

Auckland, November 13--Arguments will rage for years about the accuracy of the Auckland marathon course over which 12 men--four New Zealanders, three Australians, two Americans, two Englishmen, and one Italian--beat Derek Clayton's former world best of 2:08:30.

Conditions were perfect--"the best course and best conditions I have ever known," said veteran Jack Foster--with a dead flat, waterfront course, gentle bends, out and back twice, bracing sea air but no wind, temperatures and runners kept cool by a steady, fine drizzle.

But the fact that every one of the first 20 placers set a lifetime best--by at least 2:57, one by as much as 15:13, and the 17 with a known previous best by an average of 8:36--suggested that the trail was between one and two miles short. An Auckland traffic cop drove his motor cycle over it later and pronounced it 600 meters short according to his calibrated speedometer. However race organisers insisted that the distance had been checked three times by measuring wheel, itself verified by steel tape. The line of measurement was as recommended by I.A.A.F. rules, one meter out from the verge of the road. Co-measurer was Dave Sirl, former 4:01.0 miler and New Zealand's most experienced runner from 1500 to 42,195m.

The athletes, on the other hand, were unanimous in questioning the distance. "There's no way this course can be right," said Australian John Farrington. Commonwealth champion Ian Thompson (England) said, "It's possible to cut off up to 600m on the corners of a winding course."

Thompson was guessing, of course. A few calculations show that, on this course, the real deficit was probably about one-third of that. The Auckland waterfront road varies in width, but an estimate of 16m would be getting close to the average. Since the runners kept to the left of the centre line in accordance with New Zealand road rules--there were cars and buses about--the difference in radius between the measured track and the runners' actual track on the bends could have been at most about 7m. Now at left-hand bends the runners naturally keep left, near the path taken by the measuring wheel; therefore only right-hand bends are significant, and to calculate the "corner-cutting" gains we reduce the course to a succession of arcs turning rightwards. The calculation uses the elementary formula $2 \times \pi \times r$ for 360° of turn, r being the radius and the only variable. Using a large-scale map of the area it was found that (approximately) right-hand bends totalled 499 on the outward journey and 543 coming home, a total of 1042 ignoring the 180° turns at each end, where the measuring wheel rounds the marker as close as the runners. These bends were traversed twice; applying the above formula to the resulting 2084 of right-hand bends gives a gain of 254.6m. There was also a 90° turn soon after the start, which could have added another 11.0m and increased the maximum gain through corner-cutting to 265.6m. In practice the true figure would be considerably less than this because a runner on a busy road does not keep hard against the center line and because, to gain the maximum advantage from running near the left-hand verge at left-hand corners and near the center line at right-hand ones, a runner would have to "change sides" continually, thus following a diagonal path between bends instead of the shorter, direct path of the measuring wheel. But even allowing for the full 265.6m the "error" due to differences between a "correctly" measured track and the runner's actual track could only be about 47 seconds--which comes nowhere near explaining the times at Auckland. What's more, most other courses would be subject to a similar "error". While courses have been known that were marked with the measured path, they are exceptions since marathons are to be run "wherever possible on main roads", where the presence of an extra meandering line would be dangerous.

But how accurate are measuring wheels, anyway? Surprisingly so. (Amundsen trusted them enough to use them in checking his voyage to the South Pole!) Assuming a wheel of only $1\frac{1}{2}$ m circumference (about 19 inches diameter) an error of 600m per lap would require ~~would require~~ the wheel to have had an error at the circumference of 4.3 centimetres. An error of 1 millimeter--which should be easy to detect--would produce a course accurate to within 14m. So we can rule out detectable error in the measuring wheel, error through measuring 1m from the verge instead of along the runners' actual path, and assistance due to a following wind or downhill slope, as having been significant factors in the times at Auckland. That leaves us with only three conclusions. The watches were all wrong--which is unlikely--or the organisers deliberately falsified the course . . . or the times were genuine. Come to think of it, I don't recall any big marathon being run on a waterfront course before; maybe the ozone did it?

