

ROUND THE HARBOUR

The W E Patterson Memorial Trophy Relay race was a precursor of the Round the Harbour. First held in 1946 the Patterson Relay was a major interclub event. Run on a handicap basis it was four laps of about four miles each. 24 teams took part the first year with University winning. Appropriately Calliope's N Ambler easily took fastest lap time by 55 seconds (21m 10s). Run from the Presbyterian Church Hall in Northcote, the Relay was last held in 1950 when Calliope was second on handicap. It was not for lack of popularity that it stopped. There was a record number of 32 teams in 1950. Four Calliope teams participated, the Calliope Y team of I Aplin, J Stack, M Leydon, and K Brown having the distinction of finishing 32nd. Obviously the handicap was stacked against them.

Western Suburbs and Calliope had an enjoyable combined run in 1948 at Grey Lynn, in 1949 the exercise was repeated from the Victoria Hall, and in August 1950 a trial relay run was held around the harbour by members of Calliope, Western Suburbs and Papatoetoe Clubs. Four men ran each lap at a leisurely pace. The stages were: Highbury to Schnapper Rock Road, to the summit of Foley's Hill, to Riverhead, to Great North Road Junction, to Hobsonville, to Henderson, to Whau Bridge, and finally to Grey Lynn Park. The following year the Round the Harbour Relay organized jointly by Calliope and Western Suburbs Harrier Clubs commenced. The Relay was a huge success and continued to 1978

when traffic problems forced its closure. As the years went by Calliope increasingly took over the organizing of the event. The course was from Highbury to near Rosedale Road, to just over the top of the Albany Hill, to Riverhead, to Hobsonville turnoff, to the Henderson end of Lincoln Road, to New Lynn, and to the finish at Grey Lynn Park. There were always large entries in the



Bob Cheshire triumphantly winning the 1963 Relay for Calliope A

37 mile event, the biggest number from available records being 43 teams in 1972. That represents over 300 runners, each of whom had to be timed and recorded. As it was run on a true handicap basis, there was lots of calculating to do and this was in pre-computer days. Calliope prided itself on having the total results out soon after the last team had finished. To do this, the club members who had an aptitude for numbers had to run one of the first three laps. Once the lap was run the hard part

started, calculating everything while following the race by car.

Some highlights follow. There were 22 teams in 1951. All finished within 15 minutes of each other, a tribute to Calliope handicapper A E Clayton. The Round the Harbour was the top Auckland road relay and standards were high. Calliope's B team was first to finish in 1958, a great effort. The team was D James, G Darroch, R Wareham, G Patton, J Ironside, B Clayworth and T Taylor. Thirty one teams took part in 1961. After strong opening laps by L Vincent and D James for Calliope B, J Henderson moved the team into sixth place. A top run by T Cowley took Calliope

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Hartley Seay to Peter Forbes



Trevor Cowley and Paul Penlington 1952. Calliope 3rd on handicap.

to second, L Darroch moved into first position, and A Prendergast had the team nearly half a mile ahead with one lap to go. "Half a mile to go and with R Bambery in front by only twenty yards, all seemed lost. But an heroic effort by this very tired runner enabled him to sprint the last quarter mile and collapse in the arms of his excited team mates, just ahead of the fast finishing Lynndale and Kiwi teams." It had given the limit team 21 minutes start. Calliope A team scored a magnificent victory in 1963. Seventeen-year-old C Harvey ran 29m 54s for lap one in a brilliant run. P McGregor, L Vincent, A Prendergast and B Jones all ran fast. On lap six K Stone passed several teams to move into third. R Cheshire ran his team into a 200-yard lead with two miles to run. "At this stage a wonderful club spirit was revealed when Calliope supporters urged Cheshire on every yard of the way. Cheshire never faltered and his withering finishing burst carried him well clear".

In 1970 the strong Calliope A team of C W Fell, K Orchard, R Weatherley, K Stone, G Bassett, R Amon

and I Studd had an exciting win. Studd was tenth at the start of the last lap and in a fine run brought the team home by 47 seconds. Calliope again won in 1974 when the D team held on well to stave off all challengers. Members were H Seay, D Shaw, A Prendergast, B Seay, J Lessen, A Foster and D Jones. From available records, the best placing on time was in 1977 when the Calliope A team was third. The team was R Young, J Dwyer, G Chaplin, T Marcu, G Beach, D Norris and C W Fell. The fastest time by a Calliope team was set in 1965 when C Harvey, K Harvey, T Appleby, J Henderson, L Vincent, K Stone and I Studd took fourth fastest in 3h 4m 26s.