

# A Short History of St Martins Athletic & Harrier Club

## Foreword

The year 2014 marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the St Martins Athletic and Harrier Club. This brief history has been prepared to mark the occasion, for although St Martins no longer exists as such, it continues in the form of its successor, Port Hills Athletic, formed when St Martins merged with Cashmere Hillmorton in 2002.

In preparing this history, it became evident that besides the names of those mentioned herein, the history of running and track and field in St Martins has been one of countless numbers of people taking up the sport and then enthusiastically giving of their time and energy. Many of those are still with the sport, even more have 'moved on' for various reasons, whether it be that their children grew up, they moved to somewhere else, they were no longer able to compete because of age or disability and so on. Be that as it may this history is therefore a salute to all those who have so generously given to the sport in so many ways over fifty years.

Thank you to John Dumergue, Kevin Jago, Graham White, Les Woods who provided feedback on the preliminary version.

*~ Stuart Payne*

August 2015

## Contents

Beginnings	page 3
Club growth	6
Children's athletics	19
Flagship and other events	22
Clubrooms	24
Club newsletter	27
Social activities	30
Governance	32
Umbrella club participation	35
Amalgamation	36
Some high-profile achievements	37
Conclusion	39
Appendices -	
A. Life members	39
B. Principal officers	40
C. Participants, opening run 1964	41
D. 1964 members	41
E. Attendance bars 1964	42
F. Trophy winners 1964	42
G. List of trophies 1984	42
H. New Zealand (open-level) representation	43
I. National and provincial (open-level) champions	43
J. World, Oceania and NZ Veteran (Masters) champions	44
K. Club champions (road and cross-country)	44
Sources	46

## Beginnings

“Why don’t we start our own club.” Seven words exchanged between two runners on a Port Hills training run in 1964. Clarrie Reece and John Drew had worked themselves up to this assertion with banter about what they perceived to be the current state of harrier clubs in Christchurch. “A forty minute Saturday afternoon jog followed by forty minutes noshing up on buns and tea is considered a big training deal,” Reece said. “And then,” countered Drew, “there’s still time to get in a couple of hours at the pub before six-o’clock closing.” Later that day Clarrie Reece designed the distinctive St Martins swan badge and the pair set about calling a meeting among their running friends.

### Notice of Inaugural Meeting

It is proposed to establish an athletic and cross country club in the district of St Martins.

A meeting for this purpose will be held at 7.30 p.m. on Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> March 1964 at the St. Martins Tennis Club Pavilion, Hillsborough Terrace.

You are invited to attend.

Suggestions for a club uniform would also be welcomed.

C.F. Reece  
Convenor

Yet the desire for the club went deeper than their Port Hills banter. By 1963, Clarrie was of the view that much of the, then, Dunedin and Auckland athletic success lay in the emphasis on suburban clubs. He envisaged such a club in the burgeoning suburb of St Martins where he lived; the local primary school had opened in 1956. Moreover, he and John Drew saw the opportunity for a new club dedicated to the training principles of Arthur Lydiard.

At the inaugural meeting on the 9 March Stewart Hill was elected chairman and John Drew secretary, but Drew stood down within a week, owing to business obligations and Clarrie Reece replaced him. That meeting also endorsed local MP Norman Kirk as patron.

Sixteen who attended the inaugural meeting went on to become members, including Clarrie’s brother, Doug, Kevin Jago and Sam McLean, all of whom played major roles in the club’s early development. Sam McLean, a founding member of Toc H Harriers, but coached by Clarrie Reece, was lured by the Lydiard emphasis, to run for St Martins during the winter.

As a young runner with Olympic, Clarrie had been coached by Vic O’Grady but by 1951 he found the emphasis on speed and style limiting and he began to train himself. In 1955 he won the Canterbury cross-country title at Timaru and, as the national championships were to be held on the same course, he was hopeful of a good placing. When this did not happen he decided that to produce more than an occasional top quality run he needed to rethink his training. He approached Lawrie King, who was working in Christchurch at the time, for advice, not realising that King was Lydiard-influenced. On King’s schedules in 1956, Clarrie set a Canterbury six-mile track record of 29:46. Then in 1958 he wrote to Arthur Lydiard for guidance and received the same advice and schedules as the Aucklanders coached by Lydiard. Impressed, Clarrie formed his own Lydiard training group which included brother Doug, Trevor Preece and Kevin Jago.

By 1960, Clarrie was a marathon prospect for the 1962 Commonwealth Games. A local journalist went to the Technical track, where Clarrie was training, to write an article about him. Clarrie Reece was warming up at about a ten-minute mile rate and the journalist, 48-year-old John Drew, thought he would join in for a lap ‘to get an idea of pace’. One lap left Drew gasping. Clarrie was astonished; he had not realised a person could be so unfit. So he offered to train Drew. It took time for John Drew to acquire the necessary fitness to train with Clarrie and his group but on 25 May 1963, he ran farther

than any other 50-year-old in the world had run in a single session. Over the space of 24 hours, John Drew ran 104 miles.

In his teens, Kevin Jago followed his older brother Leo into the Olympic club. He ran his first cross country race in sandals – he acquired some running shoes not long after. Clarrie Reece agreed to coach him when he could finally run up the Cashmere hill to the Summit Road. On his first attempt he got to McMillan Avenue. As a junior, he won club titles and took fastest time in the inaugural Governors Bay to Lyttleton road race. When Clarrie Reece left Olympic and went to the Christchurch club, Kevin followed his mentor. A year later, still only 19, he had his first administrative experience as a foundation member of St Martins. He was involved in the pre-planning stages and recalls the general excitement among the mostly young and ambitious athletes. Initial success in the Anglican Block relay and then the Takahe-Akaroa fuelled their enthusiasm. Kevin became deputy club captain in the club's first year and has been involved in the administration of the sport ever since. Kevin's younger brother Michael also joined the new club and was the St Martins club secretary in 1966 and 1967.

A press clipping of 4 April 1964 reported the formation of the new club. It read: "The latest addition to harrier clubs in Christchurch, St. Martins, will hold its opening today from the St. Martins Tennis Club Pavilion. An unusual aspect of the club's activities is that it is intended to hold most of its runs in its 'home territory'. The formation of the club has developed out of a group training under the direction of the former Canterbury champion C.F. Reece."

As population increased and the standard of living rose continuously after 1950, low-cost suburban housing enabled New Zealanders to increasingly own their own homes rather than renting. The resulting growth in Christchurch led to the establishment of suburban high schools and this impacted on the development of the city's athletic and harrier clubs. In 1950 there had been six state secondary schools including Boys' and Girls' High Schools. Papanui Technical College became Papanui High School and Linwood College opened in 1953, followed over the next two decades by Cashmere, Riccarton, Aranui, Burnside, Mairehau, Shirley Boys, Hillmorton and Hornby High Schools.  
~ Stuart Payne, *Message In A Flax Stalk* (Athletics Canterbury, 2000), p.128

Clarrie Reece's design for the badge (monogram) was based on the ideal training routes around the Heathcote River, personified by the, then, resident white swan. The badge's dome-like shape symbolised the Port Hills. The club colours were to be white singlet with blue trim plus the monogram, blue shorts with white stripes. By the mid-1980s, a stylised stick man had unofficially replaced the white swan and Geoff Kerr, on behalf of the committee, sought club opinion on the subject, and the committee meeting of February 1985 formally abolished the stickman logo. Club members were invited to submit ideas for a new logo and the one that was favoured incorporated a swan doubling as a the stylised 'S' of 'St'. Thus in due course, the swan again had pride of place on the cover page of the newsletter.

President, Stewart Hill made a speech of welcome at the opening run and John Drew took a photograph then at 2.20 p.m. 17 runners in five packs set off (see Appendix C). The St Martins Tennis Club was used as the base for the initial runs but the committee meeting of 18 April decided that future runs would be from St Anne's Church hall. The same meeting also decided to ask the city council if it could mark out a club track at Hillsborough Domain and, looking to the future, pointed out 'that the club would appreciate a change of venue to the area of council land bounded by the Heathcote River and Butler Street when this area was further developed.' A lease on part of Hillsborough Domain was confirmed at the club's meeting of 30 May.

However, before the club could mark out a track at Hillsborough Domain for its first summer season it had, at the request of the city council, to arrange top dressing of the ground. A year later, for the start of the 1965-66 summer season, a jumping pit was also dug out. According to Clarrie Reece (*newsletter, July 1994*), the mid-week evenings at the Hillsborough Domain were not only encouragingly supported by the children but also by the local residents, who helped out as officials. Recognising the potential of the support, Clarrie became an executive member of the Hillsborough Residents Improvement Society.

Inaugural president Stewart Hill's wide experience with the University club enabled him to foster the fledgling club and a membership drive resulted in 80 new members joining in the first year (see Appendix D). At that time, according to Peter Rigg, a pair of running shoes were donated to the member who recruited the most new members. A promotional stunt of a cross country race against cyclists from the Papanui Cycling Club also garnered press publicity. Whatever incentive was the reason, St Martins quickly attracted young runners from the local district, Brian Bruce, Colin King, Peter Rigg and Gary Harrow all came from Cashmere High School.

In its first season Doug Reece took fastest time in the inter-club Governors Bay to Lyttelton road race, and within six months of being founded, St Martins was able to enter the Takahe-Akaroa relay with a well-performed A-grade team (Doug Reece, Vic Burt, Sam McLean, Kevin Jago, Allan Hughes, Bernie Hack, Brian Bruce, Clarrie Reece). A year later it was determined to once more give a good account of itself. Yet with the 1965 Takahe-Akaroa relay approaching, the club considered it still needed one more good runner for the A team. Allan Hughes at Bowron's tannery in Woolston said they had a rugby player, Roger Sharpe, who was training eight miles a night. Despite the others being sceptical, Sharpe was invited for a trial. At the end of a tough run up Rapaki and down Dyers Pass Road, when Doug Reece put the pace on over the final mile, Sharpe responded without difficulty. Selected for the team on lap four his fastest time on the lap helped propel the club to prominence, placing fifth against all-comers, as the 1965 relay was open to all clubs in New Zealand. Moreover, on the local scene St Martins was second Canterbury club and fastest from Christchurch. The full team (in lap order) was: Clarrie Reece, Brian Bruce, Sam McLean, Roger Sharpe, Allan Hughes, Bernie Hack, Arthur Searle and Doug Reece. The performance did not go unnoticed.

“The St Martins runners fought out a tense struggle with the Olympic team before forging the best combined effort of a Christchurch club in the race. For a club which has only been going for a couple of years, with some of the St Martins runners very inexperienced in such company, the sustained, and in the event, successful, struggle reflected great merit.”

~ *The Press*

The club name had been taken from the Christchurch suburb of the same name but by 1969 some members were looking at the name as if it had more significant connotations, such as with Saint Martin, a French bishop who lived in the 4<sup>th</sup> century. Possibly adding to any confusion was the habit of newsletter editor, Ray Forster, to always title the club ‘St. Martins’ – with the full stop after St. This was incorrect, both the suburb and the club being ‘St Martins’ with no full stop. Peter Rigg later reported that in 1974 the club name was discussed quite extensively ‘late into the night’ by the committee with some objecting to it because it had a religious tone. In the end the name remained unchanged. [As for the suburban name, according to Wikipedia its origin is unclear. “The most likely candidates are that it was named after a gathering held at St Martin's Hall in London immediately prior to the departure of the Canterbury pilgrims who came to settle the area, or that it was named for an area with which the original owner of the holdings (Henry Phillips) was connected.”]

## Club Growth

Despite the recruitment of 80 members in its first winter season, a year later - at the committee meeting of 5 June 1965 – secretary, Clarrie Reece, ‘expressed concern at the vast turnover in club membership since the club’s inception and suggested a solution should be sought’. The club would have been buoyed, however, when they won the Canterbury Centre men’s open twenty mile relay race that same season. The five-strong winning team was Doug Reece, Bernie Hack, Clarrie Reece, Michael Jago and Arthur Searle.

Doug Reece lived at Halswell, and though he enthusiastically helped his older brother establish a club centred on the St Martins suburb, he found he was constantly travelling for his Saturday runs as well as travelling to help out at Hillsborough Domain on Wednesday evenings. Consequently he resigned in April 1967, and re-joined Olympic who had a club base in Mathers Road, Hoon Hay, much closer to where he lived. Less than two months later, Sam McLean, because of a job transfer to Auckland, also resigned. The September 1967 issue of *NZ Athlete* reported that, “last year things did not go well for St Martins; they started to run out of essential officials, administrators and athletes. There were, it is reported, ‘mumbles of closing down the club.’ A narrow voting margin defeated this move, and in an endeavour to rejuvenate the club, there was started a club newsletter: the ‘St Martins Athlete’. The rejuvenation must have borne some fruit because along with Sam McLean’s return the senior men began the 1968 winter season placing second to Olympic in the Hagley Relays, and that year’s Takahe-Akaroa relay team was one of the best the club ever fielded.

Allan Hughes, whose young sons Garry and Robin had joined in 1964, encouraged him to join, age 31, and within a year Allan placed 8<sup>th</sup> in the NZ marathon championship in Dunedin with a time of 2:36:02. As noted above, *Beginnings*, he had recruited Roger Sharpe in 1965. In 1968, Sharpe confirmed his earlier promise when he bookended the winter season with fastest times in the Teddington-Diamond Harbour and Kaiapoi-Christchurch road races. In between he placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in both the Jane Paterson and Canterbury Championship cross country races, gaining Canterbury selection for the national championships in Rotorua. As for Hughes, by 1968, he was not only coaching Sharpe but was also club coach and had now also brought into the club Roger Sharpe’s young cousin, Tony Ellis. That year, the St Martins team of Hughes, Sam McLean, Ellis, Colin King, Sharpe, Clarrie Reece, Stan Goodwin and Peter Brown, placed second to Olympic, with a time of 4:21:27 – which remained the club’s best in the relay for the next twenty years.

Also at that time several joined from Technical, including Jack Taylor, Bill McLean, Colin Reid and Ted Hughes. Although no longer leading athletes, they made up for it with administrative ability.

The old adage that pride comes before a fall still stands.

One who will readily confirm this after his star turn in Saturday’s six-mile Skellerup Steeples is St Martins harrier Ted Hughes.

Many of the big guns of New Zealand athletics were competing, including national champions... men who train 100 miles and more a week, possess a wealth of experience and tons of talent. Therefore one could readily excuse the large crowd’s gasp and the announcer’s incoherent stuttering when a 37-year-old novice bolted to the front to lead the classiest field ever assembled for this race by thirty yards.

It was 10-mile-a-week Ted having his first season in harriers and just his third race. The ‘rabbit’s’ brief moment of glory came to an abrupt halt right at the first hurdle. Ted had led for about 400 yards when his spikes caught the hurdle. The result? A nose-dive into the slushy turf.

Gamely he pulled himself to his feet to fight on for 82<sup>nd</sup> placing. “My idea was to be first to the hurdles so that I would not get any obstruction,” he explained.

~ a press report, 17 July 1968.

But what was to be a perennial problem for St Martins soon beset the club. Whereas St Martins began with nothing, the rival suburban harrier club at New Brighton was an extension of the well-established New Brighton Athletic Club. As such New Brighton had the ability to raise funds to assist members to compete away from Christchurch. Some of St Martins' talented senior men expected their club would provide likewise but the club did not have the depth for this type of fundraising and Sharpe, Ellis and King, attracted by the facilities, transferred to New Brighton.

In the years 1970-1974, Sam McLean added five more club titles to his 1966 one. No one was to win more club road championships (see Appendix K).

In 1961 Sam joined Toc H, for whom he served, over many years, as a committee member. Under the influence of mentor Clarrie Reece, he also joined St Martins just after it was formed, for the harrier season only, returning to Toc H for the track season. Nevertheless he was on the St Martins committee as well as being a selector.

Sam represented Canterbury for 12 consecutive seasons, 1967-1978, recording performances of note over all distances from 880 yards through to the marathon. Among these performances was a 4:07:03 mile on the grass at Rugby Park, when winning the Canterbury mile title.

By 1983, Sam's energies were increasingly going into coaching. He admitted that he made mistakes in his own racing and training and regretted not having a coach himself. His advice to all athletes – find a coach.

From its formation, St Martins attempted to establish itself as a fully-fledged athletics club, summer and winter, adults and children (see also *Children's athletics*, below). Combined with the senior runners and with the help of a few parents and residents, mid-week athletic meetings were held each summer until the 1980s. First held at Hillsborough Domain and for a period at Woolston Park in Ferry Road, they then shifted for the 1970-71 season to the Xavier College sports grounds in Gamblins Road. At the time of this shift, the club held a recruiting drive in an area bounded by Bowenvale Avenue and Opawa Road. Leaflets were to be delivered on 31 October to approximately 3,000 houses, immediately followed by an article in the 'Observer' (the local free newspaper) and advertisements in local shops.

Summer athletics continued at the Gamblins Road sports grounds until 1976. But by that time Clarrie Reece had left the club. When his daughter Wendy, who had run with St Martins, joined the New Brighton women's group in 1973, the founder of St Martins joined New Brighton with her. New Brighton had its own athletic track and Clarrie was now at an age where he wanted to fully support his daughter's athletic ambitions. He eventually returned to St Martins in 1985, but in an interview with the author in 1999, Clarrie stated that once St Martins was established, he did not consider it *his* club and that it should be able to continue without him. It did but only – according to Peter Rigg (*newsletter, September 1978*) – by the dint of the unselfish efforts of Kevin Jago and the 'faithful few'. "These," Peter wrote, "were the clubs hardest years." This is borne out by the fact that St Martins was prepared to give consideration to amalgamation with Anglican in 1972, but Anglican chose not to pursue the matter. (The following year, Toc H proposed running with St Martins during the winter but wanted to retain their own name. The St Martins reply that if they wished to run with them it would have to be in St Martins club colours reflected increased confidence in its future.)

