



CENTENARY MARATHON

MARATHON RUNNING IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

21 August 1920-2020

RE-ENACTMENT of the FIRST EVENT

RESULTS AND AWARDS



Ian Hill
Race Director
10 September 2020

CENTENARY MARATHON

21-23 AUGUST 2020

Results and Awards (pre-registered)

<u>Ladies</u>	<u>Day started</u>	<u>Moving Time</u>	<u>Award</u>
Cecile Gouws	Sat, 22 nd August	4:23:01	Fastest time and Course record
Carolyn Modra	Sun, 23 rd August	4:41:09	Second fastest time
Kirsty Gwynn-Jones	Fri, 21 st August	4:43:48	Third Fastest time and Course record
Sue Worley	Sat, 8 th August	7:48:00	

Gentlemen

Neil Atkinson	Fri, 21 st August	3:15:05	Fastest time and Course record
Ted Jennings	Fri, 21 st August	3:34:54	Second fastest time
Michael Fraser	Fri, 21 st August	3:54:31	Third fastest time
David Billett	Fri, 21 st August	3:55:02	
Peter Allcroft	Sun, 23 rd August	4:02:27	
Jim Docking	Fri, 21 st August	4:11:32	
Anthony Elder	Fri, 21 st August	4:14:57	
Rob Robinson	Sun, 23 rd August	4:41:09	
David Qu	Fri, 21 st August	4:49:26	
Rick Jenkner	Fri, 21 st August	4:54:42	
Steve Guy	Fri, 21 st August	5:08:20	
Peter Kotsoglous	Sun, 23 rd August	5:29:24	
Tim Horton	Fri, 21 st August	5:42:40	
Tony Ayris	Fri, 21 st August	5:50:20	
Darren Linney	Fri, 21 st August	5:50:20	
Chris Glacken	Fri, 21 st August	6:05:11	
Ian Hill	Sun, 23 rd August	6:38:01	
Peter Worley	Sat, 8 th August	7:32:38	

Results (additional participants)

John Csongei	Fri, 21 st August	3:13:59	Course record and <i>daily</i> fastest time
Stuart Whiting	Fri, 21 st August	3:34:54	(equal) Second fastest time

The Course

The course for the Centenary Marathon had been used twice before, in the first marathon held in South Australia (by definition) and in the second marathon held in 1925 on 19th September which was won by Charley Kerr in 3:24:04. Kerr was the only finisher from three starters.

The number of finishers on the first course is therefore four, ranked as follows:

Percy Collins (Vic)	1920	3:18:23
Charley Kerr (SA)	1925	3:24:04
Hugh Wolter (SA)	1920	3:44:40
Thomas Byrnes (Qld)	1920	4:28:20

The Centenary Marathon course was virtually the same until it reached the corner of Frome Road and Mackinnon Parade (at 40.7km) where it turned left to finish on the University Loop, across the road (east) from the University Oval. In 1925 the course finished at Adelaide Oval, also across the road (west) from the University Oval. Therefore no finish line had an advantage over any other.

The first two marathons were officially organised events and therefore competitors had the advantage of a continuous run on a mixture of bitumen and dirt roads which were much safer to run on than the very hazardous footpaths of today. Participants in the Centenary Marathon were faced with a stop-start run because of traffic lights and the need to be self-sufficient.

The weather is another factor affecting performances on the same course in different years. In 1920 it was a warm day of 74F or 23C and in 1925 it was a typical winter's day (in early spring), much like we experienced on Friday. Given all these factors I consider performances in the Centenary Marathon to be on a par with those of the past. Therefore the opportunity for new course records to be set in the Centenary Marathon was present and such occurrences are recognised.

While the nature of our event with different starting times ruled out the concept of an event "winner" and runners-up with podium status, fastest times can be recognised as valid but can also be surpassed by later finishers. An analogy I can think of is in the winter Olympics where skiers go down the slope one at a time. With this concept in mind any new course records are recognised even if they are then bettered by a later finisher.

New Course Records

Four new course records were set, two each by men and women. In the order they occurred, the first was by **Neil Atkinson** who started at 9:36am on Friday 21st August 2020 and finished around 1:35pm with a moving time of 3:15:05.



Photos by Ian Hill

Neil Atkinson at the start



Neil with Ted Jennings and Stuart Whiting at the finish

Later in the day at 3:39pm **Kirsty Gwynn-Jones** became the first woman to finish the original marathon course with a time of 4:43:48. This was a historic occasion and her finish was well documented by pictures and videos.



