

MEDIA RELEASE

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RECORD SMASHED IN WHEELCHAIR RACE

George - The start line of the 14th Outeniqua Wheelchair Challenge (OCC) on Saturday was the scene of racing pulses, as more than 1000 athletes and crowds of spectators waited with bated breath for the starter's gun to send competitors hurtling off.

The winners of the three different categories in the main 42.2km marathon race were Stuart McCreadie (handcycle race), Ernst van Dyk (racing wheelchair race) and Pieter du Preez (handcycle quad race).

Stuart McCreadie set a new course record of 01:07:41 in his hand cycle and broke the previous record set by Ernst van Dyk in this category.

Maties Parasport in Stellenbosch is the home club of both Van Dyk and McCreadie. McCreadie has finished in the top three in the handcycle race for the last few years, so it was just a matter of time before he took the line honours.

The top woman finisher in the handcycle division was South African Nandi Odendaal, who crossed the finish line in just 2:23:34.

In the racing chair division, the winner and second-placed women finishers were both from Zimbabwe - Margaret Bangajena was followed hot on her "wheels" by Thandiwe Ndlovu, who was only one second behind.

The 21km winner was Denzil Ventura from Mitchell's Plain sports club, and the 10km winner was Lesibana Masela from Black Soul sports club in Pretoria. The 5km Fun Race was a huge success – the eldest entrant was 83-year old Anna Howarth from Franschhoek, and the youngest participant was eight-month-old Micah Samaai who has amniotic band syndrome, a condition that affects his legs.

OCC organisers and sponsors George Airport and George Municipality are delighted that the event went off without a hitch, and extend their heartfelt thanks to all volunteers, competitors, families and supporters for working together to ensure the event's record of no injuries was maintained.

ENDS

Further details photographs can be found on the web, www.georgeocc.co.za

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Yesssssss! Stuart McCreadie from Stellenbosch smashes the record time as he wins the 42.2km handcycle race in the 2016 OCC wheelchair challenge in George on Saturday



Girl Power! Delia Lubbe whizzes over the finish line first in the ladies' 21km hand cycle half-marathon during the 2016 OCC wheelchair challenge in George on Saturday.



Proud medal winners (left to right) Eugene Steyn, Kenny Herriot and Stuart McCreadie own the podium! Congratulating them are (back row, left to right) OCC organiser Ansie Swart, George Mayor Charles Stander, George Airport manager Brenda Vorster (event sponsor) and Prof Willie vd Westhuizen of Millers Attorneys (medal sponsor.)



Music makes the wheels go round! Music man Willem de Klerk entertained participants and put the "fun" into the 5km fun event at the 2016 OCC wheelchair challenge in George on Saturday. He was pushed by a student volunteer from ETA.