In the wake of the 1974 Commonwealth Games and on the back of the City-to-Surf (first run in 1975, the 'running boom' took off in Christchurch. St Martins benefitted, being buoyed with a large number of social and fun runners. Some in St Martins perceived a change of focus, believing that the club name was becoming a fundraising vehicle for social running trips, including one to Australia, at the expense of the club's competitive, athletic role.

The first of these social running trips the Sydney to Surf fun run in 1975, and raffle tickets were sold in local hotels to fund it. As early as September 1974, the fund raising was being thrashed out at committee meetings. Under the heading 'Raffle Fund Raising', the minutes for the committee meeting of 2 September reported, "Important issues resolved were that the name of the club must be safeguarded. It must be realised that legally the raffle is being run as a St Martins organised raffle. From the committee's discussion it would appear that there is no support for a trip to Australia other than shown by Phil Law and John Mulvaney. Therefore any trip undertaken must be considered a private trip ... funds raised in the fourteen month period ending August 1975 must be handled by the club treasurer through club accounts ... and all funds raised to be finally divided on a 50/50 basis (club/trip)."

The 1975 trip went ahead, and planning for a repeat trip in 1977 began. Following the election of the principal architect of these trips, Phillip Law, as president at the 1977 AGM, held late in the year, a major split among the membership occurred. An open letter, signed by eleven members, to all other members informed of their intention to resign from the club and, more importantly, why. A variety of connected reasons were given but the core one was summarised as follows: "The deviation to fund raising and making money from every possible means, together with the programming of social activities should be secondary not a primary function of any sports club." The signatories included top performer Ian Milne, who had joined the club as a 10-year-old in 1964 and gone on to win a Canterbury junior steeplechase title. He moved to the University club. He was not the only long-standing member amongst the signatories; the others were Gary Harrow, Paul Hill, Joy Jago, Mike Lusty, Alan Jemmett, Carol Mitchell, Mark Atkinson, Owen Milne, Don Mitchell and founding member, Kevin Jago. But Kevin, Gary, Paul, Mark, Alan and Don did more than resign, they targeted the new subdivisions of Parklands and Queenspark where they established QE Athletic. (Kevin Jago, who had been club president for the six years up to 1975, eventually returned to St Martins and went on to again become President. Ironically, at the time Kevin left he had just been made a life member, so in effect his resignation was from *active* membership rather than constitutional membership.)

When Kevin Jago left St Martins he was already involved in Canterbury Centre administration, being only 30 in 1974 when he became a member of the centre's cross country committee, which he went on to become chairman of. In 2014, now 70, he is still involved being both president of Athletics Canterbury and president of Port Hills. For St Martins he served nine years as president and one as club captain (see Appendix B).

A specialist in course design and marking, he is always looking for new and more interesting cross-country and road courses. He has been honoured with life membership of Athletics Canterbury as well as by them for Exceptional Services to Athletics. Athletics New Zealand have bestowed on him their Long Service Award and Sport Canterbury have awarded by him for Outstanding Volunteer Service to Sport.

Despite the loss of so many active and experienced members at the end of 1977, the club did not falter. Several factors worked in the club's favour. Hotels, such as the Star and Garter, that had hosted Saturday night raffle sales called time on future selling, and the most active sellers had - after three years of giving up their Saturday evenings - also brought their efforts to an end. This brought to a close fundraising for social trips. The club newsletter began to be published monthly (see also *Club newsletter* section, below) and the focus of the new committee was now definitely on the athletic development of the club. Recruiting at the City-to-Surf in March 1978 resulted in 17 new members being signed up.



A year later, on Sunday 25 March 1979 local runners in the Spreydon and surrounding areas had a chance to enjoy a fun run in their own area. The reason was that at the 1978 St Martins club AGM it was decided to organise 'our very own fun run'. Over the 7 mile course 200 took part, starting in Rose Street. Challenge Finance provided financial support and although there were no prizes or certificates, Edmonds supplied orange drink for the finishers.

Whether the Spreydon fun run helped or not, the attendance at the opening club runs of the winter season a month later were encouraging. Club president, Peter Rigg, reported, 'Well what a surprise on the opening day to see so many new faces ... but little were we to know that there were even more new faces in store, and last Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> we were beginning to wonder if St Anne's is going to be big enough to take our rapidly expanding membership.' Among those new members were Selwyn Opie and Lois Richmond.

Yet not all members lived in the St Martins wider area. This, in turn, resulted in some club runs being held away from St Anne's at member's homes across the city. In fact, when inter-club races are also factored in, only a fifth of Saturday afternoon runs in the 1977 winter season were in St Martins and the neighbouring area. This was still the case in 1979 when, for example, the club's handicap road champs were hosted by Jack and Bev Taylor in Avonhead. In fact so widespread had the membership become, that a challenge match (Town v Country Relay) was mooted between the 'Townies' and the 'Yokels'. It didn't eventuate as such, instead in March 1980 a relay between a president's team and a club captain's team was held with 21 in each team comprising male and female, seniors, juniors and veterans.

The 1979 winter season had been preceded by the annual New Brighton 50-mile race in which no less than ten St Martins members competed. The club was now beginning to gain a reputation as being a stronghold for long-distance runners.

Of St Martins leading long-distance runners, perhaps the most successful was Merv Austin. Around 1975 fellow badminton player Peter Watts encouraged him to take up running to become fitter. Merv soon realised that he enjoyed running and he began to concentrate solely on this. He was to make his mark in the club winning both the club's road and cross country championships (see *Appendix K*), but in 1977 he won the Canterbury marathon, both surprising himself and giving him one of his greatest thrills. The following year he won the New Brighton 50-mile road race. Yet despite these successes, Merv did not regard himself as an ultra-distance runner. His view was ultra-distances should only be raced once every two years. His view was that people competed against themselves and in preparation for racing, training should not be forced. Before a race, Merv confessed that he was tense and didn't want to talk but after the race it was a different story. With the tension gone, he found talking a lot was a good way to unwind, even more so if he had had a good race.

Nevertheless through most of 1980, Merv Austin did not compete because of injuries and at the end of the year, president Peter Rigg penned the following in the club newsletter. 'St Martins is known as a long-distance runners club and this in itself is not a bad thing. We have excellent long-distance runners and marathoners in Wayne Rouse, Brenton Joyce, Merv Austin and Dennis O'Keefe. ... (but the result is) the club encourages new runners to tackle marathons, perhaps not on purpose, but we do. Consequently we have people running them within their first year of running. ... (Instead) let's encourage newer runners to compete over shorter distances first before persuading them to race marathons. St Martins club members are keeping the city's sports doctors busy mainly because we are pushing (new members) into marathons, too soon.'

From its inception St Martins included women. In the first annual report for the meeting of 13 October 1965 the club proudly proclaimed, "Although regarded as rather ambitious when the club decided to include women in its winter membership, this move has since proved most successful. It is hoped that the time is near when the club will regularly field teams in women's events." It was,

however, not until the end of the 1970s before this occurred. By the mid-70s, there were no women winners of the club's cross country championships. But in 1977, Sue Taylor, coached by fellow club member Don Cameron, sprang to prominence when she won the Great Westland marathon on handicap in a time just under 3 hours, 30. Before the end of the year, Sue placed 5<sup>th</sup> in the women's half marathon with St Martins also being represented in that race by junior Rosemary Marquet. But as the only senior woman in the club, Sue decided she would prefer more female company and departed to Toc H early in 1978. The Lionel Fox relays at the beginning of the 1978 season demonstrated that St Martins had not benefitted from the upsurge in women's running in the preceding years. Eighteen teams from seven clubs competed yet St Martins was not represented. Nevertheless in May, the club newsletter reported the club now had a 'Ladies' Section' comprising Pauline Woodward, Heather Wickham, Marilyn McDougall and Ruth Ritchie (u18).

The general increase in members in 1979 also included the women's ranks, backed by the efforts of Anita Corrigan. That season St Martins women's teams competed in all the principal relay races: Hagley, Anglican Block, Port Hills and the Takahe-Akaroa. The latter team was Ann Rigg, Lorraine Buick, Louise Clark, Jill Corrigan, Margaret Walker, Deidre Ferris, Judy Forster and, back with the club, Sue Taylor. Then in 1980 in the QE women's relay, St Martins took out 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> places, with Ann Rigg setting a record on lap two and Sue Taylor the same on lap five.. (St Martins had also won the relay the year before.)

Marg Walker was to prove to be of international standard. When she ran 2:43:29 in the 1983 adidas City of Christchurch Marathon she became one of five women in New Zealand to achieve the qualifying standard for the women's marathon at the inaugural World Athletics Championships held in Helsinki, just over two months later. Unfortunately for Marg, only three from each country could be selected for any one event. However, a moment of triumph for Marg came in 1983 when she won the City of Christchurch Marathon in a time of 2:43:29.

In 1980, with attempts at mid-week track and field proving unsuccessful, Peter Watts introduced some Tuesday night club runs at Barrington Park.

For a club that was titled an '*athletic* and cross country club' there was an intriguing comment in the January 1981 club newsletter by editor Ray Forster. Referring to track and field, Ray wrote, 'Is the track good or bad for the club. I know some are against it and some feel it increases your speed and application.' Either way, what had sparked this comment was increasing numbers, including women, competing at QEII on Saturday afternoons.

This search for an identity was revisited again in 1982. The July newsletter published a 'strategic plan' that Gerald Stanley had submitted to the committee. Gerald posed the following questions:

1. What is our function as a club within our sport?
2. What are our objectives, do we have any?
3. What long term plans do we have?

To the first question, Gerald submitted that the aim of the club was to be competitive, both at club and inter-club level. Regarding the second question, it appeared that the club had no written objectives, and the answer was similarly negative to the third question.

Gerald then went on to propose that the club move away from an emphasis on the longest distances and increase effort on the track. Gerald's major suggestion on how to achieve a more competitive club was by way of "an improved and enlightened coaching system." Through this, he argued "we could foster interested athletes to race over shorter distances more regularly and especially on the track and road races up to 10,000 metres. Set objectives through the club coaches for these athletes to improve upon their times over 5,000 to 10,000 metres as any cross country, track or road relay race rarely exceeds 12 kilometres. Coaches would be required to monitor and increase the standards accordingly as each objective was met." Yet, while Gerald answered earlier thoughts,

outlined above by Peter Rigg and Ray Forster, his general solution was still fairly narrow in terms of a comprehensive athletic club aiming to cater for all age groups. Nevertheless the club was still growing and at the AGM, October 1982, membership was approximately 180.

Moreover, the growth in membership had created its own problems. Such was the growth starting the 1981 winter season that club captain, Bob Richmond, advised that one of the four regular running packs – the medium – was to be split between those capable of running the 8- 10 miles at 7:30-8:00 minute per mile pace and those slower. Moreover, club runs were now from St Martins school because of ‘better facilities’ including for those managing the crèche. This was proving to be a popular innovation made possible by the willingness of members to rotate themselves on a roster basis. The growth in club numbers was reflected in the number of 8-person teams entered in September’s Takahe-Akaroa Relay, eight in all: four men’s, two veteran men’s and two women’s.

Yet by 1982, the club felt that the St Martins School Committee’s rules for use of the school hall were so restrictive that they were not conducive to the family atmosphere of the club. This and inefficiencies with collecting the keys resulted in a move away from the school. Club runs in conjunction with inter-club runs was not that successful and by 1983 the default venue was again St Anne’s church hall.

A year after Gerald Stanley suggested a greater emphasis be placed on track athletics, newsletter editors Anita and Eddie Corrigan (ACE) were reporting (July 1983) that: ‘There has been a growing interest in track running within St Martins club over the last few seasons resulting in a vast improvements in the performances of some of the people involved. So we commissioned our star ‘reporter of the month’ Gregory Clark to give us an insight into this strange new world.’ That same season the distance of the club road champs for men was halved from 16km to eight.

In 1982 Peter Watts became club captain and went on to serve as such for 14 years and, after a three season gap, when the position was split in two, he resumed as winter club captain.

As a pupil at South Intermediate, he dabbled in boxing, which developed in him quick reflexes. He also played rugby then league for Sydenham but running was his first love. Peter joined the Christchurch Technical club in 1954 and ran track and cross country, competing for Canterbury in both. A versatile athlete, Peter’s track PBs include 50.8 (400m), 1:58 (800m) and 4:26 (mile).

Peter left Technical in 1968 and after one season each with Olympic and New Brighton he joined St Martins in 1970. His favourite distances were 5 and 10 km. Yet by the end of the 1980s he had also run about 30 marathons, winning the Kokatahi marathon twice, and recording a best time of 2hrs 39. He was awarded life membership at the 1988 AGM

Peter Watts ‘training hints’:

- Vary your courses; if you continuously run the same course at the same pace you are likely to become bored.
- Watch your pace in training, don’t train at your racing pace all the time.
- If you are doing fast work one day, give yourself a couple of days recovery before you tackle your next speed work session. The two days in between run at an easier pace.
- Where possible train with someone else. It’s more rewarding than trudging out on your own all the time.
- If you are doing time trials, work out your lap times or mile times carefully so you can monitor your improvement. This is very important.
- If you are setting yourself for a certain race, ease up in your training during the last week of preparation.

~ *St Martins newsletter*, April 1979

When he joined St Martins, Peter was also involved as a competitor and coach in badminton, where he was to go on to coach Canterbury teams, gaining NZ advanced coaching certificate. In time, he also adapted his coaching skills to running and by the end of the 1970s was one of St Martins two club coaches.

The other club coach at the time was Don Cameron. He had joined in 1975 from the Baptist club, and was a noted ultra-distance runner with a Bluff to North Cape record of 23 days. He never owned a car, running and biking everywhere. In Australia in 1974 for the Sydney-to-Melbourne race, he met an organiser of Sydney's City to Surf and, on returning to Christchurch, he approached the Christchurch Star editor Mike Forbes about organising one in Christchurch. The Star agreed and Don was to be chairman of the City-to-Surf organising committee for its first twelve years.

As with many other clubs, at the start of each winter season, St Martins produced a printed programme, which also included the names of the club officers, subscription rates and club trophies that would be competed for. Beginning with the 1982-83 season the club replaced this with a handbook. That for 1983-84 included the officers of the club, a page about the club's beginnings, what services the club provided, the general event programme for the year, club trophies, subscription and registration fees and a membership application form. Membership was now close to 200.

In June 1984, Peter Rigg, once described by the Canterbury Centre as the 'best race secretary in Canterbury' tendered his resignation ahead of his pending move to Nelson. He was thanked for 15 years' service on the committee, including terms as president and secretary-treasurer. The July meeting then resolved to recommend Peter at the next AGM for life membership. That season, with 103 registered senior athletes, St Martins was the fifth largest in Canterbury of 27 clubs.

By the mid-1980s, the club was permanently established at Hansen Park (see below, *Clubrooms*) and it was then that Lyn Maule initiated a crèche at club runs, with parents paying the club and the club paying a set fee to a regular carer. Then over the summer of 1986-87, some of the club's keen women runners introduced a Wednesday morning run from Hansen Park. These quickly proved popular not just with club members but also with others in the district. The then club president, Graham White, considered the innovation would lead to more members over time.

The women's club cross country champion in 1986 and 1987 was Fay Cook. About 1980, her husband, Peter, who was to be club road champion in 1989 and who had given up playing league, decided to do something about getting fit. He began running and Fay joined him, taking part in the city-to-surf and other fun runs. A couple of years later they joined St Martins and Fay's first race was the Novice Race, then held on a course around Heathcote. Next up was the Hagley Relays and she was hooked. Fay claimed that she didn't watch what she ate; she ate, she said, loads of rubbish, especially fish and chips.

With the commencement of the 1987 winter season, it appeared that St Martins once again had noticeable strength in the senior men's grade for the first time in nearly 20 years. The club's number one team in the Hagley Relays included newcomers, Phil Clode and Elliott Drayton. After Phil had brought the team through in first place at the end of lap one, the others - who included Shane Watts, Peter Cook, John Thompson and Geoff Kerr - held on well for 5<sup>th</sup> placing. A third newcomer of note that season was Kerry Faass prompting the club to enter a team in the national inter-club road relay championship held in the North Island on the 'Round the Ranges' course near Palmerston North. They went north with expectations of a top-ten place and although Phil Clode took fastest time on his lap, the rest of the team (Bruce Foley, Chris Watson, Geoff Kerr, Peter Cook, Shane Watts, Kerry Faass, Elliott Drayton) was not able to capitalise and they finished 15<sup>th</sup> of 16.

Phil Clode was the first member of St Martins to be selected to represent New Zealand. He began running at age nine and his running remained 'low key' until he moved from Whakatane to Christchurch to take a fine arts course at Canterbury University. Here he came under the watchful eye

of Bob Grieve and they soon formed an athlete-coach partnership. Phil, along with Elliott Drayton, was a member of University's open-year winning team in the 1985 Takahe-Akaroa relay, but in 1987 he and Drayton joined St Martins for the cross-country season. As a member of St Martins Phil placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the trials for the 1988 World Cross Country Championships to be held in Auckland. Selected for the team, he placed 94<sup>th</sup> in the field of 474 (5<sup>th</sup> New Zealander).

Phil claimed to like most types of speed work and time trialling but in the St Martins newsletter of June 1988 he confessed his favourite session was 5 x 200m fast. By the time this was published, however, he was overseas on a six week tour competing in Europe's Grand Prix athletics circuit.

On his return Phil took part in Christchurch's City Mall mile in Colombo Street, placing 2<sup>nd</sup> behind Tom Birnie. However, in the women's race St Martins produced the winner, Caroline Barrie (5:27.4). Caroline had already shown her credentials as winner of the national junior cross country championships, but at the national cross-country the following season (1989) she suffered a severe stress fracture to her right angle which was to prematurely end her running career.