Photos by Peter Kotsoglous



(l) Kirsty Gwynn-Jones at the start with Ted and Stuart; (c) Kirsty about to finish; (r) happy with her medal

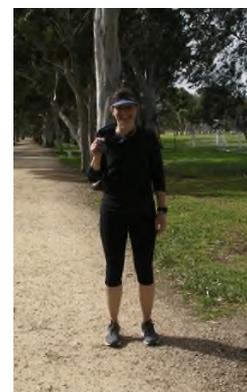
Around 4:25pm, unobserved by any of us **John Csongei** finished the marathon in a time of 3:13:59 and broke the course record set by Neil Atkinson two hours and 50 minutes earlier. John had not registered his intention to take part but this was a fairly ad hoc process and only advertised the once in the July SARRC monthly newsletter. Most people became aware of the event from that newsletter or word-of-mouth. In his race report John said he only learned about the event from a Parkrun facebook post the previous week. On that basis I have no qualms in recognising John's performance as part of the centenary celebrations.



Photo by Peter Kotsoglous

A rare get-together of the only male course record holders of the Pichi Richi Marathon, spanning 38 years - from left, John Csongei, Ian Hill and Steve Guy

On Saturday 22nd August 2020 **Cecile Gouws** and **Paul Bartsch** set out from Victoria Square at 6:30am to run their Centenary Marathon. For Cecile it was her first marathon while Paul is a veteran of four Yurrebilla Trail 56km ultra marathons. However around 30km Paul started to have calf problems and when I found them walking along Payneham Road Paul decided to withdraw and I took him home while Cecile continued. At the Uni Loop Cecile became a little disoriented but a couple of phone calls had her arriving at the finish line full of smiles after finishing her first marathon in a new record of 4:23:01.



(1) From Cecile's Strava Page; other photos by Ian Hill

(left) Cecile and Paul at the start (centre) Just after finishing (right) Cecile with her medal

Courage and Endurance



An unexpected but not unsurprising result of the re-enactment of the first marathon was the emergence from *definite* retirement by three people I have known for a long time; **Steve Guy** since 1972 and **Peter and Sue Worley** since 1980. I saw Steve for the first time in several years while I was doing the 24 hour run at the Uni Loop in July 2019 and he said to me "I've got to run 10km by Christmas" and walked a lap with me to explain why. According to his doctors, who are runners themselves, he would not be able to run again after a serious operation.

Steve was the third person to put their hand up for the re-enactment after Darren and Kirsty. I offered to include a half-marathon or 10km for Steve but he said "I'll do the whole thing or be a volunteer on the day". I knew at that instant he would be finishing the marathon, and indeed he did, at 3:24pm on Friday with a time of 5:08:20.



Photo by Ian Hill



Photo by Peter Kotsoglous

Steve at the start wearing a 1920s athletics top and at the finish in his Manchester United vest with his well earned Centenary Marathon finisher medal.

Peter and Sue Worley's progress had been documented in the previous fortnight and on Friday 21st August they walked twelve and a half kilometers together from the Firle Plaza to the finish and for the first time were able to see other participants along the way.



Photo by Ian Hill

Sue and Peter on Glynburn Road soon after starting at 1:20pm.



Photos by Peter Kotsoglous

Two hours and 28 minutes later Peter and Sue broke the tape to finish their marathon and receive their medals from Grenville Wood. Sue said they endured a couple of showers of rain and she did not fall, but arthritis in her big toe made it tough going.

A keen participant was **Chris Glacken** who is well known as Director of Coastal Fun Runs which includes marathons and emerged during the middle of the last decade and provided the opportunity for runners to add to their tally quickly and relatively cheaply, at the same time raising money for charity. Chris tells me he should not have started the Centenary Marathon on Friday but at the same time did not want to miss it. Faced with that choice, what does one do? I don't have to tell anyone reading this the answer!



Photo by Peter Kotsoglous

Ready to go at 9:36am, from left Neil Atkinson, Darren Linney, Tony Ayris, Chris Glacken and Steve Guy

Driving along the course I saw Chris near Emerson Crossing being one of the few people to negotiate the treacherous Cross Road footpaths on the right side footpath. A report from Peter Kotsoglous later on at Portrush Road indicated that Chris was doing it the hard way, but he would finish.



Photos by Peter Kotsoglous

Tim Horton and Chris Glacken near the tape.



Thumbs up, I did it!

