

CSA NEWSLETTER

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Change-a-Life crews rule at Midmar.

Members of Martin Dreyer's Change-a-Life canoe development program took the top three places at Fezela Canoe Club's Hi-Q Midmar Mini Marathon on Sunday. As the Hi-Q race is a seeding event, this result will assure all three crews a front row start at the Hansa Powerade Dusi in January – see attached spreadsheet. Coming into their own during the first long portage from Hobie Point to Cascades, Thomas Ngidi and Eric Zondi held off a concerted charge by Lucas Mthlane and John Ngcobo to win the 23km classic by 31 seconds. Richard and Nhlanhla Cele snatched the third place from Craig Turton and Miles Rasmussen during the last portage over the Thurlow peninsula and were 21 seconds ahead at the finish at Orient Park.

In the boy's race 2009 Hansa Powerade Dusi winner, Kwanda Mhlophe and runner-up Lance Kime teamed up for a win, in 6th place overall, over U16's Donovan Wewege and Andrew Adie. Both Mhlophe and Kime are St Charles College paddlers, while Wewege and Adie are from Maritzburg College and Kearsney College respectively. Maritzburg College and Hilton paddlers, Dewalt Hattingh and Bazil Robertson took the third place. Exam season took its toll in both the boy's and girl's fields with no girl's K2's taking part at all.

In the women's race Kingfisher's Donna Winter and Angelique Mulder had a two minute win over Umzinyathi's Debbie Germiquet and Angela Scruby with Vet's Debbie Lewis and Cavil Cordes in third place.

As often happens at Midmar, the strong Berg wind had a big part to play in the race with the huge waves providing very testing conditions for the less experienced among the 325 strong entry for the race. Several long swims to the bank were recorded, but despite this only 9 of the 167 boats that started the race failed to complete the course.

Fezela's well presented event provided plenty of variety for the paddlers and included two firsts for canoeing in KZN.

In the main race the Eston crew of Brett McNally, Derrin Smith and Ryan Dohne winning the first ever "World" K3 Championships from the Natal Canoe Club trio of Rob Humphry, Dave Griffin and Shane Houghting. Humphry et al paddling the much vaunted Purple Peril were early leaders but the heavy conditions and inadequate pumps resulted in their slim-line speed-machine taking on a great deal of water. The resulting unscheduled pit-stop to empty relegated them to the silver medal position. The mixed Ngwenya crew of Marina Eriksen-Miller, Roche Krause and Awanie Swanepoel took the third place. The K3's covered the same course as the main race, but without the portages, resulting in a longer, 25km, paddle. K3's are an unofficial marathon class internationally but very popular in South Africa. While the main race was underway the Guppy, or U12, classes had their own short course event at the start/finish area at Orient Park. Here, for the first time ever, there was a viable U6 category. Here Matthew Millward won the race from Kian Gays and Ben Tarr. A total of 31 paddlers entered the Guppy race. The strong Guppy fields recent events are a result of concerted efforts by the KNCU coaching staff, under the leadership of head coach, Craig Mustard. Guppy's, especially at school level, are the main feeder to the sport and all-important in the search for young canoeing talent.

Results – full ones attached

K3's

Brett McNally, Ryan Dohne and Derrin Smith EST 2:08:19, 2. Rob Humphry, Dave Griffin and Shane Houghting NAT 2:11:25, 3. Marina Eriksen-Miller, Roche Krause and Swanie Swanepoel NGW 2:32:22.

K2's

Overall

Eric Zondi and Thomas Ngidi UMZ-LEM 1:46:59, 2. Lucas Mthlana and John Ngcobo LEM-VIC 1:47:30, 3. Richard and Nhlanhla Cele LEM 1:49:13, 4. Craig Turton and Miles Rasmussen CAN-KIN 1:49:34, 5. Wayne Wilson and Paul Rabinwitz KIN-UKN 1:50:29.

Women

Donna Winter and Angelique Mulder KIN 2:17:05, 2. Debbie Germiquet and Angela Scruby UMZ 2:19:21, 3. Debbie Lewis and Cavil Cordes(Vet) KIN-UMZ 2:25:53.

Boys

Kwanda Mhlophe and Lance Kime LEM/STC – NAT/STC 1:52:49, 2. Donovan Wewege and Andrew Adie(U16) MAR-KEA 1:58:52, 3. Dewalt Hattingh and Basil Robertson MAR-HIL 2:08:35.

1st SV Jay Jenkins and Steve Botha NAT 2:02:58, women – Claudine Lee and Bridget Schoefield NAT-CRU 2:46:38

1st V Eric Hildebrandt and James Tutton KIN 2:00:08

1st SM Glen Hilliar and Mike de Villiers KIN-NAT 1:53:06

1st M Dave Strydom and Rob McInerney UMZ 2:33:50

1st SGM Graeme Pope-Ellis and Phillip van Niekerk KIN 2:02:38

1st MD Abie Adie and Troy Harworth NAT-MAR 2:06:22

1st K1 Keith Ellerker(Mas) NAT 2:15:10, women, Kate March NAT 2:36:14

Guppys

U6 Matthew Millward – Kelly Tarr, U8 Matthew Millward – Brittany Eayrs, U10 Chelsea Wewege – Matthew Eglington, U12 Jamie-Lee Robertson – Richard Braithwaite, U14 Novices Chris Kayama – Josie van Arbo.

Full results on www.kncu.co.za