Post St Martins, Phil Clode represented NZ at two Commonwealth Games (5000m, 1990 and 10,000m, 1994). In January 1991, he joined NZ's list of sub-four-minute milers when he ran 3:57.70. Other bests include 1:52.79 (800m), 3:39.96 (1500m), 13:30.64 (5000m), 28:21.33 (10,000m).

With Phil prominent on the track at QEII in the summer of 1988/89, there was increased participation from St Martins athletes in general. And with this came success. At the 1989 Canterbury track championships besides Phil's 1500m title, Rob Howell placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 800m, Michael Wright won the U20 3000m, 5000m and 2000m steeplechase, and Jason Cameron won the U18 1500m.

At a committee meeting in February 1988, it was reported that Phil Clode and Elliott Drayton had free memberships – an attempt to obtain top athletes with the hope that their presence would attract other top competitors. Nevertheless, then president, Peter Woodham, was wary of doing this on an ad hoc basis and would have preferred a more defined policy on the matter. By April the basis for such a policy had begun to emerge with the release of a sub-committee's plan to promote and further develop the club. Under this plan the aims for the next two years were as follows:

Seniors	Men	Top two Akaroa relay / Top ten National relays
Seniors	Women	Promotion to A-grade in the Akaroa relay
Veterans	Men	Top three placing Akaroa relay
Veterans	Women	Win Akaroa relay / Top five national relays
Juniors	Men / Women	Establish club teams
Children		Retain through to Junior level.

Promotion and advertising featured prominently among the methods outlined to achieve these aims including advertising in print media and at high schools, the two universities and the polytech, as well as leafletting at fun runs and posters at appropriate venues.

If participation in the Hagley Relays on Anzac Day was any indication, the club appeared to be well on the way to achieving its aims. Altogether, 18 teams lined up. Ten four-person (two junior, three senior women and five veteran women) and eight six-person (four senior men and four veteran men). Top placings were achieved by the veteran women's No.1 team (2<sup>nd</sup>) and the senior men's No.1 (4<sup>th</sup>).

Nevertheless in a letter to the editor in the July newsletter of that year, Jessica Webber wrote that if St Martins hoped to retain the very good junior runners they had and wished to attract more, then more enthusiasm for their performances from senior members would need to be forthcoming. At the Anglican Block relays, Jessica complained, the youngest members of the club had not received ample support from the seniors. Jessica requested that at future events adults cheer the children to the finish line. "Believe me," she wrote, "they do notice the lack of it." The next month's newsletter featured a full back pages of photos of successful St Martins junior athletes.

But to return to the specific goals set, it is interesting that the Takahe-Akaroa relay was chosen to measure competitive success. The reason presumably was that the relay required teams of eight and thereby the goals set would necessitate more depth than just a few top-class athletes. So how did the club perform in the relay against these aims in the next two years?

Senior men	Top two not quite achieved: 4 <sup>th</sup> (1988), 7 <sup>th</sup> (1989). The 1988 result was not subsequently bettered, either with regard to placing or time.
Senior women	Partly achieved: A-grade in 1988 (6 <sup>th</sup> ), but B-grade in 1989 (3 <sup>rd</sup> ). However, 3 <sup>rd</sup> in A-grade in 1991 in a best-ever (then or since) club time.
Veteran men	Top three achieved: 3 <sup>rd</sup> (1988), 2 <sup>nd</sup> (1989). 2 <sup>nd</sup> again in 1990, then 1 <sup>st</sup> in 1991.
Veteran women	Win not quite achieved: 2 <sup>nd</sup> (1988), 3 <sup>rd</sup> (1990).

So while not all goals were achieved, the outcomes nonetheless were good. Moving into the 1990s, the club was as strong as it had ever been not just in quality but in quantity: thirteen teams competed in the Akaroa relay in both 1991 and 1992. And although the women did not win in 1991, they had been within a minute of the lead after six laps. But as with the senior men, strength ebbed as top athletes such as Jenny Rose concentrated on becoming a world champion in triathlon, and Andrea Devine recovered from serious injury.

The senior men lost first Phil Clode, moving to Auckland. His place was filled by Jason Cameron, an U/20 Canterbury cross-country champion. But Cameron, too, eventually moved north (and was subsequently to become a NZ 5000-metre champion). Others to follow suit included Rob Howell, Shane Watts and Danny Duckworth. Shane was the first club champion to grow up with the club. He began running at age 9 with New Brighton but joined St Martins in 1977 when father Peter switched clubs. Having been brought up in the pram on the Hagley netball courts he played soccer, cricket, basketball and badminton, representing Canterbury in the latter in the U/14 age group. But running was in the system and he began running with Peter, who coached him until 1986 when Bob Grieve took over. In 1983 he won the Canterbury junior road champs, over 8km in 25:09 and in 1984 he ran 15:01 in the Canterbury 5000m championships. Another highlight was a 5<sup>th</sup> placing in the 1986 adidas half-marathon with a time of 68:21. Shane also involved himself in the administration of the club serving as race secretary among other roles.

Fastest teams: Takahe-Akaroa Relay

Senior men 1988	4:16:21	(Anthony Duncraft, Phil Clode, Peter Cook, Geoff Kerr, Lyndon Fraser, Rob Howell, Shane Watts, Elliott Drayton).
Senior women 1991	5:15:42	(Andrea Devine, Pauline Kennedy, Michelle Fibbens, Lina Elliott, Tanya McGovern, Jenny Rose, Chris Dixon, Judy Anker).

As for the veteran men, their win in 1991 ended Olympic's 12-year winning streak and in a reflection of their depth, St Martins also won the veteran men's B-grade from eleven other teams. The veteran women's turn came in 1992, when they ended Sumner's six-year hold on the title. St Martins repeated the win in 1995 and again in 1996.

Winning A-grade teams: Takahe-Akaroa Relay

Veteran men 1991	4:34:31	(Dave Kennedy, Kerry Gallagher, Peter Moore, Richard Merrifield, Kevin Gallagher, John Shivas, Peter Watts, Colin Burt).
Veteran women 1992	5:35:40	(Lina Elliott, Colleen Martin, Bernadette Daly, Lyn Hansen, Theresa Woodham, Bernice Fitzgibbon, Loris Reed).
Veteran women 1995	5:25:00	(Bernadette Daly, Leonie Ryan, Dorothy McPhail, Trish Riddell, Colleen Martin, Lyn Hansen, Loris Reed, Kate Fogarty).

Veteran women 1996 5:32:40 (Leonie Ryan, Lyn Hansen, Lorraine Slattery, Lina Elliott, Kate Fogarty, Dorothy McPhail, Loris Reed, Colleen Martin).

Colleen Martin, dubbed 'Honking Goose' by one of her relay teams because of her noisy 'all-or-nothing' style, was in all three winning veteran women's teams and the year of the first win, 1991, she was in top form. Although a veteran (over 40), she won outright the women's races in both the Buller Marathon (3:07:17) and the Ashburton Half Marathon (1:21:43).

St Martins strength in veteran ranks paralleled the rising age of its members, such that in 1996 it placed second at the New Zealand men's over-50 road relay championships in Palmerston North, and repeated its silver medal performance in 1997 at home on the Takahe-Akaroa course.

And while the strategic goals of 1988 were specified for running teams, in 1990 the club formally began organising walking events as well as providing coaching for walkers. Eric Saxby, who had represented Canterbury at walking, had long been a member of St Martins but now, led by John Henderson, the innovation attracted both competitive and recreational walkers and in the May 1991 newsletter John reported that there had been "a record turnout of 32 people on a recent Sunday morning". Later that year, an 8km club championship was introduced, won by Cindy Hey. When a 'One Year Anniversary Walk' was held, president Bob Richmond gave his encouragement and Lois Richmond cut a 'birthday' cake. The occasion was also the opportunity for Len Watkins to present his trophy for the most improved racewalker, with Janet White being the first recipient.

And yet, as much as St Martins was serious about its athletic ambitions at the turn of the 1990s, it remained just as much a social club. With thirteen teams competing in the 1991 Akaroa relay, there were twice as many running in 'non-target' teams than the targeted ones. For many of these, running was a social pastime and other club activities were likely just as important to them. In 1991, social activities included a club camping weekend at Purau in March and the annual club weekend at Hanmer in June. In May there was mystery bus trip and in September a Runner's Ball. Women members had their own afternoon with a nursery rhyme theme in April and the 'veteran ladies' had a lunch in August. There was also a club picnic and BBQ in March and the Gals v Guys netball match in July. And there were plenty of social events tacked on to club runs such as an ANZAC Day run followed by a BBQ, a Sunday brunch, a happy hour with musical entertainment provided by members Merv Lilley and Tony Millar, the annual prizegiving in October and December's Mistletoe Run. See also *Social Activities* section, below.

Nevertheless, the club retained its emphasis on training and helping members to improve. By 1992, Mike Timblich was the club's coaching convenor and in the June 1992 newsletter he advertised what training was on offer each week. Glen Watts was coordinating the Wednesday morning mid-week runs, Pete Watts had evening training, Monday to Thursday, as did Clarrie Reece. And both Peter and Clarrie offered Sunday morning training, Port Hills and Burwood plantation, respectively. And to the above could be added John Henderson's Sunday walk sessions.

Also in the junior ranks running cross country a talented athlete emerged. In the early 1990s, Kylie Martin (daughter of Colleen) was unbeatable in her age-group races. Moreover, in 1991, representing Marion College she won the NZ Secondary School junior girls championship at Wanganui, running 11:46 for the 3km course.

But the club's hopes of restoring its late-1980s senior strength failed to happen. Quentin Lawler, a member of the club's top men's team in the 1994 Takahe-Akaroa (which finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the B-grade), expressed his frustration in the October 1994 newsletter: "St Martins Athletic and Harrier Club has had a past proud senior record. When I first joined the club, the prestige and honour of being selected for the senior men's number 1 team was comparable with the selection of an All Black team. I admired and respected these 'elite' athletes. But what now? The [strength] of the senior members of

the club has declined ... over the past eight years St Martins has lost 15 top senior athletes – either because of job commitments or the temptations from other clubs; and the vicious cycle seems to be continuing. ...”

But a member of the same Takahe-Akaroa team, Steve Browne, scorned some of his teammates. In the same newsletter he alleged that during that season only Phil Smith, Barry Finch and he had turned out regularly. “Those other five guys in the team,” he wrote, “are fooling themselves if they think they can just turn up on the day, wave a magic wand and then run well.” This internal squabbling seemed only to underline Quentin’s disenchantment. Quentin had attempted to set up a committee of senior athletes to act on behalf of senior, junior and underage members but others did not have the time or commitment prompting him to conclude his newsletter article by asking: “Senior athletes have to carefully consider ‘What will the senior ranks at St Martins be like in five years’ time?’ If this vicious cycle cannot be abated then St Martins will indeed have the [in]auspicious reputation of indeed being a veteran’s club.”

And whatever the merits of the individual members of the 1994 Takahe-Akaroa relay team, Phil Smith lined up for the relay having won the two preceding Gebbies Classic road races and in between the Great Westland Marathon (2:37:03) and the Ashburton Half Marathon. Not surprisingly he won both the club’s road and cross country senior titles in 1994 (see *Appendix K*). Incidentally the 1994 women’s club road champion, Andrea Devine, had won the 1993 Kepler Challenge 67km mountain run in a race record time. (Four years later in 1997, St Martins member Andrea Priestley also won the Kepler Challenge.)

Clarrie Reece was of the view that the 1980s ‘craze’ for running marathons had a detrimental effect on track participation. By the mid-1990s he decided to do something about it and in the summer of 1994-95, he helped initiate mid-week track and field meetings for adults at Hansen Park. In the May 1995 newsletter he reported on progress including referencing Quentin Lawlor’s concerns of six months earlier. “it is well known,” Clarrie wrote, “that all the best cross-country runners and marathoners in the world had all run track athletics along the way. The speed now required in the average local event is such that just a few time trials on the road is not sufficient to keep up with the pace. Some local clubs realising the importance of this have been quick to focus on those clubs which produce strong children athletes. As the number of St Martins Club seniors racing track have also dwindled, in the last few years, this club is a perfect target for these unscrupulous clubs.”

Lyn Maule took over the presidency in the run up to the AGM, when Kevin Jago resigned for personal reasons and in her report for the AGM, she referred to the problem of senior retention, writing: “There is talk that other clubs are poaching our top athletes. I don’t altogether agree, I think these people make their own choices and go where they want to for whatever reason. Some say maybe we should offer these athletes a free sub and uniform to get them. I would be surprised if that’s how other clubs are luring runners. ... It’s more about loyalty and commitment to the club as far as I am concerned and whether they want to help turn the tide and have the determination to do something about the problem.”

Whatever the reason for the senior men’s decline, using the Takahe-Akaroa as a measure, it continued as follows: 1995 (9<sup>th</sup>, B grade), 1996 (3<sup>rd</sup>, B grade), 1997 (down to C grade, albeit 1<sup>st</sup>), 1998 (C grade, again 1<sup>st</sup>). Yet St Martins did continue to attract capable senior men, for example Simon Crosby, duathlete Ross Thomson and multisporter Greg Mitchell. But overall things did not change; by the time Simon Crosby won the Canterbury Cross-Country championship in 1998 he was running for Papanui Toc H. (Somewhat ironically, Simon was then coached by St Martins founding member Sam McLean.)



As for the mid-week track and field meetings, by the end of 1997 throwing circles and cages were in place, with the latter being sponsored by Hurricane Wire and Fencing. And when Clarrie stood down as organiser in February 1998, Andrew Hughes stepped up.

Georg Ludwig was a well-known club member noted for charging around Hansen Park in his red (pyjama-like) shorts doing high knee lifts and other jumping and bounding exercises, looking very much like Superman minus his cape.

With his track racing over at the 1997 Canterbury veteran championships, Georg was looking forward to competing in the javelin in the afternoon as he was then a regular competitor on Thursday nights at Hansen Park.

At 3:15 the javelin throwers including Georg had congregated at the competition area and began warming up as rain started to fall. At 3:45 the official finally appeared and the competitors put their names down on his list. The official then announced, 'Are you happy to start with one metre?' Surprised, Georg replied, 'We throw as far as we can. You know.' The official, even more surprised replied, 'Why would you be throwing during the high jump competition?'

With this the javelin competitors noticed that the javelin run up was next to the high jump and they were in the wrong queue, so most removed their names from the high jump list. However, Georg and a few others decided to remain as it was a good opportunity to stay warm in the rainy conditions, and it would fill up some of the time waiting for your turn to throw, and besides, one metre was not that high.

Georg jumped first and easily cleared one metre. He then rushed over to the javelin for his first throw and then rushed back to the high jump where he next cleared 1.30 metres. Then it was back to the javelin where he threw 35.80 metres, which ended up being 30 centimetres better than anyone else and thus Georg was Canterbury champion for 1997.

As Georg was savouring his victory, he was approached by the high jump official and informed that he was the only competitor to have cleared 1.30. Georg had completely forgotten about the high jump yet to his surprise he was also Canterbury champion in that event. Georg had a third jump, cleared 1.40 and called it quits, realising that it was probably best to stop while you are ahead of the game.

~ adapted from 'Running Story', *St Martins Newsletter*, April 1997

In the August 1995 club newsletter, John Henderson, who was by then coaching walkers, was of the opinion that "all coaches should have some paper qualification which should be on the clubroom's wall for all new people to see when seeking advice". He further challenged the club to become more professional about coaching including availing itself of coaching services beyond its own membership. John's views on accreditation received further support in November 1996 when club captain Dave Riddell restated Athletics NZ's policy to have all club coaches accredited to them. Then in May 1997 it was reported in the newsletter that the club was going to develop a coaching coordinator role. Objectives included developing new coaches from within the club's own ranks as well as recruiting coaches into the club and using the NZAAA coaching structure to obtain accreditation for all club coaches. But it was February 1999 before anything formal emerged when a meeting of all (past, present or future) coaches was held with the aim of establishing a common philosophy.

In December 1996, a new uniform, albeit with the same colours, was introduced. (Surplus old uniforms were given to St Martins school.)

In the early 1970s, the club cross-country championships were held at the Van Asch farm in Hoon Hay. Once Hansen Park was established they were run there for some years until they were moved for the 1997 winter season, to Halswell Quarry. That same season, St Martins captured its first Canterbury senior cross country title (see also *Appendix I*). Karen Murphy was the victor of the women's championship with St Martins only other competitor, Andrea Priestly, also doing the club proud, placing 3<sup>rd</sup>. And capping off a successful day for St Martins, Jo Ryder won the U20 championship.

Karen Murphy went on to win the Canterbury title twice more with 1998 being a stellar year for her with wins in the Jane Paterson cross country and the Holloway cross country. Also that season she was a member of St Martins winning women's teams in the Anglican Block Relay (with Andrea Priestley, Jo Ryder and Fleur Griffin). In 1999 she anchored the St Martins women to victory in the Hagley Relays; her teammates this time being Jenny Rose, Sarah Harrow and Fleur Griffin, and then again in the Lionel Fox relays, with Arian Summers, Fleur Griffin and Tui Summers.

By 1999 St Martins seemed to be on a roll in cross country, with Karen winning her third senior title, and Tara Newitt, Amy Harris and Liam Summers winning U16 girls, U14 girls and U14 boys respectively.

In 2001 the club championships were held in conjunction with the Anglican club's championships on their hilly course at Hororata. A bus was booked to transport people out to the venue.