Kirsty Gwynn-Jones' marathon did not go the way she had hoped, but like Chris there was no way she was not going to finish. Arriving just in time to watch the first wave of runners depart at 9:36am, Kirsty was not concerned with trying to catch them. After all, there was all day to savour the fact that exactly 100 years ago contemporaries of her great uncle Ern Jolly were running the very first marathon to be held in South Australia. Aged just 19 years old then, Ern was a little young to take part but in later years he had the opportunity to race against Hugh Wolter, the SA Champion from that first event.



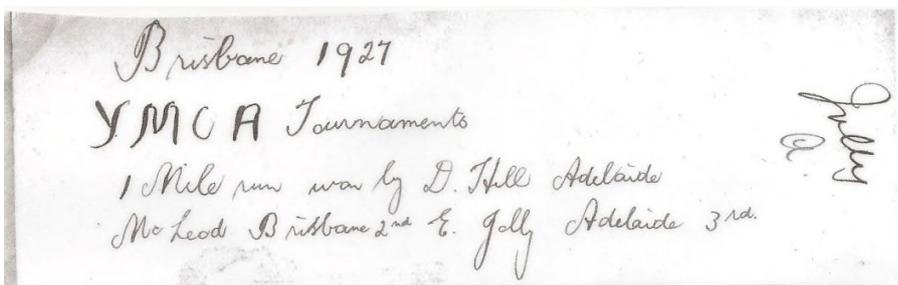
Photo by Peter Kotsoglous



Photo courtesy Kirsty Gwynn-Jones

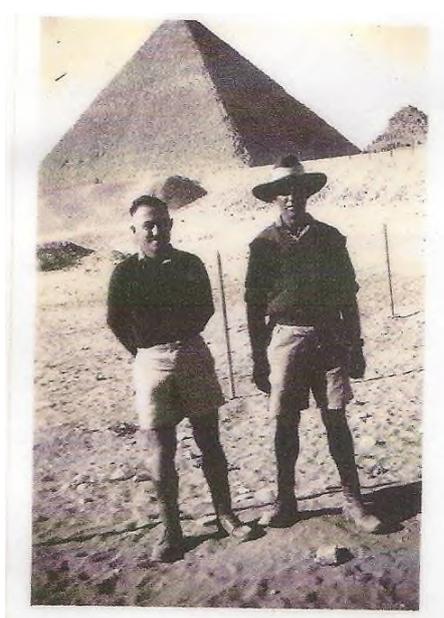
Kirsty with the ABC crew and Ian Hill *Ern Jolly (60) in Adelaide Harriers singlet at Hobart, Easter 1925*

Kirsty produced several sheets of family history, laminated for the expected rain, to show me and this immediately attracted the interest of the ABC crew. I was delighted when told these were for me to keep and I could share them amongst readers. Ern Jolly was keen to travel to find competition at the national level and lined up in Hobart at Easter 1925 as shown above, probably in a 1 Mile race.



This note states that E. Jolly came third in a 1 Mile run at Brisbane in 1927, a race won by another athlete from Adelaide, while second place was taken by a local.

Ern Jolly served in World War II in the Middle East and went missing in action. His mates from the 2nd 27th Infantry Battalion, presuming he had been killed, established an Ern Jolly Memorial Race at Western Districts Athletics Club, to be held annually. However Ern returned to Australia and famously presented his own memorial trophy for several decades. Ern passed away on 26th September 1995 at the age of 94.



Photos courtesy Kirsty Gwynn-Jones

(left) Taken in 1941, Ern Jolly with "Mum" and youngest sister Ethel, Kirsty's grandmother.

(right) In Egypt, 1941, Ern Jolly (thought to be at left)

After we thought everyone had started at Victoria Square by 11am, Catherine and I travelled along the course to see how the run was progressing. First spotted was Chris Glacken on the right near Emerson Railway crossing and a little later Steve Guy on the left. Not far ahead of him was Kirsty at Goodwood Rd. We stopped for lunch at McDonalds on that intersection and Steve soon came along. Next time we saw them Steve had overtaken Kirsty and was moving steadily up the hill.

Halfway down Portrush Road there was an opportunity to talk to the runners after they had crossed the road and Kirsty said it was tough going, her legs were OK but she'd had too much water.



Photos by Peter Kotsoglous

After finishing she said "that was shocking ... problems started from 15km" but she "wasn't going to DNF". The photos prove that, with Ted Jennings at the start and chatting to Steve Guy at the finish.