RESULT

1. Dave Chettle (Australia)	2:02:24	2:10:20	07:56
2. Franco Fava (Italy)	2:02:25	2:12:54	10:29
3. Ian Thompson (G. Britain)	2:03:31	2:09:12	05:41
4. Kevin Ryan (N.Z.)	2:04:41	2:13:15	08:34
5. Jack Foster (N.Z.)	2:04:53	2:11:19	06:26

TRACK & FIELD NEWS

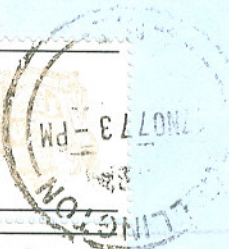
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6. Chris Stewart (Britain)	2:05:24	2:13:12	07:48
7. John Stanley (Australia)	2:06:46	outside	2:15:08
8. Paul Ballinger (N.Z.)	2:07:07	competitive marathon debut	
9. Jack Fultz (U.S.)	2:07:13	2:20:19 ?	13:06 ?
10. Bruce Palmer (N.Z.)	2:08:11	2:23:24	15:13
11. John Farrington (Australia)	2:08:16	2:11:13	02:57
12. Gary Tuttle (U.S.)	2:08:17	2:15:15	06:58
13. Colin Hicks (N.Z.)	2:09:11	2:19:21	10:10
14. Rodney Dixon (N.Z.)	2:09:18	competitive marathon debut	
15. Terry Manners (N.Z.)	2:09:33	2:12:59	03:26
16. Mel Radcliffe (N.Z.)	2:09:45	2:21:59	12:14
17. Dave Young (N.Z.)	2:09:47	2:19:46	09:59
18. John Robinson (N.Z.)	2:10:48	2:15:04	04:16
19. Gerald Dravitzki (N.Z.)	2:11:58	2:23:02*	11:04
20. Graeme Struthers (N.Z.)	2:12:22	2:22:14	09:52

* Run in May 1966 !

P. N. Heidemann

runners shatter world best

NZ PRESS ASSOCIATION

DAVE CHETTLE of Australia in his ninth marathon won the international race along the Auckland waterfront yesterday in an exhilarating sprint finish with Franco Fava, the Italian Olympic representative, in a staggering world best time for the 26 mile 385 yard (42.2km) event of 2h 2m 24s.

Incredibly, the first 11 ran times under the previous world best of 2h 8m 33s run by Derek Clayton of Australia in Antwerp eight years ago.

Immediately, among competitors and the thousands of spectators who witnessed the race, cries went up of "short course". But the organisers denied it.

Fava, who had stopped at the Tamaki Yacht Club at about the 29km mark when his heart started to race, thus losing 400 metres, was extremely disappointed at his failure to win.

"I would have beaten Chettle if the race had been another hundred metres to run," he said.

Race manager Mr Ian Gamble said the course had been measured according to international rules one metre out from the kerb three times

reference of the wheel with a steel tape and the distance had proved to be 26 miles 385 yards as laid down.

A traffic officer rode his

motorcycle over the course after the event and it measured out on his calibrated speedometer at 600 metres short of the required distance. But speedometers are not completely accurate.

Ian Thompson, the Commonwealth champion, who ran a well judged race to finish third in 2h 3m 31s, said that even if there had been another kilometre run the times would still have proved to be the world's fastest of all time for the marathon.

Jack Fultz of the United States, the 1976 Boston marathon winner, said: "It's a shame if the course is off — and it has to be with those times."

"It's a beautiful course and conditions were perfect. I look forward to coming back next year, even though I don't look forward to running the extra distance. But they will have to put another three quarters of a mile in somewhere."

Jack Foster of New Zealand said: "It's the best marathon course I have ever run on and it was the best conditions." Foster, 45, finished fifth in 2h 4m 53s. — amazing running for his age.

Kevin Ryan of New Zealand

Choyza sponsored event from the gun, led the field through the first 5km in under 14 minutes and the 10km in 29m 4s, which prompted the experienced John Farrington (Australia) to say: "There's no way this course can be right. It has to be short because I am incapable of running these times in my present condition."

Ryan, who stepped up the pace, shook off all except Chris Stewart briefly but Fava quickly closed the gap and all three passed 15km in 43m 20s. Foster, Thompson and Chettle lay back slightly together.

Stewart dropped off the pace to trail as Ryan and

Fava went through the 20km mark in 57m 23s — and a world best time was obviously on.

Half a mile later dramatic changes began to occur. Ryan tailed off and Fava, encouraged by the turning times of 1h 2m for Ryan and 1h 2m 8s for himself, increased his own fierce pace, sensing he could break away completely from the advancing Chettle who passed Ryan at the Ngapipi Road bridge.

Then came the most dramatic event of the race. Passing the old sewage pumping station at Orakei, Fava dropped his hands low — a sign that his heart was beginning its irregular beating.

He fought on courageously till at the Tamaki Yacht Club bend he had to stop and walk, a pathetic lonely figure as Chettle surged into the lead and Thompson advanced into second.