By this time the club's walking section had developed to the point where, according to John Henderson in his regular 'Walk Talk' column in the club newsletter, it was now "accepted that if you want to walk fast, you join St Martins." Among the fast were 1997 NZ 10km veteran champion Lynda Woodward, and Renee Ford, who won Canterbury junior age-group track titles in four successive years (1000m 1994, 1995; 1500m 1996, 1997) and was also awarded best technique in her age-group in each of those years. By the close of the decade Kelly Shadbolt was also to the fore, winning the first of three successive 2km walk titles at the South Island Secondary School Championships. To these she also added two silver medals at the 2002 NZ Track and Field Championships over 3km and 10km.

In August 1990 Lynda Woodward was in a coma for more than a week, paralysed from the waist down after being stricken by the Guillain-Barre virus. After six weeks in hospital she came out in a wheelchair. She started walking with a YMCA group to help her recovery and although a former runner decided to compete in race walking. In December 1992, she and four other St Martins walkers took part in the Honolulu marathon. Of the 54 official walkers, Lynda was 4<sup>th</sup> in a time of 5:12:40 – enough to put her ahead of half the 30,000 runners.

~ adapted from *The Star*, 13 January 1993 [via St Martins club logbook]

During the winter of 2001, St Martins obtained the services of some very talented athletes for the summer season of 2001/02. They included (with their then NZ rankings in brackets), Tasha Williams (1<sup>st</sup> hammer, 3<sup>rd</sup> 100m), Mark Rodgers (1<sup>st</sup> 800m and 400m), Chris Mene (2<sup>nd</sup> discus), Nigel Park (4<sup>th</sup> long jump, 5<sup>th</sup> triple jump), Jeremy Dixon (10<sup>th</sup> 100m, 3<sup>rd</sup> 200m) and Janus Kachelhoffer (1<sup>st</sup> U20 discus). By then, however, they were competing, albeit via St Martins, for the Pegasus umbrella club (see below, *Umbrella club participation*).

Perhaps, the last champion in the blue and white St Martins colours was to be Carol Thompson. At Hamilton she won the 2001 NZ W60 road title over 5km with a time of 22:55, over five minutes ahead of her nearest rival. Earlier in the year, at the World Veteran Games in Brisbane, she had gained a silver medal (cross country) and a bronze (marathon).

## Children's athletics

As noted above, St Martins aiming from its beginning to be a complete athletics club, included a children's programme. Children's events were held at Hillsborough Domain from the first summer of its existence.

Led by Kevin Jago advantage was taken of the 'Games Fever' following the Christchurch Commonwealth Games when the club acquired two surplus Games throwing circle pads. However, when the club had to move its athletics activities west to Beckenham Park, the pads were left to languish. But by 1980, children's athletics had significantly diminished.

Judy Forster took over coordinating children's athletics at Beckenham Park and at the start of the 1981-82 season she reported having nine children under the age of 13 competing at QEII on Saturday mornings. The number had increased to 13 by the end of the season.

When the club's children's athletics moved again to Cashmere High, Glen and Peter Watts along with children's organiser Les Woods provided mid-week training combined with senior training sessions. Les was quoted in a Press report as saying: "The whole philosophy of children's athletics is to avoid specialisation. Children can get a lot of enjoyment from participating and forming new friendships."

In 1985/86, Les Woods and John Gilson marked out a 400 metre track at Hansen Park. However, St Martins still lacked high jump equipment resulting in athletics having to alternate between Hansen and Beckenham Parks fortnightly. A 400 metre track did mean, however, that club track and field championships could be held at Hansen Park as occurred in February 1988.

Once the 400 metre track was developed in Hansen Park, Les Woods took on the job of marking it, and the throwing sectors, every season – a time-consuming task. To other members it seemed that every time they went to the park in spring, there would be Les patiently putting in the lane markings with string and his trusty machine containing 'secret potion'. Yet even with the athletics track established Les still had to fight for St Martins' rights, such as getting a 'senior' football field reduced to 'junior' size after it had been laid over the inside four lanes of the track just past the finish line.

Following his stint on the committee in the 1980s when he was coordinator of children's athletics, Les went onto the Port Hills Athletic committee in 2005 and took on the job of looking after school bookings for the use of the track and athletic equipment, as well as liaising with the city council. He was made a life member of Port Hills in 2011.

Children's attendance numbers had improved from 16 in 1982/83 to 28 in 1985/86, when Les Woods was coordinating. Then with the energy of Roy Foley they increased to 70 in the 1986/87 season. Roy successfully canvassed schools in the south of Christchurch from Heathcote in the east to Somerfield in the west. The following year, with the help of many parents and club members, Roy's efforts were rewarded with 230 children enrolled by Christmas, including from Thorrington school a talented all-rounder – Caro Hunt. The result for St Martins that season was victory in the relay competition, wherein points were accumulated every Saturday. Such was St Martins' dominance that with the final Saturday still to come they were 100 points clear of defending champions, Papanui Toc H.

The success engendered an active group of parents who involved themselves in organisation, providing carpooling on Saturdays, and – for some – acquiring basic coaching skills. Roy had also served on the St Martins main committee, but with his own children developing interests beyond athletics he scaled down his involvement and joined the Anglican club, for whom close friends ran..

There had always been some degree of separateness between the children's summer track and field and the adults focussed on road and cross country and from time to time attention was drawn to this. In the club newsletter of March 1982, Irene Taylor wrote that over the past summer, "the children had

given their best under the club colours and had never seen a club official or a committee member.” Clearly Irene wished to bridge the gap and yet there was nothing inherently wrong with the dichotomy as long as both ‘divisions’ were adequately resourced. Nevertheless by 1988 the main committee was represented on the children’s committee in an attempt to ensure consistent administration across the whole club. And although the adult members of the club were in the 1990s to place more emphasis on track and field, the separateness remained.

However, the enthusiastic efforts of Glen Watts, Noni Callendar, John Gilson and others resulted in 72 attending Saturday morning competition in the 1989/90 season and from that number, Caro Hunt, Craig Gillard and Nigel Gray represented New Zealand in Australia. Caro also received the Chesdale Young Achievers Award and the accompanying \$1500 was used by the club for field event equipment thus ending the need to go to Beckenham Park.

That same season John Gilson had begun producing the club’s first children’s newsletter. Yet through the 1990s, despite the best efforts of Neil Shewen, Dave Riddell and others, numbers participating fell.

Also at that time, the club newsletter gave ample coverage to children’s athletics with event reports, photos and a regular column called “Junior Jottings”. With John and Paula Gilson, Colleen Warren and Neil Shewen to the fore, the 1991/92 season was a successful one for St Martins. In Saturday morning competition it was 4<sup>th</sup>-placed club with Caro Hunt being the Canterbury centre’s champion 13-year-old girl, Daniel Vine champion 12-year-old boy and Jonathon Brooker champion 10-year-old boy. Moreover, much effort was made to ensure that participation was enjoyable for the children, the season concluding with a fun night of parents v. children relays, invariably won by the children, presentation of cups and certificates by club president Bob Richmond and a BBQ.

Yet for some there still remained a divide between the adult’s section of the club and the children’s. In the June 1997 newsletter, Laurie Slattery put forward a proposal.

“This coming year,” she wrote, “why don’t we try a new approach to children’s athletics, which will require a lot more club participation and parent involvement. As a club, St Martins do not feature well in children’s athletics, even though we have about 120 children as club members, and attending on at least some Monday evenings. Monday nights need basically to be used as training and skills nights only in preparation for the competition day at QEII on Saturdays.

“All children attending Monday nights should be expected to compete for our club on Saturdays. This would mean several changes involving parents as we do not have the support or the manpower to do it at present.

“All parents would need to be on a roster to help either on Mondays or Saturdays. With more parent involvement the adult/child ratio would be at a better level for correct training and basic skills. We need to look towards the future of the club as a whole. We want our junior athletes coming through into our senior ranks, and with a strong junior background we would be able to build the club into a competitive force.”

A meeting was held to discuss Laurie’s proposal but whatever the outcome, three months later in the September newsletter, club captain Dave Riddell expressed his frustration at the lack of change.

“We call ourselves St Martins Athletics & Harrier Club yet we put very little effort into the Athletic part, that is track and field. With the start of summer approaching, our emphasis must start to move from the road to the track. The place to develop our future athletes is our junior athletic programme. These children will be our future seniors, if we support and encourage them now. If we don’t they will be like all the kids in the past who tried athletics then left for sports that have better support/coaching structures in place. We (that is the adult club members) need to make a commitment to the juniors if we want our Club to prosper. We cannot rely on the recruiting of adults in their 30s to bolster our ranks. We need to encourage a sense of loyalty within the juniors so that they stand with

our Club for the duration, that is for the next 10 to 20 years. The way for us to develop the loyalty in these kids is to support them 100%. To do this we require the adults in the club to become more involved in their development, that is to assist with coaching and organising on club nights.”

In her president’s report in the following month’s newsletter, Lyn Walsh (Maule) commented on the so-called rift: “There appears to have been rather a large gap between these two sections of the club in the past. We all keep talking about how important it is to look after the children in the club and how we don’t want to lose them to other clubs or sports, so this is your chance to narrow the gap, whether it be to come along and compete, giving the youngsters an insight into the senior side of the club or by simply helping to run the meetings.”

The neighbouring Cashmere Hillmorton club, with its children’s athletics based at Hillmorton High, was experiencing similar difficulties resulting in the two clubs agreeing, with the blessing of the Canterbury Children’s Committee, to combine their children’s athletics for Saturday morning competition at QEII. This resulted in the summer of 1999/2000 in over 60 competing as one club on Saturdays and across the two club nights (Monday at Hansen Park and Tuesday at Hillmorton High) a catchment of 230. A year later, Dave Riddell was able to report that the total at week nights was now 240 and over 100 had registered for Saturday morning competition for the 2000/01 summer making St Martins Cashmere Hillmorton both the second largest children’s club in Canterbury and the second most successful that season behind Christchurch Avon.

The 1999/2000 summer season also marked the participation of third generation members, namely twin sisters, Alice and Jenny Crowther. The pair were granddaughters of Clarrie Reece, whose own daughters Wendy and Carol had participated as children in the 1960s.

Over the years, attention was also paid to providing children with coaching. Parents were encouraged to attend coaches grading courses and the children’s committee also paid for qualified coaches to instruct both parents and children. Throughout all this, Glen Watts also provided constant supervision and training in the field events.

The first children from St Martins to be selected for Canterbury were Sheryl Best and Rhys McLachlan, both members of the Canterbury B team which travelled to Blenheim in 1983 to compete against Marlborough.

New Zealand representatives from children’s athletics were: Jonathon Brooker (1992), Nigel Gray (1988), Craig Gillard (1988) and Caroline Hunt (1988, 1992).

Caro Hunt competed for St Martins from 1986 (age 8) to 1992. When she graduated to afternoon athletics at QEII, she switched to Old Boys-United. Ten years later she returned to Hansen Park for a coaching weekend for the next generation of juniors. On seeing the photo of herself (age 14) on the clubroom walls her initial shock was of ‘how silly’ she looked. Be that as it may, Caro had by this time represented NZ at the World Junior Track and Field Athletics Championships and gone on to be a NZ 100 metre champion.

Throughout the 1990s many talented juniors continued to come through the club. Among them was Sean Gourley, who – although not as a member of St Martins - went on to become a NZ decathlon champion. Others were first Tara Newitt, who age 14 won the junior women’s 800m at the 1999 Marley Games, and secondly, Ben Dieudonne, who stayed with the club once he moved up to Saturday afternoon athletics, where in 2001 he won Canterbury M18 titles over 100m, 200m and 400m.

In December 2000, 90 children were competing at QEII in Saturday morning athletics. And at the Colgate Games in Dunedin the following month gold medals were won by Whatuhuia Arahanga-

Doyle, Gareth Brooker, Elliot Dixon, Michael Hancock, Hazel Rolston, Bradley Riddell, Hagan Schulte and Mitchell Wood. Walkers were prominent amongst these junior athletes (see also above, *Club Growth*), and from the aforementioned were Gareth and Hazel, who both won at the Colgate Games a year later with Patrick Enright also winning a gold at track walking.

As a 12-year-old, at the Colgate Games, Kelly Shadbolt needed to pick a third event besides the sprint and high jump. The choice – walking, what could be easier? Then came the realisation that it involves some special technique. But Phil Rolston was on hand and after 10 minutes of tuition in the basics, Kelly was ready. The result was a bronze medal in the one kilometre walk.

~ adapted from *Port Hills Athletic Newsletter*, December 2002-January 2003

## Flagship and other events

Kevin Jago provided the concept for St Martins first contribution to the Canterbury road and cross-country calendar, namely a 15 mile road race. It was first held on 28 November 1970 as an out-and-back from the Gamblins Road sports grounds. Twenty one took part with fastest time going to Olympic's Neville Reid. Timekeeping was done by Peter Rigg, assisted by Brent Tweedie and the rest of the Tweedie family assisted Clarrie Reece at the sponge stations. The aim that first year may have been no more than a one-off but it was successful enough that the Canterbury Road Runners' Association was keen to retain it on the calendar for 1971. A handicap race its popularity then saw it become an established event.

Also in 1971, the club organised an inter-club colts race from Allandale Domain to Governors bay, via the waterfront track. Entry was 10 cents. It had actually experimented with such a race the season before when it was held as a challenge between just St Martins and Olympic. The 1971 race was successfully repeated in 1972 and became a permanent fixture on the Canterbury winter calendar. In 1974 a women's race was added and this remained part of the event until 1978 when the Governors Bay to Lyttelton race, held on the same day, catered for women. In 1978, the junior races were held for seven grades, each with its own start time. The grades were, Girls - U11, U14, U16 and U18, and the same for the boys, with 88 in total taking part. In 1990, the junior race was shifted to start and finish at Hansen Park.

As for the inter-club 15 mile race, following the 1973 event, the club committee confirmed that the date would continue to be in November. It was also keen to obtain a sponsor to replace Ballins Hotel for the event and finally obtained Noel Wakefield, owner of the Sussex Dairy, for the 1975 and 1976 races. But for 1977, Lion Breweries were on board.

In 1981, race manager for the immediate previous years, Merv Austin, stood down and competed instead. The 15 mile-race was sponsored by Award Aluminium, as well as Gloucester Computers which resulted in computer-generated results. It was held on 14 November with entries closing on the 6<sup>th</sup>. The entry fee was \$2. It started at 4 pm in Gamblins Road and was followed by a prizegiving social at the St Martins School Hall. In 1982 the distance was changed to 25km, but that year was to be the event's last.

Handicap races were quite common on the inter-club road running calendar at the time. Besides the St Martins event, others included the Kaiapoi to Christchurch, Governors Bay to Lyttelton and the Teddington to Diamond Harbour, each giving the 'average' runner a chance to star by winning on handicap. In the 1986 Teddington to Diamond Harbour race, not just one St Martins runner starred, but three: Clive McLeod (1<sup>st</sup> senior man), Sarah Farquhar (1<sup>st</sup> senior woman) and John Dumergue (1<sup>st</sup> veteran man),

However, with the handicap aspect removed, the club replaced the 15-miler/25km event with the St Martins half-marathon in 1983. Using what had been the course for the Tang women's half-marathon, last run in 1982, the first event was held on 5<sup>th</sup> November 1983. The club's 'great plans were demolished' when its sponsorship fell through at the last minute. Nevertheless the race was a great success with approximately 120 runners lining up and in hot blustery nor-westerlies 108 finishing.

The 1984 event was held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November with Bob Richmond as race manager, Peter Watts as start and finish chute marshal, Shane Watts in charge of drink and sponge stations, Graham White in charge of course marking and course marshals and Liz Thompson responsible for the 'tea and biscuit' refreshments. However the entry fell to 83.

A half-marathon for women-only, now sponsored by Mt Cook Airlines, had also continued on the Canterbury calendar and in 1985, St Martins agreed to take over its running and incorporate it into its own half-marathon. The modification was that the men's and women's races would be run as separate events within the whole. The sponsorship from Mt Cook was maintained. By 1989 it had become the St Martins Tai Tapu Hotel Half marathon and this was the last year it was run.

On 27 July 1980 what was billed as Canterbury's first ever Ironman Contest was held. Consisting of a cycle section followed by a swim and then a run, it was won by Derek Brittenden, with the only woman in the field of 25 being Rosemary Marquet. It was considered such a successful novelty that St Martins organised it again the next year. On 5 July, over 16km of cycling, 8km of running and 200 metres of swimming, 15 took part. Brent Snelllex was the winner this time and again there was just one woman taking part, Margaret Walker. The event was again scheduled for 1982 (a year in which St Martins also organised the Brighton 50-mile race in March) but later in the year, 3<sup>rd</sup> October. The December 1983 newsletter announced: "The Ironman competition is to be continued and a sub-committee is to be formed consisting of Ron Meers, Mark Sherriff and Peter Watts." The outcome of this forward planning was a triathlon jointly organised by the St Martins club and the Sumner Surf Club, with a swim leg of 800 metres. With Ron Meers as chief organiser, it was held on 18 November 1984, commencing with 'twenty nine hardy souls' taking to the surf. Brent Snelllex, who went on to be a successful triathlete, was again the winner.

(In 1988, a fun club biathlon - cycle and run - was commenced; held at Tai Tapu and organised by Graham White. Known as 'Whitey's Bi' it continued as an annual event until 1996.)

In December 1983, Peter Watts submitted to the committee his idea for a five-race 5km road series in North Hagley Park over successive weeks in January-February 1984. The idea was adopted with the advertising slogan 'Come Alive Run a 5'. The entry fee was set at \$1 and spot prizes, donated by Qantas, Beckenham Drapery, Front Runner, Westpac Travel and Canterbury Sports, were awarded. However, the committee had to inform the Department of Internal Affairs that the total value of these prizes didn't exceed \$500, otherwise the event would have been classified as a lottery and would have contravened the Gaming and Lotteries Act.