Anthony Elder was one of the first to register once the event was advertised in the July SARRC newsletter. He had previously only finished the one marathon, in 4:37:03 in 2010 from the information I had found at ausrunning.net. However his experience was much more than that, having completed three ultra marathons and an Iron Man Triathlon. He needed it, because we had left him behind on the Friday after he had no choice but to be at work until 11am and planned a later start. During the excitement on Friday morning I had forgotten that and formed the impression there were no more people to start after Jim Docking, Michael Fraser and David Billett at 11am.

Just before 5:30pm inside the Graduates Clubrooms at the finish a runner showed up outside the window and we directed him to the door. I asked him who he was and when he told me I was dismayed that I'd forgotten about someone! However Anthony was cheerful and good-natured about it and I invited him inside and introduced him to the people still there. In his race report Anthony wrote "you can see I suffered due to excessive cold after being smashed by the rain and hail in the later part – plus didn't have my nutrition right, something to work on next time".

After some refreshments Peter Kotsoglous and I interviewed him. Anthony said it was a "different course" and he enjoyed taking part. He smashed his PB with a run of 4:14:57.



Photo by Ian Hill

Anthony Elder happy after his finish and soon to be joined by his family

Congratulations to these six finishers for their inspiring performances which emphasised what running the marathon is all about – achieving a personal goal through endurance and determination, having the courage to move out of their comfort zone and overcome adversity. Six people, six very different tales, one common goal, to finish!

Attire

Comment by Ian Hill:



The Mail, Saturday 17 September 1932



Photo by Peter Kotsoglous

I looked at this photo from the 1932 SA State Marathon and thought I could pretty well match the uniform worn by George Lockwood at the far left. Representing Adelaide Harriers, George's singlet must have been fairly new because not long before that the Harriers' athletes were wearing the flying wings design of the 1920s. See Ern Jolly (60) and the man to his right (59) on page 9. Incredibly fifty years later in 1981 when I joined the Harriers the singlet was still the same, with a narrower red stripe and slightly altered design. All I needed was a pair of long white shorts which I found at Rebel Sports at Marion. A couple of practice runs in them indicated that they would be fine.

I'm now about 18kg heavier than when I first wore the singlet but the cotton "Chesty Bonds" fabric was willing to stretch enough. As insurance against the weather and my age I wore a modern style red SARRC T-shirt underneath. In the above photo with Steve Guy I'm holding a special bottle of 2020 McLAREN VALE SANGIOVESE CENTENARY MARATHON. In my esky I found a bottle of 2015 Coldstream Hills Pinot Noir Chardonnay! It was like Christmas! Thank you, Steve.

Many participants took my suggestion to wear "something old" seriously and Rick Jenkner was the first to respond, saying he would wear the number from his first marathon. Steve Guy showed up with a 1920s style athletics top (see p5) and with the cathedral backdrop (and ignoring the cars) could have been straight out of *Chariots of Fire!* Rick and Steve were awarded the "Attire" trophies. I had on hand several flute glasses inscribed with the Centenary Marathon details and these went to Kirsty Gwynn-Jones (Uncle Ern's Empire Games tie), Darren Linney (old number) and David Billett (old number). When he started his three-stage walk Peter Worley was wearing his number from his first Festival City Marathon in 1979. Michael Fraser wore an early Big M Marathon number. Peter and Michael will also receive a flute glass.

In total six runners wore one of their old numbers; for some it was from their first marathon. Kirsty had a unique memento from the past. If I have left anyone out please let me know.

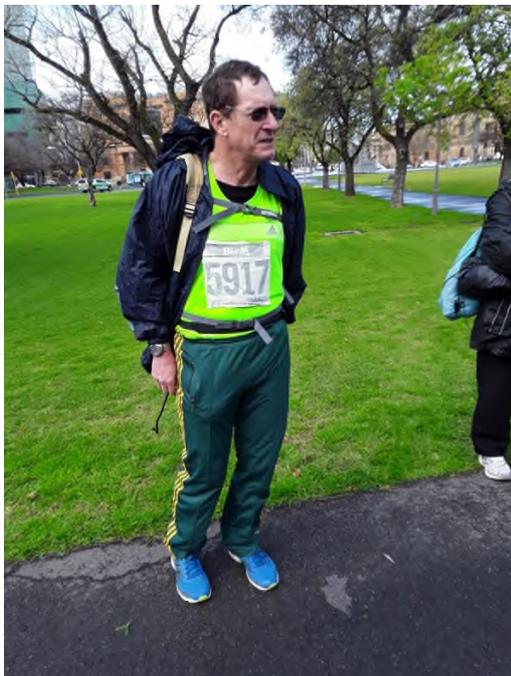
Photos by Peter Kotsoglous, Ian Hill and Steve Guy



