

Warwick MetrO Event Report

The course setter's goals for this MetrO event were:

- For the Short course, all the best routes had to be within the Warwick Bushland, and all roughly of equal distance;
- For the Medium course, the shortest routes to all be within the Bushland;
- For the Long course, provide a range of routes of approximately equal distance, with no single, clear 'best route';
- And to provide some route choice 'puzzles' for all three courses.

One such puzzle was readily provided by the fence around the Bushland, with a limited number of marked crossing points, so it paid to check these in relation to the control locations before planning a route. A half-minute or so studying the map before running could have paid dividends! In the northern half of the Bushland, the positioning of the controls created what could almost be described as an optical illusion for Long and Medium runners, with the impulse to follow a 'natural order' through 6-5-2-3-1-8 likely to lead to having to omit 9 in favour of a longer excursion into the urban area. Resisting this impulse, and taking 5 before 6 then allows for 9 to be picked off on the way to 2.

The Short course had several different route options within the 2.3 to 2.5km range, but all involved going west or north. If you went south you were looking at an additional 200m or more.

Technically, the best Medium routes did exit the Bushland to visit an adjacent bus stop, but this didn't involve crossing Erindale Rd.

The Long course had to include crossing that road, but there were four controls from which to exit or return to the Bushland, with none of them favouring an obvious, shorter route.

Despite the plan, very fast runners managed to win the three courses with less than perfect routes. Isaac Madden took out the Short course by 3 minutes from Ruben Claessens, who is improving every week. Amy Dufty just pipped Jessica Madden by 4 seconds to be the fastest woman.

Liam Dufty had an even bigger margin on the Medium course, leading in Cedric Gros by over 5 minutes. Marlene Flett was fastest woman for the second time, just a minute behind Cedric, and in an impressive first season has quickly picked up the essential MetrO route-finding skills. Caitlin Madden was 2nd woman, which Zali Dale will be keen to avenge next time!

On the Long course Ricky Thackray made it two wins for the day, having earlier blitzed the field at the Garvey Park ParkRun. His MetrO route was longish, especially after failing to see from his second-last control (5) that 12 was a much shorter way to the Finish than 18, but fortunately Craig Dufty was just cruising about a minute behind. Ceri Pass was fastest woman yet again, with Veronika Vavrova in second.

Once again, there were several newcomers, and some experienced hands who have been missing for a while – a long while in the case of Matt Seward – welcome back!

Thanks to BO for helping to set up, doing the 'meet'n'greet' (Rob and Lois West, Penny and Phil Dufty, Jack Dowling), the Novice Briefing (Rachel West), and collecting controls (Ian Clayton, Rob, Ricky Thackray, Craig, Liam and Amy Dufty, Rachel, and Jack and Sue Dowling). Thanks also to Rosalie

McCauley and Melinda Richards for IT support, and Emma Plummer and Jack for assisting with EOD payments.

The Friends of Warwick Bushland have a very well-designed and informative [website](#), which is well worth a look.

If you missed the event, or want to try to find a better route, the courses are now available on [MapRunF](#) – thanks to Jack Dowling. Follow the link under Upcoming Events to the Eventor page where you can find instructions and download the map.