After the first race, president Bob Richmond wrote "it is very pleasing to report on the early success of our Lion Brown/St Martins 5km series, and the terrific response from the news media and the runners both registered and unregistered. Over 200 runners took part in the fun run and over 100 in the registered runners race. The feedback from the runners especially those in the top bracket has been excellent." The series went on to be the club's most successful home-grown public event, still continuing under Port Hills Athletic's administration, over thirty years later.

Average fields in 1985 were 260 in the fun run and 130 in the registered race, and Geoff Kerr was able to announce a profit of \$1400 from the five-race series. This was also the year that some smart

race times were recorded, as follows. Senior men: Peter Renner and Neil Lowsley 14:01; senior women: Wendy Renner 16:26; veteran men: Eddie Gray 14:26; veteran women: Lynn Epps 18:20.

In 1986, adidas approached St Martins wondering if the club would conduct a three-event 10km series, with their sponsorship. Although the St Martins committee thought the series was a good idea, they considered they already organised several inter-club events and didn't wish to burden their membership with another. They replied to adidas that they should perhaps approach another club but if they ended up without an organiser for their series they might consider using their sponsorship in conjunction with St Martins' 5km series. It was a bold reply that reaped its reward. The 1987 series was sponsored by adidas and Peter Woodham Real Estate. For 1988 adidas, who were "pleased with the numbers participating" provided cash prizes worth \$2,000. At that time, such prizes had to be awarded as 'training grants' and permission to award them had to be sought from the Canterbury Centre.

By 1994 the principal sponsor was O'Malley's Pub in Sydenham. For 1998, Smith Sports Shoes had become 'naming rights' sponsors. And in the 1998 series St Martins produced both the winners of the senior men's and women's races, Simon Crosby and Karen Murphy respectively. Each won three out of the five races.

The 5k series also proved to be a good fundraiser for the club. In 1991 it raised \$2,500. (Other fundraising activities that year were assisting at the DB Triathlon, \$500, inserting supplements into The Press, \$1,000, and a garage sale for children's athletics, \$500.)

The Crater Rim Challenge was first run in 1995, over approximately 30km, in conjunction with the Coopers Knob Classic (42km). The latter was not retained but the Crater Rim Challenge, an out-and-back course up Rapaki Track and along the Crater Rim to near the Bellbird survived. It has been held annually in October since Labour Weekend 2001.

## Clubrooms

The loop in the Heathcote River, now Hansen Park, was formerly a gravel tip known as Butlers Pit, after its original owner. Hansen Park was named after local resident Dr D.K.Hansen, former principal of Christchurch Technical College.

At the beginning of the 1970s, a farsighted committee set up a building fund for a future clubrooms. By 1980, the fund had reached \$7,000. The club was by then keeping an eye out for suitable areas and in the April 1980 newsletter, president, Peter Rigg, wrote: 'If you are at St Anne's take a few minutes to run down Armstrong Avenue, the short street opposite the hall that brings you out by the river. Across the river is a large undeveloped area which is shortly to be developed by the Council into a sports ground ... (and) later on, in approximately 1983, build a small pavilion ... It is your club's intention to meet the council halfway and jointly develop something larger that will cover our immediate needs.' Envisaged were showers, a gym, an area for club equipment and crèche facilities.

Peter Rigg wrote to the city council that same year outlining the club's interest in Hansen Park and its desire to have use of a pavilion and a 400 metre track at the park. Over the next couple of years, secretary Jack Thompson continued to remind the council administration and local councillors of its interest in the park's development.

By 1983, the club's building fund had reached \$12,000, and the committee meeting of 20 September that year, unanimously resolved to commit the club by that much 'towards the provision of club rooms in conjunction with the Christchurch City Council.' But it had also come to light in 1983 that the city council had visions of Hansen Park being officially shared by Canterbury Softball,



Canterbury Hockey and St Martins. Then in February 1984 news emerged that the Canterbury Softball Association was to use Hansen Park as their provincial headquarters. The association would have use of the park from Monday to Thursday and Saturdays with special rights for evenings, Sundays and tournaments. By 1985 the clubrooms were now a certainty, yet the St Martins committee found it was having to compromise its use of the park to fit with softball's proposed use. However, local residents were not pleased with the highly increased use of the park that would ensue if softball was admitted, including much greater traffic flows on neighbouring streets, and prompted the formation of the Opawa/St Martins Neighbourhood Group. Following the ensuing, prolonged discussion it seemed that softball was off the agenda for Hansen Park. It wasn't.

In the meantime the club rooms were finally completed in 1985 and the first club run from them was on 15 July, unfortunately a 'lousy' wet day. The rooms comprised part of the park pavilion and were leased from the council for 21 years. But even at this late stage, the St Martins committee was initially presented with a lease agreement that they viewed as less than satisfactory. Bob Richmond and Geoff Kerr were delegated to meet with council officers to have the agreement amended. While they were not successful on every point they raised they did achieve some substantial revisions to the lease agreement. The City Council agreed to acknowledge in the agreement the \$12,000 that the club had contributed and the rent was not to be raised out of proportion to what other clubs might elsewhere be paying in similar circumstances. Additionally St Martins won the right, if necessary, to arbitration over future rent rises and also, if desired and with the City Council's permission, they could sell their interest in the clubrooms before the 21 year lease expired.

The club's 5-mile handicap road race on the 5th October became the first club race conducted from the clubrooms. The 400 metre track, however, still awaited completion. It was to be the following winter season, however, before the clubrooms were officially opened and in that time the possibility of softball using Hansen Park had again risen. In March 1986, The Press reported that the Canterbury Softball Association had requested the city council budget funds for their headquarters at Hansen Park. They had, they said, waited 50 years for a home of their own, and the installation of a new artificial surface for hockey at Porritt Park meant that park could no longer be considered as a base for their sport. In the end, however, St Martins was spared sharing the park with softball, the softball headquarters being eventually sited at Cuthberts Green.

When the St Martins clubrooms were officially opened on the 31<sup>st</sup> of May 1986 there were squabs on the seats and some heating. With a large turnout of members for the occasion, a tree was also planted in memory of club member Brenton Joyce.

The plaque accompanying the memorial tree is on the wall of the clubrooms beside the main entrance, on the left. In the top left of the plaque is a stylised diagram of the rooms themselves, described on the plaque as Hansen Park Pavilion, and including some prominent trees growing beside the 'pavilion'. An arrow on the plaque points to one of these trees (a variety of oak) with the words 'This tree was planted in memory of Brenton Joyce, Friend and Clubmate of St. Martins A & H Club.'

By 1982, Brenton Joyce was one of the club's, and indeed Canterbury's, best performed athletes, especially over the marathon. In his short career he won the Rangiora 20-mile, Mt Hutt marathon (2:21:37), the Canterbury marathon championships and, most prestigious of all, the 1980 Sedley Wells Mid-Winter Marathon (2:24). The previous year he won the Gebbies Classic in, then, record time. Brenton also had very strong ideas on sponsorship. He generally refused prizes when he won or placed in races. One such occasion occurred when, having taken fastest time in the Olympic 16km road race, he refused a pair of running shoes. Where appropriate, he donated prizes to the club.

He also sought dispensation from the Canterbury Centre from displaying the sponsor's name on his registration number, instead paying to the centre the proportional value of the sponsorship per senior athlete. Furthermore, the 1980 St Martins AGM also supported Brenton by unanimously agreeing to a remit being sent to the NZAAA pointing out that the insistence by race organisers that

sponsor's names on race numbers had to be displayed was contrary to its own rules. Unfortunately Brenton's staunch views provoked opposition amongst others which came to a head on 13 March 1982 in a race sponsored by milk drink manufacturers, Big M.

Brenton entered the 10km race and ran with the Big M logo on the race number folded under. But as he entered the finishing chute he was tackled by three members of the organising club, University of Canterbury, and thrown over the finish chute side ropes.

Not surprisingly, the St Martins committee voiced its disapproval in a strongly-worded letter to the Canterbury Centre, describing Brenton's manhandling as 'brutal'. They also took the view that if Brenton was running the race contrary to the rules then, at the very least, he should have been permitted to finish before being disqualified. The Canterbury Centre convened a special meeting with representatives of the University club and St Martins. At this meeting it transpired that Brenton had been told that if he covered the sponsor's insignia he was not to enter the finishing chute but this notwithstanding the officials who stopped Brenton were acting on their own initiative and their actions were not expected. St Martins club representatives asked for a public apology from these officials and were assured that the officials were prepared to do this. At the same time, the University club withdrew its demand that disciplinary action be taken against Brenton, and everyone agreed that the Centre needed to ensure clear guidelines were put in place for future race organisers.

The distributors of Big M also wrote to Brenton hoping a way would be found for him to compete in future races they sponsored.

Sadly, the Big M 10km was the last race Brenton ran. It would seem that the incident seriously affected his health. In April he was admitted to Sunnyside Hospital and approximately six months after the Big M race, aged only 26, he died.

#### SMALL TRIBUTE TO BRENTON

In 1969 he turned up one day by himself, a small boy. It was the end of a winter season and the handicap races were being held. Kevin Jago was the handicapper. He looked at the boy and decided he should go about the middle of the field, not having any form to go on. Brenton hit the front about a quarter of the way through the race and won by a country mile.

He had a bad stammer then and at times he was hard to understand, but it got better as he got older. It wasn't that noticeable years later when he did a stint as race secretary for the club and stood up before us all to inform us of race information and closing dates.

Most of us had letters from him at some time or another. Letters that were never forgotten by those of us who received them, and now will never be forgotten.

Remember his little pieces in the club newsletter, - the top club runner taking the children's pack for a run, - taking the CLUB for a run through the Heathcote rubbish tip, - sitting on a street kerb with the children talking with them after the club handicap race two years ago, - his winning smile of confidence in the Mt Hutt Marathon with his eventual record breaking time, - his front running and not listening to anyone telling him to do anything different, - hitchhiking to the Great Westland Marathon and to the Mt Hutt where he slept a night in a barn, - those who took him in a car always mysteriously found petrol vouchers in their glove box or somewhere a few days later, - running the NZ National Marathon in his underpants because his shorts were chafing.

Above all remember his love for running and the Club, he was proud of his uniform. His consideration for others never led him to hypocrisy, especially so in his stand for his principles and beliefs.

His short life touched many others and those who knew him grew to love and respect him. His death has caused an emptiness that will never be replaced.

~ Peter Rigg, *St Martins club newsletter*, September 1982

On display inside the clubrooms, until amalgamation, was the Operation Deep Freeze Challenge trophy. It was presented to St Martins in 1979 by the commander of United States Operation Deep Freeze. The American base organised a 24-hour fundraising run as part of the Telethon Year of the Child appeal. Six members of the Marquet family, Harry and his five children, took part resulting in St Martins club captain Peter Rigg being presented with the trophy for the club with the most finishers.

John Dumergue and Bob Richmond brought the Honours Board, donated by John's employer, to fruition. It was unveiled at the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations in 1989. A year later new terylene curtains were hung, made by club member Lorraine Horridge. Outside in the park, a synthetic long jump run-up, at a cost to the club of \$2,000, was put in place in 1991.

By 1997, the rooms had a tv and a video leading to Ron Falkingham making a cabinet for them as well as the exterior noticeboard on the front wall.

Extensions were first planned in 1995 (and approved at an SGM on 3 July) but the introduction by the city council of a new city plan meant that the process had to begin again. The positive was that it gave the club more time to fund raise and resource consent was approved in October 1996. The extensions, which doubled the size of the main room and added an equipment room with its own external tilt-a-door, were unveiled at a grand opening on 21 November 1998. Representing the city council, local councillor Ian Howell congratulated the club on the refurbishments. And the occasion saw special mention made of the contribution from members and owners of Falkingham Kitchens, Ron and Lettie Falkingham, before Lettie did the honours by declaring the renovated clubrooms officially open.

#### **Musings of the clubrooms.**

The Vice President was surprised when he tried his key in my door and found it unlocked. It is easy to expect a break-in in a park where I am grounded. But nothing so exciting for my visitor. A club member was already inside, ... showered and had the jug on the boil. Nothing unusual in this, most of you have a drink and a shower after a club outing. But what's this the Vice President sees? The club member is just trying to work the microwave, you know, organise breakfast.

I wonder to myself after all these years of standing here in the park in the heat of summer and the cold of winter what your club fees would be if all club members used me in this way. Why maybe beds in the shower rooms would be next. Then all club members could call me home and live on the cheap.

~ Vice President, Kevin Jago, *St Martins Newsletter*, June 1998

## **Club newsletter**

In the August 2001 issue, club president, Kevin Jago, reported that the club's newsletter team of Guy Field, Bernadette Jago, Gary Nesbit and Heather Knowles had received an email from the newly appointed General Manager of Athletics New Zealand which said: "Just read my first copy of the your newsletter ... outstanding! ... Keep us on your mailing list!"

The very first newsletters were titled 'Circular to Members and Supporters'. The one produced at the beginning of the club's second season, 1965, was a single foolscap page, written on behalf of the committee by Clarrie Reece.

Reference was made to a 'first' newsletter in the club committee minutes of 29 October 1969. In 1973 Bruce Bull and Kevin Jago were joint editors but over the next few years it was irregular, with

Philip Law agreeing to put one out before the start of the 1976 winter season. As secretary, Philip continued with this responsibility until January 1977 when Wayne Rouse was appointed editor. He resigned in October and the committee decided that it would look into an 'authorised format'. The outcome was that the newsletter would be overseen by an 'editorial committee' of Phillip Law and Merv Austin. This bore fruit, beginning with the January 1978 issue when the pair, under the title SMACK (St Martins Amateur Athletic and Cross Country Club), co-edited what was now a monthly newsletter.

In February 1979, Ray Forster, with assistance from wife Judy, became editor. It was foolscap-sized, typed double-sided and stapled top left. Roy and Judy had been among the new members of the previous year. The newsletter was comprehensive under Ray Forster's editorship covering coming events (including social activities), results and commentary on results, opinion pieces, club member profiles, anecdotes, coaching articles and letters to the editor. Yet despite the last, at the end of his term, Ray felt that too few expressed themselves in it, preferring instead, 'to debate issues at the pub.'

A certain member was rather embarrassed at one of the races. Being all keyed up for the race he slipped off his tracksuit only to find he had forgotten to wear his running shorts. Noel Harris, being quick off the mark, promptly sold him a pair. Hope they fitted D.B.

~ *St Martins Newsletter*, June 1979

As per the box above, the newsletter also provided the opportunity to present the lighter side of running and club membership. Wayne Rouse, had previously been seconded in the Brighton 50-mile road race by his wife Ann. But for 1979 she opted out embarrassed by Wayne throwing drink bottles over fences along the way. So Eddie Corrigan was co-opted as the second and at the start of the race was presented with a set of instructions, see box following.

Good morning you have been specially selected to second a runner in the New Brighton "50".

- First the runner is running this race so no matter what you think you know, keep your gob shut.
- If runner approaches car looking tired, lock doors and drive off. No conscience is needed, spraying runner with shingle is acceptable.
- Don't smile at runner, he is enjoying himself too but doesn't have to smile to prove it.
- Don't tell runner he is running good, he knows he is, he's just running 50 miles to prove it.
- If runner has a walk don't worry he is not really tired, just giving opposition something to gloat over.
- If runner starts crying, give him a tissue and have a cry with him.
- If runner complains of blisters, remind him of how you had one once and that he isn't the only one who gets them.
- When runner starts swearing and throwing drink bottles around, tell him he is 31 years old and to act it.
- Continually remind runner of the taste of a beer you are going to let him shout you at the finish.
- After doing your best to help runner through the ordeal, remind him there's only 12 months to next year.

~ from *St Martins Newsletter*, April 1979

Incidentally Wayne placed fifth that year and the following year he went on to become the third St Martins runner to win the race.

Ann Rigg typed the April 1981 issue with Michael Hawkins coordinating it and that for May was typed by Lois Cope, with Diana Dowell being touted as news co-ordinator. Under her co-ordination

she picked up the following anecdote from Ross Maguire, captain of team 4, regarding the recording of club lap times at the 1982 Hagley Relays . “No Fran, I think that’s the lap button. You push that at the end of each ... Hell, they’ve started. Start the watch now and just add ten seconds.” ... “I think that’s the button that switches it back to normal time – Steve didn’t do 2 hours 16 minutes.”

When Diana Dowell stood down early in 1983, a team calling itself ACE, namely Anita and Eddie Corrigan, took over in April. They edited the newsletter for twelve months when Russell Buchanan filled in for most of the remainder of 1984. However the December issue had a new editorial team styling itself as LEGS, Lois Richmond and Glen Watts. Glen’s editorship was to last over 13 years through to early 1998, by which time she was editing the newsletter single-handed, with typing assistance from Trish Riddell.

An early LEGS innovation was the introduction of black and white photos - in the March 1985 issue. Two were published, being (1) Peter Woodham on the bus for a club run of the Heaphy track, sewing spats on his running shoes in preparation, and (2) Shadow actors, Don Borrell and Kate Falkingham at the club’s camping weekend at Purau.

Then in 1986 the Lois and Glen complained to the committee that decisions on printing and collating had been made without consulting them. The result was that in March 1986, the committee handed over to them complete control of the newsletter.

A feature of Glen’s newsletters were her Achilles Heel columns: news, anecdotes and rumours about club members, generally ascribed to ‘Tusitala’.

Mud, mud, glorious mud. The South Island veteran track and field champs held at Greymouth recently were rather gooey to say the least. The shot put and hammer had to be prised with a fork out of the ground after almost every throw.