Darren Linney



David Billett



Michael Fraser



Rick Jenkner



Peter Worley, first Adelaide Marathon and T-shirt



Ian Hill, still needing a few metres for Strava



Kirsty Gwynn-Jones, with Great Uncle Ern's 1938 Empire Games Tie on her wrist

Closest to a 1920 Time

This was the mystery award which anyone (except me) could win, based on moving time. The three finishers in 1920 had times of 3:18:23 (Percy Collins, Vic), 3:44:40 (Hugh Wolter, SA) and 4:28:20 (Thomas Byrnes, Qld), which was a reasonable spread enabling most of the field some chance of getting near one of them. The trophy is pictured on the front page.

The winner is Neil Atkinson who was only 3 minutes and 18 seconds away from Collins' winning time in 1920. Not far away, but by virtue of being slightly faster and therefore increasing the gap to 4:24, was John Csongei and the fastest woman Cecile Gouws was only 5:19 away from Byrne's time in 1920.

Closest to Hugh Wolter's time were Ted Jennings and Stuart Whiting, each 9:46 faster than 3:44:40 while on the slower side Michael Fraser was 9:51 away from it with his 3:54:31.

Results

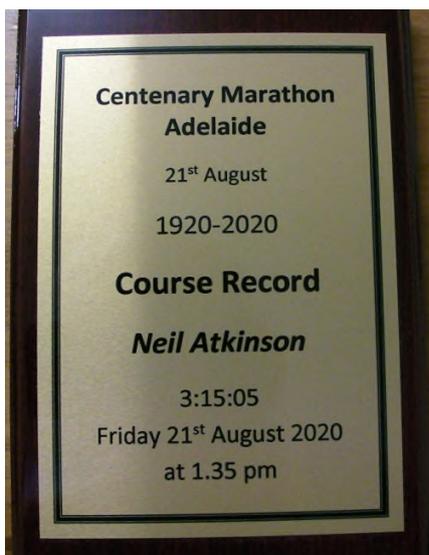
<u>Participant</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Closest</u>	<u>Gap</u>
Neil Atkinson	3:15:05	3:18:23	0:03:18
John Csongei	3:13:59	3:18:23	0:04:24
Cecile Gouws	4:23:01	4:28:20	0:05:19
Ted Jennings	3:34:54	3:44:40	0:09:46
Stuart Whiting	3:34:54	3:44:40	0:09:46
Michael Fraser	3:54:31	3:44:40	0:09:51
David Billett	3:55:02	3:44:40	0:10:22
Carolyn Modra	4:41:09	4:28:20	0:12:49
Rob Robinson	4:41:09	4:28:20	0:12:49
Anthony Elder	4:14:57	4:28:20	0:13:23
Kirsty Gwynn-Jones	4:43:48	4:28:20	0:15:28
Jim Docking	4:11:32	4:28:20	0:16:48
Peter Allcroft	4:02:27	3:44:40	0:17:47
David Qu	4:49:26	4:28:20	0:21:06
Rick Jenkner	4:54:42	4:28:20	0:26:22
Steve Guy	5:08:20	4:28:20	0:40:00
Peter Kotsoglous	5:29:24	4:28:20	1:01:04
Tim Horton	5:42:40	4:28:20	1:14:20
Darren Linney	5:50:20	4:28:20	1:32:00
Tony Ayriss	5:50:20	4:28:20	1:32:00
Chris Glacken	6:05:11	4:28:20	1:36:51
Ian Hill	6:38:01	4:28:20	2:09:41
Peter Worley	7:32:38	4:28:20	3:04:18
Susan Worley	7:48:00	4:28:20	3:19:40
Paul Bartsch	DNF		

Awards – a closer look

The trophies for the fastest times recorded by ladies and gentlemen – in keeping with the likely custom of the day in 1920.



One of the four plaques awarded for course records; the old-style “thank you” medal awarded to 24 of the 25 participants. I also wanted one for myself and that has slightly different wording!



The medals for first, second and third fastest times also come with a ribbon of SA state colours. They look great in their special case, a feature not highlighted by ordinary photography!