But Fava is a brave little athlete. Though he had lost 400 metres to Chettle, immediately his heart resumed its regular beating, he flung himself into the attack again — and it was one of the most magnificent athletic feats of all times.

Together with Thompson whom he passed back

ing Australian. At the St Helier's Bay turn they had closed considerably on Chettle who appeared to be falling back into their clutches. But Chettle was away again after the turn.

The 30km was passed in 1h 26m 37s by Chettle and 1h 26m 58s by Fava and Thompson, and the 35km in 1h 41s 26s and 1h 41m 44s respectively.

The finish was almost unbelievable at the end of a marathon. There have been many close finishes in the event but none so close as the single second which divided Chettle and second-placed Fava as the plucky Italian dug up every ounce of reserves to sprint to the finish.

Results: D Chettle (Australia) 2h 2m 24s, 1; F Fava (Italy) 2h 2m 25s, 2; I Thompson (England) 2h 3m 31s, 3; K Ryan (Owairaka) 2h 4m 41s, 4; J Foster (Rotorua) 2h 4m 53s, 5; G Stewart (England) 2h 5m 24s, 6; J Stanley (Australia) 2h 6m 46s, 7; P Ballinger (New Plymouth) 2h 7m 7s, 8; J Fultz (US) 2h 7m 13s, 9; B Palmer (Owairaka) 2h 8m 11s, 10; J Farrington (Australia), 2h 8m 16s, 11; G Tuttle (US) 2h 8m 17s, 12; G Hicks (Christchurch) 2h 9m 11s, 13; R Dixon (Christchurch) 2h 9m 18s, 14; T Manners (Napier) 2h 9m 33s, 15.

Mr S. R. Irone.
Ct- ANZ Bank Group.
Box 220
Christchurch
New Zealand.

Dear Editor,

I just wanted
to ensure that Track and Field
got hold of the New Zealand
view of possibly the greatest
athletic achievement of all time

I'm referring to the Chocsa
Marathon. At the time of writing
the course has not been re-
measured but I am confident
that the course will be regulated to
length. It must be conceded
that it is not every day that
11 people better the world best.
Talking about versatility

look at the runner who is
13th. It's none other than
Rod Dixon running an extremely
creditable time of 2h 29m 18s

Yours Faithfully,

A. R. Jovine

das 10-km-Bahngehen ausgetragen; bei den Frauen wurde das Programm um die 3000 m und den nun international eingeführten 400-m-Hürdenlauf erweitert, aber der bisher ausgetragene 200-m-Hürdenlauf im Programm belassen; dazu kommen bei den Frauen Meisterschaftswettbewerbe über 5 km und 10 km im Bahngehen!

Der Zeitplan wurde wieder für vier Tage ausgelegt, aber diesmal hat man vernünftigerweise nach zwei Wettkampftagen einen Ruhetag eingeschoben.

Nur wenige der Titelverteidiger fehlen in Kuala Lumpur. Nashatar Snigh-Sidhu, der den Speerwurf nicht weniger als fünfmal in ununterbrochener Reihenfolge gewonnen hatte, ist diesmal als Chef-Trainer der malaysischen Mannschaft zur Stelle. Bei den Frauen sind vier Titel vakant: Die über 400 m und 800 m, die die Singapur-Chinesin Chee Swee Lee nicht verteidigen wird, da sie ihre Montreal-Verletzung noch nicht vollständig überwunden hat, und die Titel im Hochsprung und im Fünfkampf, da sich Gladys Chai vom ASV Köln, die Chinesin aus Malaysia, kurz vor ihrer Abreise nach Kuala Lumpur am Knie des Sprungbeins verletzte.

Auch ohne detaillierte Hochrechnung darf erwartet werden, daß es Malaysia ohne Nashatar Singh-Sidhu und ohne Gladys Chai, die vor zwei Jahren die einzigen Einzel-Goldmedaillen (neben der 4mal-100-m-Frauen-Staffel) bei den SEAP-Spielen in Bangkok für ihr Heimatland gewannen, sehr schwer haben wird, gegen die Burmesen, Indonesier und Philippinos im Kampf um den ersten Platz in der Medaillenwertung zu bestehen. Ja, es ist nicht einmal ausgeschlossen, daß die Thai und Singaporier ihnen ebenfalls das „Gesicht-Wahren“ schwermachen werden.

