a look! Presumably people from the country or interstate could ring up to find out.

Also missing at the moment are those from 1976 and 1989 because they cannot be located! Hopefully they will turn up at a later stage. If any reader has a copy they can lend me please get in touch.

There were some teething problems with the first event in 1973 when runners were finishing faster than they could be processed. This is described in an email sent to me by Paul Sutcliffe in July 2017 which appears below. As a result every runner's finish position *only* was published (along with their race number) but not their time.

This was sorted out in 1974 and from then on everyone has had a time published. Even so, the results are not entirely accurate because a perennial problem was a relatively large number of people with a race number who would jump into the race anywhere from close to the start to half-way down Anzac Highway, with South Terrace especially being a popular place to do it. Another minor issue was runners charging straight through Victoria Square instead of running on the road around it, saving themselves about 50 metres. Still, it was a *fun* run and these quirks were tolerated with bemusement and a philosophical "they are only cheating themselves", but nevertheless it was *always* a talking point!

Over the years the course has changed about half a dozen times, more often at the finish than the start. The first change was in 1980 when it was lengthened to *about* 12 km by moving the start to the News Building. The finish was also moved to Colley Reserve to more adequately cope with the growing number of participants. In 1983 the finish was moved to Glenelg Oval where it remained until 1996. In 1985 road works on North Terrace forced the start to be relocated near the Festival Theatre where it has remained since. It was likely to be moved anyway because the right hand turn into King William Street soon after the start was hazardous for the ever increasing numbers, as noted in "*History*".

A major change occurred in 1997 when electronic timing was introduced. The finish moved back to Moseley Square for a few years and then relocated a few hundred metres away on Colley Terrace as numbers rapidly escalated when shorter distances were introduced. The distance now is certified to be *exactly* 12km but from 1992-96 the finish certificates had 11.88km printed on them and from 1974-88 showed 12km. For many years the certificates have not shown any distance!

## Results

As noted, until recently the results have been published every year except 1977, firstly by *The News* until its demise in 1992 and then by *The Advertiser*. This was discontinued by 2017 with readers being redirected to the web site.

The 1973 results are supplied by Paul Sutcliffe, with the following explanation of the unforeseen bottleneck which soon developed at the finish line. Paul emailed me in July 2017:

Ian,

Attached are the results of the 1973 City-Bay.

As noted at the top the finish system failed to the extent that not all finishers were recorded. I remember the finish vividly. The finish line was at the end of Jetty Road in front of the Town Hall which would be about where the pedestrian crossing at the tram line is today. They had a rows of tables with people recording times on paper slips. You then had to take the slip to get your result recorded on time cards (well that's what I remember). The problem was that it worked well for the front runners as the time slip recorder could see the runner finish record the time and get the slip to them. Later on this became impossible and people were getting their finish times recorded when they got to the tables (past the finish line). Later on when the masses arrived (i.e. me!) the ques were so long that you had to stop before the finish line! In the end other were wrong. The best example is that W Hall (WD) is listed as finishing third last! That meant that the Sutcliffe family were listed as winning the family four. However, later we were told that the Hall brothers had won - not surprisingly.

How times have changed.

Derek Clayton ran 34:05 and David Fitzsimons 34:08.

Paul

Note that all the newspaper results are searchable.