\* \* \*

During the 1500 metres for VM 50+, one of club members was noted trying to shoo two of the more mature runners off the track, until somebody told her that they weren’t warming up but taking part in the race in lane 2 to avoid some of the muddier spots. She ended up with a red face.

~ Tusitala, Achilles Heel, *St Martins Newsletter*, December 1996

Glen Watts competed for Technical Athletic Club 1954-59. Coached by Valdy Breidis she competed in shot, discus, long jump, high jump, hurdles and sprints. Between the ages of 19 and 43 she played competitive netball and, along with husband Pete, badminton for about 12 years. She joined St Martins in 1984. On the track she specialised in the 400 metres although there was no rationale for this – ‘goodness knows why’. Nonetheless, she competed over this distance at the Oceania Veteran Athletics Championships and at age 46 recorded a time of 69.9. She went onto the St Martins committee in 1995 and continued onto the Port Hills committee in 2002.

Glen also became, for a time, a club coach, and the mainstay of the Wednesday morning runs from Hansen Park, a job she was still doing more than a decade after the formation of Port Hills Athletic. And with husband Pete they have hosted Sunday morning training runs from, first, their home in Sparks Road and then from Dunn Street in Beckenham for at least 35 years.

Tribute to Glen’s sterling service was that with the February 1998 issue she was succeeded by not one person but a collective, Guy Field, Bernadette Jago, Kate Fogarty and Oscar Kruger.

The first colour photos appeared in November 1998, depicting various members completing the clubroom renovations for the opening of the extension later that month. The colour printing and paper for that issue was donated by Chaucer Press Ltd.

The last issue was November 2001. That for December, following the merger with Cashmere Hillmorton, carried the banner, “The official newsletter of the St Martins Cashmere Hillmorton

Athletic & Harrier Club". For the June 2002 issue, the banner became, "The official newsletter of the Port Hills Athletic Club", see also below: *Amalgamation*.

## Social activities

In the 1960s and early 1970s, social activities mostly revolved around athletic-related events such as trophy presentation evenings, In 1974 a social committee comprising "Mrs Jago, Mrs Milne, Mrs McLean and P Rigg" was formed to organise the club's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations held in November of that year. Prime Minister Norman Kirk, who had continued as patron of the club since its inception, had expressed his desire to attend the celebrations but unfortunately he died in August.

By 1980, social activities had become an integral part of the club's year. Events that year, for example, included:

12 April, after the winter opening run a 'get together', 7:30 at the Black Horse Hotel.

10 May, following the Hagley Relay, a family social from 7:30 at English Park.

18 October, club prizegiving on the evening of the final run for the winter season.

But the following year may have been the most social the club has ever had. It began on 15 February 1981 with the club picnic, followed by a social evening after the Hagley Relays at Porritt Park on 25 April. For Friday 15 May, a Pub Crawl starting at Noah's Hotel at 6 pm was advertised. The social programme then peaked in August beginning on the 2<sup>nd</sup> where the club run was followed by a champagne breakfast, then on the 8<sup>th</sup> a social night at the Black Horse Hotel, 16<sup>th</sup> a Ladies Night and the 22<sup>nd</sup> a Casino Night. In September (6<sup>th</sup>) there was the International Food Fair, October (3<sup>rd</sup>) a Greek Night at the Mykonos with the Presentation Evening being on the 10<sup>th</sup>. The social calendar ended on the 12<sup>th</sup> December with a Christmas Get-together at the Waltham Arms.

And the list above does not include the new innovation of the 1981 winter season - a weekend at the Hanmer Springs Forest Camp. First proposed by Chris England at the 1980 AGM as 'a cheap family outing that would be good for non-competitive runners', it took place on 18-20 September. Twenty four attended. On the Saturday morning the men ran up Mt Isobel, which had snow on top. The women did a flat six-mile run in the forest. That afternoon was family time at the hot pools and for the evening Marg Walker had organised some videos to watch. Sunday morning was 'pouring with rain' but this didn't stop some of the men running Jollies Pass-Jacks Pass and three women running up Conical Hill.

With Liz Thompson as social convenor, the trip to Hanmer as a formal addition to the club's calendar was back on again in 1983. This time in mid-June with over 100 making the trip and club member, Bruce Bull, with his band, providing the Saturday night entertainment. Bob Richmond blew his harmonica all night, Roy Foley's impression of a chicken was so good some thought he was going to lay an egg and Selwyn Opie was the Hokey Tokey champion. 'He shook himself about so much he nearly fell to bits.'

More than six months later the 1983 club trip was in the 'news'. The inside cover of the *NZ Women's Weekly* of 27 February 1984 featured St Martins members relaxing in the Hanmer hot pools. "Rumour has it," the February 1984 club newsletter alleged, "they waited until only the good looking ones were in the pool." Ninety three made the trip in 1984 and that for 1985 was on the weekend of 15 June. Martin McKone was now social convenor and the social programme was a busy event-a-month one. The Hanmer weekend was followed in July by a Sunday Brunch at the White Heron, in August there was a fancy dress evening at Wigram, in September a country and western evening, in October the club presentations – again at Wigram and a Christmas function in December.

The special social event of 1989 was the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary weekend, put together by Janet Lilley, Judy Honey, Val Borrell and Bob Richmond. About 80, including the oldest life member Bill

McLean, attended the Friday night get-together. Celebrations continued at the club run the next day, followed by afternoon tea, with the highlight being the unveiling in the clubrooms of the Honours Board. Then it was onto the Cashmere Club for a dinner. A sunny February Sunday saw members back at the Cashmere Club for a BBQ.

Into the 1990s and the social calendar, convened by Lyn Maule, with BBQs, brunches, car rallies, mystery bus tours, ten-pin bowling, the runner's ball and weekends away at Purau and Hanmer, was as busy as it had ever been.

And if all that was not enough, the club instituted happy hours, at the clubrooms after Saturday club runs, which went through to 6:30 pm.

We have heaps of sandwiches and pizzas left over from the Ball that we have frozen and will use for supper at the prizegiving so when you are making your plate for supper no sandwiches or pizzas please.  
~ St Martins Newsletter, October 1992

In 1989, the runner's ball was being cited (in the September newsletter) as an established event, with that year's one, as in previous years being "a tremendous success". It continued on the annual calendar until 1994; that planned for 1995 having to be cancelled because of insufficient advance ticket sales.

The club's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary was marked on 13 May 1994 with a Dine and Dance at the Cashmere Club.

And while the Takahe-Akaroa relay was collectively the big athletic challenge of the year it was, for many of the teams, often just as much a social day out. From the early 1980s on, St Martins became renowned for each of its teams travelling by van, each van colourfully decorated in the club's blue and white. And a feature of the following month's club newsletter was the various reports of each team's performance or otherwise. Any doubt in 1995 about the veteran men 3 team's priorities was quickly dispelled in their team report in the October newsletter. Calling themselves 'Flash and the Woof Woof Gang', the report began:

"Our team was made up of guys and gals, or blokes and sheilas, our mission to finish before the pubs closed in Akaroa. As in traditional style we arrived at the Takahe in our decorated van, balloons and streamers ..." and it ended, "Overall although no gold medals came our way we had an enjoyable and entertaining day ..."

Rumour has it that one of the women (JT) at the Hanmer club weekend was enjoying a soak in the hot pools when she remembered she had left a pot on the stove in the camp kitchen. So a quick nip out of the pool, throw a coat over the 'cozzie' and back to the Camp to set things right, then back to the pool, without blinking an eyelid.  
~ St Martins Newsletter, July 1997

In 1999, Lyn Kruger (formerly Maule) stood down from the club presidency and the committee of which she had been a member for some fifteen years. Confessing that she 'enjoyed the social side of running' it was not surprising that quite a few of her years on the committee were as social convenor. Moreover, she not only convened the social programme but organised many of the events with fancy dress at Hanmer Springs being one of her favourite memories.

About 1980, Lyn found it harder to play netball as her boys had their sports to go to. Having met Ann Rigg through netball, Ann encouraged her to take up running, which proved easier to fit into her schedule. In 1982 she joined St Martins and ran her first marathon the same year. The latter was not a

pleasant experience as she suffered from cramps and her daughter had to ‘seriously talk’ to her to keep her going. And yet she went on to do two more marathons, one of these being at the World Veteran Athletic Championships in Melbourne, where she ran under the 4-hour mark.

## Governance

Officers elected at the inaugural meeting of the club were –  
Patron, Mr N.E. Kirk; President, Mr A. S. Hill; Club captain, Mr G. Edwards; Assistant club captain, Mr M. Wormald; Secretary, Mr C. F. Reece; Assistant secretary, M K. Jago; Treasurer, M. S. McLean; Coach, Mr C. F. Reece; Selectors & Handicappers, Messrs. D. J. Reece, G. Edwards; Committee, Messrs. R. Bruce, R. Ivory.

In 1964, committee meetings were rarely attended by more than five people. The chairman, secretary, treasurer and club captain managed the club in most aspects.

By 1977, governance was quite formalised and annual general meetings approved the following range of officers: president, vice-president, club captain, deputy club captain, secretary, treasurer, social convenor, five executive committee members, as well as delegates to the Canterbury Centre and its Cross Country committee. Moreover, the rules of the club set out the responsibilities of the president, vice-president, club captain, deputy club captain, secretary, treasurer, and social convenor. By 1980, the AGM was also appointing a race secretary, uniform officer, club coaches (2), selectors (3), handicappers (3), trophy convenor, and a delegate to the Canterbury Children’s Athletic Association.

Two years later at the 1982 AGM, the list above expanded to include a log book officer, a social committee of four, two publicity officers and three delegates to the Canterbury Centre’s Track and Field Committee.

In 1968 a senior sub for the winter season was \$5.00. By 1980 it was (for road and cross country) \$11.00. At that time it is interesting to note that the club operated quite frugally. The annual accounts for the year ended 30 September 1985 showed the club’s equity was less than \$25,000 with half of this being represented by the investment in the clubrooms. With subscriptions remaining unchanged for several seasons it was announced ahead of the 1986 AGM that they would need to rise as they no longer were funding the club’s normal operations. Having been \$42.00 for a registered runner in 1983, by the end of the decade (1989/90 season) the senior sub for registered athletes was \$73.25.

I don’t know if anyone has noticed but we believe our esteemed treasurer, Paul Horner, is gifted. He has a built-in radar system which he tunes regularly and it is especially designed to detect new names, new faces and anybody who owes money. His basic system is to jog alongside any unfamiliar runner and with extreme politeness and a maximum of diplomacy he puts the squeeze on their wallet.

~ ACE in *St Martins Newsletter*, October 1983

As for athletics equipment, in 1977 the club owned a stopwatch, measuring tape, men’s discus, women’s discus, men’s javelin, junior javelin, women’s shot, high jump standards, cross bar, landing mats, steeplechase hurdle, circle shot, and a circle discus.

In late 1987, the club became an incorporated society, as St Martins Athletic & Harrier Club (Inc), after several years of tireless paperwork by Sheila McBreen-Kerr. The club’s full title had been St Martins Amateur Athletics and Cross Country Club, but in the process, it had dropped the word amateur and replaced the words cross country with harrier.



President that year was Graham White. Graham didn't begin running till past his mid-forties. His daughter Lesley was participating in fun runs and after transporting her to a couple of these he came home and told his wife Janet that there were 'old blokes' like him running them. Then when Lesley gave him running shoes for Christmas he felt obliged to try running himself. His first attempt, little more than a kilometre, was as much as he could handle, but he persevered and went on to run in the Sedley Wells marathon. A chance meeting with Selwyn Opie on the Port Hills led to Selwyn inviting him to come and run with St Martins. Within a year or two of joining, Graham was elected to the committee, and the following year, 1983, he was elected vice-president. He filled this role for the three years before becoming president.

Graham travelled with other club members to run in the Hawaii Marathon, but found his real love was cross country and trail running. He also took up running track in the veteran grades at which he demonstrated some ability, setting Canterbury age-group records at 800 and 1500 metres.

Following Norman Kirk's death in 1974, Lyttelton MP Tom McGuigan became patron of St Martins for 1975. He in turn was replaced in 1976 by Norm Fisher, owner of the Tai Tapu Hotel, and in 1977 he Noel Wakefield, who had sponsored the inter-club 15-mile race, filled the honorary position. Thereafter, although the committee discussed the position from time to time over the next decade, it consistently decided against reviving it. The constitution under which the club was incorporated made no reference to a patron.

The position [of auditor] is now being filled by Trevor Hayes, and that the customary bottle of Scotch will be supplied in lieu of wages.

~ Committee meeting minutes of 19 April 1983

From its beginning, St Martins maintained an active interest in the administration of athletics at the centre level. In 1988 it was particularly active on this front. In May it submitted three remits to the Canterbury Road Running Committee: 1) that there be a single registration fee for all athletics, track, cross country and road; 2) that some of the registration fee be used as prizes for selected races; and 3) that secondary school pupils be invited to compete in races in their school (athletic) uniform. Then in October 1988 it sent a remit to the Canterbury Cross Country Committee proposing that the Canterbury championship distance for veteran women be changed to be the same as for the New Zealand Cross Country Championships, namely 5km. The first (1, above) was also simultaneously submitted to the Canterbury Cross Country Committee; the rationale for it being to encourage more people to participate in track – and field – events. (St Martins had introduced a single annual subscription for its own members, replacing two half-yearly subscriptions at its 1981 AGM.).

Bob Richmond served as president for three terms in the mid-1980s and another three terms in the early 1990s (see Appendix B).

Growing up on the Coast, hunting was the pastime Bob enjoyed the most, although as his bank job took him around the country he also tried karate for several years. He began running with the City-to-Surf in 1976 and in 1977 decided to give the Port Hills 100km a 'bash'. When he wanted to run the DB Westland marathon he found that he had to be a member of a club so, on the advice of Harry Marquet, he joined St Martins. Within a couple of years he was on the committee as club captain.

Although, his favourite running terrain was back-country trails, marathons became a bit of a specialty and by 1988 he had run 20 of them including that year's world veteran games marathon. His pre-marathon race food was spaghetti.

He was made a life member of the club in 1992.

Bob's wife Lois, has also been a stalwart of first St Martins then Port Hills. On a challenge from Bob and with his training schedule, she ran the 1979 City-to-Surf. With that accomplished she was happy to call it a day but Bob told her now that she was fit she couldn't waste it; one month later she had joined the club. In 1984, she ran third in her age group in the NZ veteran road championships. Lois also co-edited the club newsletter for several years, see *Club newsletter*, above.

Once women became active as athletes in the club, it was not long before they began to fill some of the administrative roles in the club. Gwen Meers was secretary in 1979-80 and by 1983-84, Judy Forster and Liz Thompson were on the committee, Lois Richmond was a selector, Janet White a publicity officer and Stephanie Watson was on the social committee.

When St Martins marked its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in February 1989, the club president was now Janet Lilley, who prior to stepping up to the position had been a very busy social convenor. Janet's presidency was a mark of how much the demographics of the club had changed in 25 years, when one considers that most of the 80 members who joined in 1964 were male (see Appendix C).

Moreover, the core governance trio of president, secretary and treasurer were all women, with Val Borrell as secretary and Judy Honey as treasurer. Janet served three terms as president and then after another three terms by Bob Richmond, Lyn Maule (later Kruger) presided for five terms meaning that a woman headed the club for eight of the last 11 years of the millennium.

Janet Lilley was elected onto the committee in 1986, then vice-president the following year and in 1988, she became president. She followed husband Merv into the club, attracted by running being something they could do as a family and St Martins crèche facilities. Administration, she said, was just 'something she did, and still does. - a good way to find out how a club operates as well as meet people. She always enjoyed the social side especially events such as the annual trip to Hanmer or Christmas holidays with other club members at Reefton.

As for her own running ability, Janet was, in her words, one of those that make up the numbers. Nonetheless, with its social aspect, she especially enjoyed relays such as the Takahe-Akaroa. She was also a member of a St Martins team that travelled away to compete in an Otago women's relay. On the return home Janet was driving the team van when there was a mighty explosion and the van stopped. With the rest of the team being in various stages of intoxication, it was left to Janet to call the AA. On arrival they informed her that the team had refuelled with diesel instead of petrol.

Chris Watson left to work in New Guinea in 1992 before he completed his term as treasurer. Barbara Millar filled the gap and one of the first things she did was to transfer the accounting records onto computer.

By the mid-1980s, the club's constitution stated, in part, that the objects of the club were: "to carry out, promote and encourage participation, competition, coaching, training, development, and improvement in amateur athletics, road, distance and track running or walking, field event contests, and any other sport."

A special general meeting was held on 7 December 1991 to ratify amendments to the constitution. Prepared by a sub-committee of Kevin Jago, Clarrie Reece and Bob Richmond, the changes included that in the event of the club being wound up, its net assets not be distributed amongst members but be transferred to Athletics Canterbury.

Also at that time, St Martins, in line with Athletics NZ and Athletics Canterbury, changed its financial year from a September one to that ending in March. The date of subsequent AGMs therefore also moved from being held in the final three months of the calendar year to earlier dates.

In 1984, St Martins donated \$1,000 towards the Mt Vernon Park appeal and, led by Paul Horner, also organised a fun run in support of the park. In 1992, St Martins, along with other Christchurch clubs, contributed to the cost of re-surfacing the QEII athletic track. St Martins contributed \$3,000 and such had been its success with its fundraising ventures, especially the 5k series, it was able to do this without resorting to a levy on member's subscriptions. That same year, monies raised from the annual 5k series were used to buy a computer and printer for the use of the secretary, at a cost of \$2,000. (Clearly quite an advance on the \$135 spent in 1980 on a typewriter for club use.)

In its early years, St Martins experimented with many and varied fundraising schemes including raffles, bottle drives, selling pine cones and selling chicken manure. In the main it funded its activities from its own resources, but in 1993 it secured a grant of \$1,000 from the Hillary Commission for equipment. Later that decade, gaming trust funding (pub charity) assisted women's relay teams to travel to Otago.

