



Winter Classic and Wayne Cretney Memorial 2012

Reflections of a Bygone Year

Race Report: Oh the Pain! The Pain!

Map: Wright's Hill

Organiser and Planners: Jamie Stewart and Penny Kane

Another Winter Classic looms in 2013, and I thought I'd write some reflections of a bygone year, the 2012 Winter Classic. As always, all the Winter Classics I have run remain seared into my memory – just like the bulldog with the ugly face who can say 'Man, I've lived!'

I remember writing 'Yippee!' about the 2012 Winter Classic because for the first time in 6 years, I would be able to compete, after planning the previous five events. Maybe I shouldn't have been so enthusiastic...

After being totally swamped with World Cup mapping, I was never going to be able to find the time required to plan the 2012 event. I was grateful to Jamie and Penny who volunteered for this task.

As always for the Winter Classic, their well planned courses were hard, tough and dirty. I remember emailing Jamie asking where he wanted to start, and emailing back that it was taking a risk to start at the top of Wright's Hill in the middle of winter. It was almost begging for the Gods to come up with a day to remember – pouring rain all day at the top of an exposed hill.

Oh, well, I think, definitely character building, when the day dawned not just wet but saturated.

I can remember people huddling together for warmth under the small shelter and the clothing tent becoming totally muddy and pooling with water and everyone ducking and diving into and out of their cars and my wife and son (the caterers) not having so many takers for the yummy food as people did not wait around too much.

Now for reflections on the Race! The Race! (The Pain! The Pain!):

- after two controls and five minutes running, I tried to go through fight for several minutes which probably knackered me for the rest of the event – I now know what the runners from previous years were talking about – it was worse than I remembered mapping . I think – I’m getting too old for this s***! I also cursed the mapper frequently (who was myself) . As a comment, I find over the years, I’m my own worst critic of my maps and while mapping the World Cups, I would always find and make more changes than what the planners and controllers requested – you can always find something wrong (unexpected) with a map. The Winter Classic is never boring.
- After about 25 minutes, one of my rivals Rob came running past me and I was unable to keep up with him. I was dismayed after such a short time that I was hitting the wall so quickly – not just a small wall but the Great Wall of China – this was not supposed to happen – this was not good. Oh well, I think – I’ll just have to grin and bear it and go a bit slower – that’s what you get for too much mapping and not enough training.
- Later on, I enjoyed the lovely and easy urban running through Samuel Marsden College and Karori school but the pain and extreme tiredness was starting to kick in on the long haul back up Wright’s Hill.
- At the start of the last leg, a major set-back occurred. A migraine headache of epic proportions was starting – I get these very rarely. I had to make a choice to DNF or to try and soldier on. Bugger it, I thought – I’m going to finish no matter what it takes.
- The last leg is supposed to be the hardest and so it was in 2012, well planned but bloody tough in the bush. Most of it was spent with the migraine’s aura meaning most of the map was out of focus and a blur with a hammering in the back of my head. Maybe a bit foolish carrying on but I knew Wayne was watching.
- It was with great relief to walk up the long road to the finish and immensely satisfying to end up 3rd and to finish another Winter Classic after three and a quarter hours slog.

One of the hardest Winter Classic for me ever but not the worst. I can vividly remember at least several harder – one year coming 2nd in the Elite course by 3 seconds to Greg Barbour and another year being beaten by Bill, my brother, by 6 minutes after being ahead but hitting an even bigger wall than the Great Wall and still another year being well ahead but the Wall did not just hit me, it floored and decked me, and I again ended up second after Steve Holden sneaked past me.

I have run and finished the Winter Classic many times and always there has been great pain towards the finish – apart from the year after my brother beat me, when I was inspired and out for revenge and won by over 40 minutes – such a great feeling

to feel so strong. Ah, what would I give to go back to the glory days, when I was young and fit and could run forever.

Bring on 2013 with courses by Jason Markham (a previous Winter Classic winner). I'll be trying to come back for more if my body holds up – older and a little slower but definitely not wiser.

Bryan Teahan

Maps and Courses

Results:

<http://www.winterclassic.co.nz/wc/results2012.html>

Maps:

<http://www.winterclassic.co.nz/wc/maps2012.pdf>

Quotes

Lost in Space! :

Warning! Warning!

Danger Will Robinson, Danger! Danger!

"Oh, the pain, the pain . . ."

Lost in Karori!

Warning! Warning!

Danger Bryan, Danger! Danger!

"Oh the agony! The agony!"