

THE WITNESS, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2008

## Dreyer's black paddlers tops at Midmar

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CANOEING

MARTIN Dreyer's Change a Life Academy project to train 10 black paddlers from Umgeni Valley to place in the top 50 in January's Hansa Powerade Dusi took a leap forward on Sunday with 10 paddlers in the top 21 in the Hi-Q Midmar Mini-marathon.

Paddling in the colours of East Rand Kayak, but both originally from the Lembethe Development Club at Nagel Dam, Michael Mbanjwa and Thomas Ngidi took the first two places followed closely by last week's Popes Challenge winner, junior Andrew Birkett.

Birkett, who will move up into the U21 category on January 1 and therefore race the Dusi as a senior, has moved firmly into the Dusi top-10 frame with a fifth place in the House of Paint Ozzie Gladwin, a win last week in the Popes Challenge and third on Sunday. Shane Price took fourth place at Midmar and was followed by three more of Dreyer's men — Lucas Mthlane, U21 winner Nkosikayise Cele and the second junior, Nhlanhlayakhe Cele.

Skhumbuso Ngidi was the third junior in 13th place. The winner of the U16 age group, Mmeli Cele, is also from the Umgeni Valley. He finished two seconds behind Abby Miedema who had her second win in two weeks in the women's race. She was just over four minutes clear of Abie Adie with junior winner Robyn Kime, third. Epworth paddlers Brittany Petersen and Jenna Starr took the second and third places in the girls race.

The race, hosted by Fezela Canoe Club in memory of Pieter de Klerk, was run over a 28-kilometre course on Midmar Dam and included three signifi-



Mmeli Cele (right) finished two seconds behind Abby Miedema (left).

cant Dusi-style portages.

Details of Dreyer's plans and information about the Change a Life Academy can be found on the project website at <http://martindreyeracademy.com>

### RESULTS

**K1 Overall:** 1. Michael Mbanjwa ERK 1:54,53; 2. Thomas Ngidi ERK 1:54,55; 3. Andrew Birkett (U18) MAR 1:55,15.  
**Boys:** 1. Andrew Birkett (U18) MAR 1:55,15; 2. Nhlanhlayakhe Cele LEM 1:58,23; 3. Skhumbuso Ngidi LEM 2:00,09.  
**Women:** 1. Abby Miedema PEN 2:06,17; 2. Abie Adie (U21) NAT 2:10,53; 3. Robyn Kime (U18) UKN 2:16,03.  
**Girls:** 1. Robyn Kime (U18) UKN 2:16,03; 2. Brittany Petersen (U14) EPW 2:28,12; 3. Jenna Starr (U16) EPW 2:38,18.  
**First U16:** Mmeli Cele LEM 2:06,19. **First U21:** Nkosikayise Cele LEM 1:58,21. **First SV:** Shane Millward NAT 1:58,53. **First V:** Gavin Tarr CAN 2:00,25. **First SM:** Ed Hanrahan PEN 2:28,45. **First M:** Nigel Briggs NAT 2:24,50. **First SG:** Colin Burden NAT 2:28,11. **First GM:** Len Jenkins NAT 2:37,40. **First K2:** Brett McNally and Derrin Smith EST 2:07,17. **First MD:** (2ndK2) Michael de Villiers and Cathy Spires NAT 2:09,45.