St Martins also benefitted over the years from the generosity of members and supporters donating trophies. The Hagley Shield presented to the winner of the boy's U/16 cross-country was donated by Kevin Jago. It took its name from Hagley Park as the family home where Kevin grew up was in Hagley Avenue, opposite the park's netball courts. The junior girl's cross country trophy was donated by Pam Clausen, a pioneer women's cross country runner in Canterbury and one of the first women to join the club. In 1986 the Joyce family, in Brenton's memory, added to the list in Appendix G, donating four trophies for boys and girls track events. Another subsequent addition was the Hansen Park Trophy for the member not on the committee who had contributed most to the club in that year.

Besides trophies, other donations were made from time to time. For example, in 1971 Jack Taylor donated a javelin for junior training and in 1975 Kevin Jago donated a shot put. When the clubrooms were built, Mary Hawkins donated a carpet.

In 2000 the Executive and Committee comprised much the same as twenty years earlier, namely: president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, winter club captain, deputy winter club captain, summer club captain, deputy summer club captain, race secretary, uniform officer - seniors, uniform officer - juniors, plus four general committee members. There were also selectors and a four-person newsletter editorial team. Conspicuously absent, however, was that there were no officially elected coaches.

Secretary for the final seven years and treasurer for the final five years preceding amalgamation were Neil Shewen and Dave Kennedy, respectively. Both were subsequently made life members of Port Hills (see Appendix A).

Neil Shewen's father was a good track sprinter in his day and went on to officiate as a starter at the Commonwealth Games. Given this, Neil considered his interest in track and field athletics, when growing up in Wanganui, was inevitable. His association with St Martins began in 1988 when his children started competing, and he soon graduated from spectator to long jump raker and then to children's meeting manager and committee chairman. Noticing the effects of too little exercise, he put on his running shoes again and took up race walking and some running. He then, in what he described as a 'moment of weakness' accepted the job of club secretary.

Dave Kennedy was inspired in the early 1960s by the Rome Olympics and its New Zealand heroes Peter Snell and Murray Halberg, who raced in small centres such as Waimate where Dave grew up. When Dave moved to Christchurch for university he met John Drew and became hooked on ultra-marathons, attempting his first New Brighton 50-mile at age 18 and finally completing the full distance two years later in 1966. When he returned to Christchurch he joined St Martins in 1980 because it was, in his words, 'then the centre of ultra-running'. (It was obviously not lost on Dave that two years earlier, 11 of the 20 finishers in the New Brighton 50-miler were from St Martins.) Besides running he has also been an enthusiastic mountaineer, having not only climbed Mt Cook but the Matterhorn and Jungfrau in the European Alps.

## **Umbrella club participation**

From 1998 St Martins became part of the Pegasus umbrella club, with participation in the latter being left up to the individual. As a result, many members ran in the Takahe-Akaroa relay and the national road relay championships for Pegasus, as well as competing for Pegasus, during the summer, in the national track and field league.

The 1999 AGM resolved that all St Martins club members would register with Pegasus for the 2000-01 season beginning on 1 April 2000. The Pegasus connection enabled St Martins members to be part of nationally competitive teams, including:

- **first** place in Division II of the New Zealand Athletics League in the summer of 1999-2000,
- third place in the 2000 over-50 men's national road relays, after having won at Takahe-Akaroa, and
- masters women being able to compete in the 1999 NZ Road Relay Championships.

## **Amalgamation**

The 1997 AGM agreed to explore the option of amalgamation with other local clubs. However, approaches to other clubs received lukewarm responses. But late in 1999, Cashmere Hillmorton agreed to combine with St Martins junior section for Saturday morning competition (see above, *Children's athletics*) The success of this trial over two summers was to prove a catalyst to full amalgamation.

Interestingly, this was not the first time this suggestion had been mooted. In the March 1981 club newsletter, Ray Forster wrote: "The club lacks one important item and this is juniors. There was talk at one stage about getting the Cashmere club to join St Martins. I believe they have a lot of juniors but very few seniors. I don't know if this is a good or bad thing or if it would work but I feel something must be done to attract juniors."

There was little doubt that the first summer (1999-2000) of the junior athletics combining with Cashmere Hillmorton had been successful. So much so that Dave Riddell, in the newsletter of March 2000, summed up the case for full amalgamation, as follows. "I personally believe that to ensure the long-term future of athletics in Canterbury, two things must happen:

1. All clubs must look at amalgamating to combine their resources (admin, coaching, etc.).
2. All clubs must (like other sports) look at their recruitment and development programmes and make these a priority."

Cashmere-Hillmorton was established in 1968 as Cashmere, based at Cashmere High School, with its colours of maroon and gold also being those of the high school. The club relocated to Hillmorton High School in the mid-1970s and became Cashmere-Hillmorton, with its focus increasingly being on children's athletics. As of July 2000, it owned two buildings at Hillmorton High, plus it had the use of an eight-lane track over the summer. It also had access to jumping pits with all-weather run-ups.

At an SGM of St Martins on 20 August 2001, a merger with the Cashmere Hillmorton Club was approved unanimously. The outcome was to be the Port Hills Athletic Club. The name was the result of a postal vote among the combined membership, outpolling five other names on the short list, namely Centaurus, Mercury, Riverside, Summit and Takahe. The new colours also represented a fresh start, being from neither of the merging clubs: fluorescent green, black and white.

Nearly a year later at a special meeting on 15 June 2002, as per its constitution, St Martins wound itself up and transferred its assets to Port Hills Athletic.

Probably the St Martins member who drove the merger the most was Dave Riddell, who became Port Hills' first club captain for track and field. As such, Dave's focus was on developing the track and field side of the club so that it became a force in Canterbury athletics.

At the completion of his rugby playing days, reported a profile in the *Port Hills Newsletter*, June 2002, Dave became involved in triathlons and then progressed to the Coast-to-Coast. He then decided to join a running club to improve his running. He joined Olympic for one year and then St Martins.

As his children became involved in the sport he became involved in its administration and in 1996 he became club captain of St Martins until the role was split between summer and winter whereupon he continued as summer club captain.

The formation of Port Hills Athletic saw a committee without designated non-athletic positions such as social convenor, etc. Nine St Martins members went onto the new committee: Kevin Jago (vice-president), Neil Shewen (secretary), Dave Kennedy (treasurer), Dave Riddell (track and field club captain), Peter Watts (cross-country and road club captain), Sharon Lloyd (cross-country and road junior club captain), Hadley Bond, Guy Field and Glen Watts. From Cashmere Hillmorton came George Edwards (president), Peter Stills (track and field junior club captain), Linsay Armstrong, Rodney Boon and Barry Moore.

## Some high-profile achievements

In the late 1970s, St Martins was very much to the fore in ultra-distance events. Don Cameron won the New Brighton 50-mile road race in 1975, Merv Austin in 1978 and Wayne Rouse in 1980. A fourth member Dennis O'Keefe won the Symon & Lowther 100 km road race in 1979.

In November 1982, two world records were broken at QEII Park by members of the Canterbury Veteran Athletes Club. The records were both for 10 x 1 mile relay teams. The m40 team contained Dennis O'Keefe and Peter Watts also members of St Martins, and also from St Martins was Don Cameron a member of the M50 team.

Bruce Bull had a hole in the toe of his running shoe and decided to fix it with super glue. Then he thought to himself if he just glued it up it might not be in the right shape so he put his foot in the shoe. Then found to his consternation that he could not get his foot out again. It turned out that he had glued his toe, his sock and his shoe together. So folks – don't try this one.

~ ACE in *St Martins Newsletter*, August 1983

In 1994 St Martins entered the first over-60 men's team in the Takahe-Akaroa relay. The team was (in running order): Graham White, Des Thornton, Alby Wenmoth, Maurice Cook, Clarrie Reece, Brian Driver, Don Borrell and Don Cameron. Their time was 6:08:36.

Not in the team was 69-year-old Selwyn Opie. That's because he was still fast enough for a younger team. He still was the following year when, age 70, he ran lap five for the winning (St Martins) men's over-50 team. Even more amazing was that he ran the 11.1km of that lap in 43 minutes, 40 seconds. Yet it was not surprising, by 1995 Selwyn was already established as world class in his age group.

A late starter to competitive running at 53, Selwyn was still active in rugby union administration. Walking home from an afternoon at the Woolston Workingmen's Club in his walk shorts and Roman sandals, Selwyn broke into a jog. He enjoyed the extra effort and decided to do the same the following week. Then he saw the annual City-to-Surf fun run was coming up and he decided to give it a go. His wife Bev protested that he would kill himself but he went ahead and achieved the 12 kilometres

without too much stress. He tried another fun run and footing it with the front runners he came to the attention of Brenton Joyce, who, presenting Selwyn with a form to fill in, invited him to the St Martins opening run for the 1979 winter season. Selwyn was uncertain since he was only filling in time until the rugby season but the following Saturday he turned up at St Anne's Church.

Selwyn had played for the Sydenham Rugby club from age 13 to 28 and continued his involvement as a selector, coach, committee member and fundraiser. But the club, of which he became a life member, did not see him that season or the next.

Enjoying the after-run camaraderie at the club, he noticed that Dennis O'Keefe, Peter Rigg and others chatted about marathons. Three months later he lined up for Christchurch's mid-winter marathon with no expectations or pre-conceived race schedules. Unaware that three hours was a magic barrier, Selwyn ran 2 hours 56. When Bev scanned the race results in the newspaper, she informed him that he had won the over-50 grade.

At the 1988 World Veteran Games held in Melbourne, Selwyn ran the marathon in 2:53, winning a silver medal in the M60 grade.

Selwyn went on to set many Canterbury and New Zealand age-group records, although most of the latter only lasted about a year because of Southland's 'supervet', Derek Turnbull.

Selwyn Opie was not the only St Martins member to win a medal at the 1988 World Veteran Games. The club was represented by a large contingent and from their number other medallists were Carol Thompson, bronze in W45 5000m; Theresa Woodham, bronze in W45 marathon; Noni Callander, silvers in each of the W40 4 x 100m and 4 x 400m relays; Clarrie Reece, silver in the M55 teams cross-country; and Mary Hawkins, bronze medal in the W55 teams marathon.

Rumour has it that John Gilson has started training for [the Oceania Veteran Games in] Fiji at long last. He sat down to a feast of fresh pineapple and declared that he was in training ... Guess that's one way of not pulling a hamstring!

~ *St Martins Newsletter*, May 1994

On 22 January 2000, Loris Reed set a world record for the over-50 women's 2000 metre steeplechase, running a time of 7 mins 58 sec. For this achievement, she received an NZAVA Award.

In 1977 Loris Reed decided she needed an outlet to get fit, so she and her neighbour Nola started running. They were soon running junkies, running for hours. They also ran fun runs and some half marathons but by 1984 they finally had had enough. Enter Selwyn Opie.

In 1988, Loris met Selwyn Opie in a vegetable garden, where they were both admiring carrots. As Loris lived in the neighbourhood, Selwyn suggested that she come to St Martins Wednesday morning runs at Hansen Park. She joined the club in 1989 and her first race was that year's Takahe-Akaroa. Then with some gentle prodding from Theresa Woodham, in 1992 Loris also joined the Canterbury Veteran Athletics. Although, at that stage Loris considered herself mediocre, she did travel to Norfolk Island for the 1992 Oceania Veteran Games. She came home with six gold medals. In 1997, Loris set a NZ record for women over 50 on the track in the 10,000 metres with a time of 41:10:05. The following year, she broke the Canterbury women's over-50 record for 1500 metres, running 5:15.

Becoming an enthusiast on the mountain bike, Loris has felt she doesn't need to do a huge training mileage, two or three runs a week being it. Yet the performances keep coming. In 2013 Loris was still winning on the world stage claiming two W65 gold medals at the World Masters Athletics Championships in Brazil over 5000m and the 8km cross-country. And as at 2014, Loris holds the following NZ records 1500m (W60, W65), 5000m (W65).

## Conclusion

St Martins was founded with a new approach to club training and hence performance. Throughout its history, the desire to be a leading club at the senior performance level was always a continuing goal. If quantity was the measure then St Martins was successful. Seventy five members, for example, competed in the Lionel Fox relays prior to the 2001 amalgamation with Cashmere Hillmorton.

In 1988 Dave Riddell, in the September St Martins newsletter, had commented on the declining number of senior and athletes over-40 participating in the sport in Canterbury, not just St Martins. And while the merger with Cashmere Hillmorton increased the junior catchment, the trend at senior and veteran level has continued.

Yet, although St Martins never achieved supremacy at the senior level, it provided a community hub for hundreds, both adults and children, to become involved in athletics, and both challenge themselves and enjoy themselves. Moreover, St Martins always provided more than just an athletics hub, it was a social club as well. As Janet Lilley, reporting on the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1989, stated: “The comment that I heard repeated time and time again from both past and present members was St Martins had always been a very friendly and supportive club.”

When it merged with Cashmere Hillmorton, St Martins offered competitive running (cross-country, road and track), recreational running (weekends and mid-week), competitive and recreational walking, field events, children’s athletics, coaching and training opportunities and a host of social activities.

## Appendix A: Life members of St Martins

Kevin Jago (1977), Thelma McLean (1977), Bill McLean (1977), Jack Taylor (1980), Peter Rigg (1984), Peter Watts (1988), Clarrie Reece (1992), Bob Richmond (1992), Glen Watts (1998).

In the April 1983 club newsletter, Bill McLean was described, “for those who didn’t know him, as the man at club events with the stop watch in his hand and a big smile. Thelma McLean, for her part, as the lady who gives you a cup of tea.” For many seasons at inter-club cross country races, clubs were required to appoint race managers for their teams and take their member’s times. It was only when Bill and Thelma announced they no longer had the time to continue with these tasks and the committee had to spend time making appointments for various races that it realised how much they were indebted to the couple. Both had been involved with the club from soon after its beginnings in 1964. Bill was club captain in 1973-74 and president in 1976-77, following which they were both made life members. They were also the parents of founding member Sam McLean.

As a young senior Jack Taylor was an outstanding hurdler, but an ear problem affected his balance so he gave up running. By age 35 he was overweight, smoking and in poor health, when a young woman at his work challenged him to come to the Technical club opening run. He struggled at that run, nursed along by Peter Watts and Gordon Taylor and finished ‘absolutely shattered’. Realising that he could no longer achieve his previous hurdle times, he turned to road running and gravitated towards ultra-running. Besides running in the New Brighton 50 miler, he also became involved in its organisation, so much so that Roger Alcorn in his history of the race was to describe him as its ‘father’. From Technical, Jack joined St Martins and was president in 1968-69 and again in 1975-76.

After amalgamation, the following members of St Martins have subsequently received life membership of Port Hills: Selwyn Opie, Graham White, Neil Shewen, Les Woods, Dave Kennedy, Dave Riddell and, in 2014, Bernadette Jago (formerly Daly). Bernadette was secretary of St Martins

for three years in the early 1990s (see Appendix B) but her major administrative contribution has been made after amalgamation - for Port Hills Athletic.

## Appendix B: Principal officers of St Martins

Year	President	Secretary	Treasurer	Club Captain
1964-65	Stewart Hill	Clarrie Reece	Sam McLean	Doug Reece [1]
1965-66	Jack Dickson	Michael Jago	Arthur Searle	Sam McLean
1966-67	Jack Dickson	Michael Jago	Arthur Searle	Allan Hughes
1967-68	Clarrie Reece	Neil Lorimer	Peter Rigg	Kevin Jago
1968-69	Jack Taylor	Rod Hayes / Alan Jemmett [2]	Alan Jemmett	Peter Brown
1969-70	Kevin Jago	Peter Rigg		Mike Lusty
1970-71	Kevin Jago	Peter Rigg		Mike Lusty
1971-72	Kevin Jago	Peter Rigg / Robert Shearer (acting) [3]		Mike Lusty
1972-73	Kevin Jago	Robert Shearer (Asst. Ian Milne)		John Mulvaney
1973-74	Kevin Jago	Graeme Carter (Asst. Robert Shearer)		Peter Rigg / Bill McLean [4]
1974-75	Kevin Jago	Graeme Carter [5]	Phillip Law	Gary Harrow
1975-76	Jack Taylor	Philip Law	Graeme Carter	Peter Watts
1976-77	Bill McLean [6]	Philip Law	Graeme Carter / Peter Rigg [7]	Peter Watts
1977-78	Phillip Law	Gwen Meers [8]	John Theyers [8]	Ron Meers
1978-79	Peter Rigg	Gwen Meers	John Theyers	Ron Meers
1979-80	Peter Rigg	Gwen Meers	George Lucking	Ron Meers
1980-81	Peter Rigg	Jack Thompson	George Lucking	Bob Richmond
1981-82	Ken Stupples	Jack Thompson	Paul Horner	Bob Richmond
1982-83	Ken Stupples	John Crawford	Paul Horner	Margaret Walker / Peter Watts [9]
1983-84	Bob Richmond	Mark Sherriff / Peter Barrington [10]	Paul Horner	Peter Watts
1984-85	Bob Richmond	Sheila McBreen-Kerr	Paul Horner	Peter Watts
1985-86	Bob Richmond	Sheila McBreen-Kerr	Paul Horner	Peter Watts
1986-87	Graham White	Val Borrell	Paul Horner	Peter Watts
1987-88	Peter Woodham	Val Borrell	Judy Honey	Peter Watts
1988-89	Janet Lilley	Val Borrell	Judy Honey	Peter Watts
1989-90	Janet Lilley	Val Borrell	Judy Honey	Peter Watts
1990-91	Janet Lilley	Julie Oakley	Chris Watson	Peter Watts
1991-92	Bob Richmond [11]	Julie Oakley	Chris Watson / Barbara Millar [12]	Peter Watts
1992-93	Bob Richmond	Bernadette Daly	Barbara Millar	Peter Watts
1993-94	Bob Richmond	Bernadette Daly (Asst: Judy Honey)		Peter Watts
1994-95	Lyn Maule *	Bernadette Daly (Asst: Judy Honey)		Peter Watts
1995-96	Lyn Maule	Neil Shewen	Terry Warren	Peter Watts
1996-97	Lyn Walsh *	Neil Shewen	Terry Warren	Dave Riddell



Year	President	Secretary	Treasurer	Club Captain	
1997-98	Lyn Kruger *	Neil Shewen	Dave Kennedy	Dave Riddell	
1998-99	Lyn Kruger	Neil Shewen	Dave Kennedy	Dave Riddell	
				C-C Summer	C-C Winter
1999-00	Kevin Jago	Neil Shewen	Dave Kennedy	Dave Riddell	Peter Watts
2000-01	Kevin Jago	Neil Shewen	Dave Kennedy	Dave Riddell	Peter Watts
2001-02	Kevin Jago	Neil Shewen	Dave Kennedy	Dave Riddell	Peter Watts
2002-03	<i>St Martins A &amp; H C now part of Port Hills Athletic Club</i>				

\* Lyn Maule reverted to her maiden name of Walsh and subsequently married fellow club member, Oscar Kruger.