Die Austragungsorte der Süd-Asien-Spiele:

Bangkok/Thailand	1959
Rangoon/Burma	1961
Kuala Lumpur/Malaysia	1965
Bangkok/Thailand	1967
Rangoon/Burma	1969
Kuala Lumpur/Malaysia	1971
Singapore City/Singapore	1973
Bangkok/Thailand	1975
Kuala Lumpur/Malaysia	1977

Die 1963 für Phnom Penh/Kambodscha geplanten Spiele fielen aus.

Neuseeland

Strecke zu kurz — Siebzehn unter 2:10 Stunden

Von Dr. Geza Cvikota

Zwölf Langstreckler unterboten beim international besetzten Marathonrennen am 13. November in Auckland die bisherige Weltbestzeit des Australiers Derek Clayton (1969: 2:08:33), aber die anfängliche Bewunderung für die phantastischen Zeiten ging schnell in Skepsis über, und eine nachträgliche Überprüfung des sehr schnellen und flachen Kurses ergab eine Differenz von 600 m. Aber selbst wenn dies zuträfe, wären die Zeiten noch erstaunlich und unglaublich genug. Der 26jährige Australier Dave Chettle, als Zweiter des Fukuoka-Laufes von 1975 in 2:10:20 hinter

dem Kanadier Jerome Drayton (2:10:08,4) Siebenter der „ewigen“ Weltbestenliste, siegte nach großem Kampf mit dem italienischen 10 000-m-Rekordler Franco Fava in 2:02:24 Stunden mit einer Sekunde Vorsprung.

Hinter diesen beiden Rivalen gab es einen regelrechten „Kassensturz“: Ian Thompson (Gr. Brit.), der Sieger der Commonwealthspiele von 1974 und Europameister 1974, wurde Dritter in 2:03:31, Kevin Ryan als erster Neuseeländer Vierter in 2:04:41 Stunden! Siebzehn Langstreckler

Die weltbesten Marathonläufer:

2:08:33,6	Derek Clayton (Aus)	1969
2:09:12,2	Ian Thompson (Gb)	1974
2:09:28,0	Ron Hill (Gb)	1970
2:09:55,0	Bill Rodgers (USA)	1975
2:09:55,0	Waldem. Cierpinski (DDR)	1976
2:10:08,4	Jerome Drayton (Kan)	1975
2:10:20,0	Dave Chettle (Aus)	1975
2:10:30,0	Frank Shorter (USA)	1972
2:10:37,8	Akio Usami (Jap)	1970
2:10:47,8	Bill Adcocks (Gb)	1968

unterboten die 2:10-Stunden-Grenze, darunter auch Rod Dixon, der langjährige Weggefährte John Walkers und Dick Quax bei den Überseewettkämpfen, in 2:09:18 Stunden als Vierzehnter.

Der große Pechvogel des Rennens war Franco Fava, der nach etwa 29 km von einer Herzattacke betroffen wurde, in Gehschritte verfiel und dabei rund 400 m gegen Dave Chettle verlor und diesen Rückstand dann in einer bravourösen Aufholjagd bis ins Ziel bis auf drei, vier Meter reduzierte! Ein Arzt, der Franco Fava nach dem Rennen untersuchte, erklärte, Franco Fava werde diese Probleme mit den Unregelmäßigkeiten der Herzaktivität immer wieder haben. In der Zwischenrunde des Europapokals 1975 in Turin erging es dem Italiener ähnlich. Auch damals setzte er das Rennen wieder fort . . .

Ian Gamble, der Manager des Rennens, erklärte nach dem Lauf, man habe die Strecke den internationalen Bestimmungen gemäß einen Meter vom Rand oder der Bordkante entfernt vermessen und 42 195 m ermittelt. Ein Polizeioffizier fuhr die Strecke nach dem Rennen mit seinem Motorrad noch einmal ab und ermittelte die Differenz von 600 m. Man kann also davon ausgehen, daß sie für einen Läufer noch kürzer gewesen sein muß. Aber selbst wenn die Differenz, wie in den ersten Kommentaren angegeben, einen Kilometer betragen haben soll, wären die Zeiten noch immer zu gut. Der Australier John Farrington, Elfter in 2:08:16 Std., sagte: „Es besteht für mich gar kein Zweifel, daß die Strecke, so schön sie von der Anlage her auch ist, erheblich zu kurz war. Ich bin in meiner derzeitigen Kondition nicht zu einer solchen Leistung fähig.“

Die Zwischenzeiten geben gewisse Rückschlussmöglichkeiten: Kevin Ryan führte über die ersten 5000 m in einer Zeit knapp unter 14 Minuten (!) und über 10 000 m in 29:04. Ryan, Chris Stewart und Fava passierten 15 km in 43:20. Für 20 km wurden für Fava 57:23 Minuten genannt. Auf halbem Wege führte Fava in 1:01:08 vor Ryan

in 1:01:12. 30 km passierte Dave Chettle in 1:26:37, Fava in 1:26:58 (nach dem Zwischenfall bei etwa 29 km), zusammen mit Thompson. An der 35-km-Marke gab es für Chettle 1:41:26, für Fava und Thompson 1:41:44 . . . Nach letzten Informationen soll die Strecke beim genaueren Nachmessen 2469 m zu kurz gewesen sein.

Auckland (13. 11.). Internationaler Marathon (Strecke zu kurz): 1. Dave Chettle (Aus) 2:02:24, 2. Franco Fava (Ita) 2:02:25, 3. Ian Thompson (Gb) 2:03:31, 4. Kevin Ryan 2:04:41, 5. Jack Foster 2:04:53, 6. Chris Stewart (Gb) 2:05:24, 7. J. Stanley (Aus) 2:06:46, 8. Paul Ballinger 2:07:07, 9. Jack Fultz (USA) 2:07:13, 10. Brian Palmer 2:08:11, 11. John Farrington (Aus) 2:08:16, 12. Gary Tuttle (USA) 2:08:17, 13. C. Hicks 2:09:11, 14. Rod Dixon 2:09:18, 15. Ted Manners 2:09:33, 16. M. Radcliffe 2:09:45, 17. D. Young 2:09:47, 18. J. Robinson 2:10:48, 19. G. Dravitzki 2:11:58, 20. G. Struthers 2:12:22.

Norwegen

Schwache Saison am Ende

Von Bernt A. Solaas

Die letzten Wochen der Leichtathletik-saison in Norwegen verliefen ohne besondere Höhepunkte. Zum sechsten Male hintereinander gewann IL Gular Bergen bei der Vereinsmeisterschaft der Männer, während IL i BUL Oslo nicht unerwartet bei den Titelkämpfen der Frauen siegte. Die Einzelergebnisse waren nur durchschnittlich.

Erfreulicher waren dann die Marathonläufer. Jan Fjårestad belegte einen guten fünften Platz in Kosice in der CSSR. Erstaunlich war das Marathondebüt der 21jährigen Ingrid Christensen (geb. 21. 3. 1956). Sie lief schon als 15jährige 1971 die 1500 m in 4:22,6, später hatte sie das Skilanglaufen vorgezogen und war Mitglied der norwegischen Olympiamannschaft in Innsbruck 1976. In diesem Jahr verbesserte sie sich über 3000 m auf 9:09,7 und lief dann in Trondheim am 23. Oktober mit 2:45:15 Std. eine sehr gute Zeit im Marathonlauf.

Anfang November beschloß der Rechtsausschuß des norwegischen Sportverbandes, den Diskuswerfer Knut Hjeltnes für ein Jahr zu disqualifizieren. Hjeltnes wurde in einem Dopingtest während des Länderkampfes Norwegen — Benelux überführt, und wird nach diesem Urteil erst vom 6. Juli 1978 an wieder startberechtigt sein. Die IAAF muß dieser nationalen Entscheidung jedoch noch zustimmen.

Såtre (1. 8.). Frauen, Diskus: Hagen 46,34, Straume 46,16.

Såtre (15. 8.). Frauen, Diskus: Hagen 47,30. Hamar (20./21. 8.). Hammer: Busterud 65,68; Speer: Larsson 72,58.

Gausdal (3. 9.). Frauen, Diskus: Qvale 47,76. Stovner (7. 9.). Frauen, 400 m: H. K. Qvale 56,0.

Oslo (8. 9.). 800 m: Rosendahl 1:49,7, Mathisen 1:50,0.

Trondheim (10./11. 9.). Meisterschaften im Staffellauf und Mehrkampf (schlechtes Wetter). 4mal 100 m: BUL Oslo 42,3; 4mal 400 m: Gular Bergen 3:21,6; 4mal 1500 m: Gular Bergen 15:42,3; Zehnkampf: Arild Bredholt 6924 P., Langkjær 6808 P., Svendgaard 6806 P., Skotaam (58) 6707 P. — Frauen, 4mal 100 m: Steinkjer 48,4; 4mal 400 m: BUL Oslo 3:52,1; 3mal 800 m: Tyrving Sandvika 6:44,5; Fünfkampf: Hilde