[1] A press clipping of those elected at the inaugural meeting gives George Edwards as club captain with Merv Wormald as his assistant. The St Martins honours board in the clubrooms lists Merv Wormald as the first club captain but this is not borne out by minutes of the club's committee meetings in 1964 and 1965, or by Doug Reece himself.

[2] Rod Hayes resigned in early 1969 and the treasurer Alan Jemmett filled both roles until the next AGM.

[3] Peter Rigg stood down in April because of other commitments; Robert Shearer acted in these roles until the AGM.

[4] Bill McLean is listed as club captain on the St Martins honours board in the clubrooms, but he only became such in May after the incumbent Peter Rigg stood down in April because of a change in his place of employment.

[5] Peter Rigg acted as secretary for the months that Graeme Carter was unavailable.

[6] In May 1977, Bill McLean took leave of absence because of ill-health; Chris Hall was appointed chairman.

[7] Graeme Carter resigned as treasurer in May and was replaced by Peter Rigg.

[8] Sue and Graham Taylor were elected secretary and treasurer respectively at the AGM but resigned within two months.

See also section above *Club Growth*.

[9] After Margaret Walker stood down, Peter Watts was elected at SGM, 11 December 1982.

[10] Elected at SGM, 18 February 1984.

[11] Vice-President, Lynn McPherson deputised for two or three months while Bob Richmond was overseas.

[12] Barbara Millar replaced Chris Watson when the latter's work resulted in him moving to New Guinea.

## Appendix C: Participants at the opening run 4 April 1964

Senior A: Doug Reece, Kevin Jago, Terry Darby, Sam McLean.

Senior B: Graham Milner, John Drew, Merv Wormald.

Colts A: Michael Jago, G.A. Kirby, Graeme Small.

Colts B: John Sims, Wayne Kirby, Peter MacDiarmid.

Midgets: John Cater, Ashley Hill, Denis Kirby.

Clarrie Reece was in charge of the colts packs and Stewart Hill, Henry Kirby and Bill Dukes acted as officials.

## Appendix D: Members approved in 1964, the founding year

George Edwards (committee)

Bryan Bruce, Vic Burt, John Cater, Terry Derby, John Drew, Ashley Hill, A S Hill, Kevin Jago, Michael Jago, Denis Kirby, G Kirby, Wayne Kirby, Sam McLean, Graham Milner, Clarrie Reece, Doug Reece, M Saunders, J Simpson, John Sims, Graeme Small, Merv Wormald (4 April)

C Austin, Lynne Bates, J Bizzett, H Bruce, J Bruce, D Clancy, G Edwards, P Greenwood, A Ellis, Jacqueline Hill, Garry Hughes, Philip Kirk, K A Liggett, Gregory Pearce, Arthur Searle, J Spence, M Tallot, D Thomson, V Vucetich, Helen White, Mary White, J Wite (18 April)

N R Blazey, P Cook, Bill Dukes, C A Fraser, K E Hansen, J Mitchell, Don Rowlands, Judy Snow (9 May)

G Allen, R Allen, W Dangerfield, Ruby Foley, Bernie Hack, Robin Hughes, A Lulham, Geoffrey Lulham, J Lulham, D Milne, B Moore, P Scott, E Stokes, B Warburton, P Warren, A Wenborne, I Woodhead, (30 May)

M Aitken, R P Crompton, A MacDiarmid, K MacDiarmid, Ian Milne, Owen Milne, J Stewart (27 June)

Pam Clausen, R Galbraith, M Woodham (25 July)

## **Appendix E:** Attendance bars 1964, winter season

These were awarded to those who attended all winter season runs from 4 July on. Recipients were: P Kirk, K MacDiarmid, P MacDiarmid, I Milne, O Milne, D J Reece, A G Searle, D Thomson.

## **Appendix F:** Trophy winners 1964, winter season

G L Bowron Trophy	10 Mile road race	D J Reece
D J Reece Cup	Junior C C C	B A Bruce
Athfield Cup	Ladies C C C	L Bates
Mrs A Dukes Rose Bowl	Senior C C C C	D J Reece
C F Reece Cup	Colts C C C	A G Searle
F W Dukes Trophy	Junior road race	B A Bruce
K Jago Shield	Junior Colt C C C	J Sims

## **Appendix G:** List of trophies, 1984

Windsor Cup	Women's Novice
A.S. Hill Trophy	Senior – Junior Men's Novice
Kirk Cup	Colt's Novice
Jack Richards Trophy	Senior – Junior Men's Hill Climb
Hawkins Trophy	Veteran Men's Hill Climb
Thompson Trophy	u/12 Boy's Hill Climb
John Theyers Memorial Trophy	Senior Women's Hill Climb
Hawkins Trophy	Veteran Women's Hill Climb
Dowell Family Trophy	u/12 Girl's Hill Climb
Mrs A. Dukes Trophy	Senior Men's Cross Country
Jack Taylor Trophy	Veteran Men's Cross Country
Doug Reece Trophy	Junior Men's Cross Country
C F Reece Cup	u/18 Colt's Cross Country
Hagley Shield (K. Jago)	u/16 Junior Colt's Cross Country
D. B. Stokes Cup	u/14 Midget's Cross Country
Forster Family Trophy	u/12 Boy's Cross Country
Athfield Cup	Senior Women's Cross Country
Bev Taylor Trophy	Veteran Women's Cross Country
Pamela Clausen Cup	Junior Women's u/18 Cross Country
Dowell Family Trophy	u/12 Girl's Cross Country
G. L. Bowron Trophy	Senior Men's Road Race
Borrell Cup	Veteran Men's Road Race

F. W. Dukes Cup	Junior Men's Road Race
J.S. Ellis Trophy	Senior Col\ t's u/18 Road Race
A.D. McIntosh Trophy	Junior Colt's u/16 Road Race
George Family Trophy	u/14 Boy's Road Race
Foley Trophy	u/12 Boy's Road Race
Anita Corrigan Trophy	Senior Women's Road Race
Bev Taylor Trophy	Veteran Women's Road Race
George Family Trophy	u/14 Girl's Road Race
Foley Trophy	u/12 Girl's Road Race
J. Mulvaney Trophy	Most Improved Senior
Hawkins Trophy	Most Improved u/16
B. Bull Trophy	Most Improved over 50
Watts Family Trophy	Most Improved Junior u/18
Pat Smith Challenge Trophy	Most Consistent Athlete
Spence-Bruce Cup	Open Handicap
Dangerfield Cup	Under-Age Handicap.

## Appendix H: New Zealand (open-level) representation

Phil Clode (1988)

Jill Cockram (400m, 4 x 400m relay, Commonwealth Games 1990)

Andrea Devine (world half-marathon 1993, 1994)

Karen Murphy (NZ Ekiden Relay team 1997, NZ mountain running team, 1998, 1999, 2000).

After only running seriously for little more than a year, Karen Murphy placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the NZ cross-country championships, an event she was to win in 1999 (see Appendix I).

She joined the NZ Police in 1993 and when her husband Colin, who was in the army, transferred to Burnham in 1997, they moved to Christchurch from Auckland and Karen joined St Martins. In her first season in Canterbury she took out the provincial cross-country title.

She captained the NZ mountain running team in 1998, which placed 2<sup>nd</sup> with Karen's individual placing being 18<sup>th</sup>. The NZ team was again 2<sup>nd</sup> in 1999, with Karen placing 8<sup>th</sup> and NZ were international champions in 2000, with Karen this time 13<sup>th</sup>.

Other international representation:

Margaret Walker (travelling reserve, International Women's Ekiden Relay, 1983)

Eric Saxby – masseur (Oceania Championships, 2000).

## Appendix I: National and provincial (open-level) champions

Phillip Clode (NZ 5000m track, 1988; Canterbury 1500m track 1989).

Karen Murphy (NZ cross-country, 1999; NZ 2000m steeplechase 2000; Canterbury cross-country 1997-1999).

Wayne Rouse (Australian 50-mile road championships, 1980).

Merv Austin (Canterbury marathon, 1977).

Brenton Joyce (Canterbury marathon, 1981).

Colleen Oakley-Brown (Canterbury marathon, 1985).

Loris Reed (Canterbury 2000m steeplechase, 2000).

## Appendix J: World, Oceania and national veteran (masters) champions

In total 28 members of St Martins won various World, Oceania and/or NZ veteran age-group championships.

World veteran titles were won by Mary Hawkins (marathon, 1981).

Mary Hawkins ran 3:12:27 in winning her world title in 1981. Yet before she was awarded it she had to survive a protest from an American rival who alleged that Mary had been paced by Bill Stock, an American runner. Mary felt she had to subsequently prove herself to the 'knockers' and this she did at the World Veteran Games in 1988. Six years on and now over 55, she placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in 3 hours, 19.

~ *St Martins Newsletter*, September 1998

Oceania individual veteran cross country, road or track and field titles were won by Barbara Bird, Clare Burr, Noel Burr, Brien Halpin, Selwyn Opie, Loris Reed, Glen Watts, Peter Watts, William Wells, Graham White, and Theresa Woodham. (Don Borrell and William Wells were members of winning NZ teams.)

National veteran cross-country titles were won by Sid Pavett, Selwyn Opie and Glen Watts.

National veteran road titles were won by Don Cameron, Sid Pavett, Selwyn Opie, Margaret Walker and Theresa Woodham.

National veteran marathon titles were won by Mary Hawkins, Sid Pavett, Selwyn Opie and William Wells.

National veteran track and field titles (M/W40 and upwards) were won by Barbara Bird, Noni Callendar, Don Cameron, Maurice Cook, Lyn Donaldson, Margaret Fraser, Malcolm Fraser, Brien Halpin, John Henderson, Georg Ludwig, Selwyn Opie, Loris Reed, Eric Saxby, Marie Slattery, Carol Thompson, Glen Watts and Peter Watts.

National veteran road walking titles were won by Don Cameron, John Henderson, Brad Jefferies, Eric Saxby and Lynda Woodward.

## Appendix K: Club Champions: Road and Cross Country, 1964 - 2001

Year	Road Men	Road Women	C C Men	C C Women
1964	Doug Reece		Doug Reece	Lynne Bates <sup>1</sup>
1965	Doug Reece		Clarrie Reece	Pam Clausen
1966	Sam McLean		Sam McLean	A. Claridge
1967	Roger Sharpe		Roger Sharpe	G. Salisbury
1968	Roger Sharpe		Roger Sharpe	
1969	Tony Ellis		Roger Sharpe	Wendy Reece <sup>1</sup>
1970	Sam McLean		Kevin Jago	Wendy Reece <sup>1</sup>
1971	Sam McLean		Kevin Jago	
1972	Sam McLean		Sam McLean	
1973	Sam McLean		Ian Milne	
1974	Sam McLean		Sam McLean	
1975	Brenton Joyce		Ian Milne	Joy Kitchingman

Year	Road Men	Road Women	C C Men	C C Women
1976	Ian Milne		Don Mitchell	J. Chamberlain
1977	Ian Milne		Brenton Joyce	
1978	Merv Austin		Merv Austin	H. Smith
1979	Merv Austin	Margaret Walker	Derek Brittenden	Deidre Ferris
1980	Brenton Joyce	Sue Taylor	Brenton Joyce	Margaret Walker
1981	Brenton Joyce	Margaret Walker	Wayne Rouse	Margaret Walker
1982	Greg Clark <sup>2</sup>	Margaret Walker	Greg Clark	Margaret Walker
1983	Colin Burt <sup>3</sup>	Rosalind Burt	Colin Burt	Margaret Walker
1984	Colin Burt	Rosalind Burt	Colin Burt	Jo Guest
1985	Bob Webster	Fay Cook	Shane Watts	Rosalind Burt
1986	Shane Watts	Sarah Farquhar	Shane Watts	Fay Cook
1987	Phil Clode	Jo Guest <sup>4</sup>	Shane Watts	Fay Cook
1988	Shane Watts	Jackie Allen	Rob Howell	Andrea Devine
1989	Peter Cook	Malieta Stowers	Bruce Foley	Andrea Devine
1990	Anthony Duncraft	Andrea Devine	Chris Watson <sup>5</sup>	Lisa Fitzgerald
1991	Shane Watts	Tania McGovern	Stephen Browne	Pauline Kennedy
1992	Phil Smith	Kate Fogarty <sup>6</sup>	Phil Smith <sup>7</sup>	Sally Mackay <sup>8</sup>
1993	Phil Smith <sup>9</sup>	Cath Cameron <sup>10</sup>	Phil Smith <sup>11</sup>	Cath Cameron <sup>12</sup>
1994	Phil Smith	Andrea Devine	Phil Smith	Andrea Devine
1995	Simon Crosby	Chris Dixon <sup>13</sup>	Simon Crosby	Kate Fogarty
1996	Simon Crosby	Robyn Sheed	Simon Crosby	Clare Burr
1997	Simon Crosby	Karen Murphy	Simon Crosby	Karen Murphy
1998	Simon Crosby	Karen Murphy	Simon Crosby	
1999	Guy Field <sup>14</sup>		Guy Field <sup>14</sup>	Karen Murphy
2000	Nathan Aldridge <sup>15</sup>	Lisa Handisides <sup>16</sup>	Guy Field <sup>17</sup>	Karen Murphy
2001	Nathan Aldridge	Stephanie Hyde	Nathan Aldridge	Jenni Adams

<sup>1</sup> These winners were actually juniors, but were awarded the title.

<sup>2</sup> Fastest time was Dennis O'Keefe (VM)

<sup>3</sup> Fastest time was Shane Watts (JM)

<sup>4</sup> Fastest time was Colleen Martin (VW)

<sup>5</sup> Fastest time was Jason Cameron (JM)

<sup>6</sup> The following veteran women finished ahead of Kate Fogarty: Lina Elliott, Loris Reed, Lyn Hansen and Jo Aikenhead

<sup>7</sup> Ahead of Phil Smith were Gavin Kelly (JM), Colin Burt (VM) and Quentin Lawler (JM)

<sup>8</sup> Ahead of Sally Mackay were Rebecca Belton (JW) and Lina Elliott (VW)

<sup>9</sup> Fastest time was Quentin Lawler (JM)

<sup>10</sup> Ahead of Cath Cameron were Lina Elliott (VW) and Bernadette Daly (VW)

<sup>11</sup> Fastest time was Blair Wethey (JM)

<sup>12</sup> The following veteran women finished ahead of Cath Cameron: Bernadette Daly, Loris Reed and Lina Elliott

<sup>13</sup> Fastest time was Bernadette Daly (VW)

<sup>14</sup> Fastest time, in both cases, was Georg Ludwig (VM)

<sup>15</sup> Ahead of Nathan Aldridge in order were Julian Peterson (VM), Georg Ludwig (VMW) and Barry Finch (VM)

<sup>16</sup> Fastest time was Loris Reed (VW)

<sup>19</sup> Fastest time was Georg Ludwig (VM)

St Martins two other regular events were the club hill climb, run for many years up Huntsbury spur before moving to the Mt Vernon farm track, and the 5-mile handicap race. Also for more than twenty five years novice races were conducted, but were eventually superseded by the Hagley Relay Trials.

Brian Driver turned up for the Holloway Race and wondered why no one else had. Reason why – one week too early!

~ Achilles Heel, *St Martins Newsletter*, July 1985

## Sources

Club resources:

*St Martins Club Log Books*, various years

*St Martins Club Minutes of Annual General Meetings*, 1980 - 1993

*St Martins Club Minutes of Committee meetings*, 1964 - 1966; 1968 - 1990

*St Martins Club Newsletters*, 1978 - 2002

Publications:

Roger W. Alcorn, *Tear Down The Dotted Line* (Author, 1997)

John Clark, *Athletics in Canterbury – The Past* (Athletics Canterbury, 2003)

Stuart Payne, *Message in a Flax Stalk* (Athletics Canterbury, 2000)

Websites:

[www.athleticscanterbury.org.nz](http://www.athleticscanterbury.org.nz) (Athletics Canterbury website)

[www.athletics.org.nz](http://www.athletics.org.nz) (Athletics NZ website)

[www.porthills.org.nz/](http://www.porthills.org.nz/) (Port Hills Athletic website)

[www.wmra.info](http://www.wmra.info) (World Mountain Running Championships website)

Conversations with:

Roy Foley, Kevin Jago, Janet Lilley, Doug Reece, Bob Richmond, Graham White.