

DORSET ROAD RACE LEAGUE

May 5 Race Report

Since it was a fixture they won last season, the Bournemouth AC men were hoping that the May 5 might be a catalyst to help turn their season around after a very shaky start. They had a decent looking line up on paper and had a good chance of competing at the top end.

Other clubs had brought strong sides to the equation as well though. Dorset Road Race League men's individual champion Christopher Peck was on the start line again. After winning the Marnhull 12k and the North Dorset Village Marathon, he was sitting pretty at the top of the standings again. He was joined by Charlie Williams who had finished runner up in the two aforementioned races spearheading a dangerous Egdon Heath Harriers army.

Hoping to upset the applecart, Poole Runners man Lewis Clarke was in the mix as well, along with Poole AC star Thomas Corbin. They finished first and second at the Broadstone Quarter so would likely be contenders for the race win at the May 5.

Twemlow Track Club had brought a fearsome force to Canford Heath including Chris Wood who was going for 2:25 at the Manchester Marathon and had put in a tremendous block of training for it. As did his teammate Steve Cook who recorded a 2:39 and was 2nd over 50.

Egdon Heath Harriers and Poole Runners were neck and neck at the top of the ladies first division so the May 5 presented an opportunity for one of them to take top spot. Egdon had Georgina Povall and Hannah Martyn in their side and Helen O'Neile and Caroline Stanzel were featuring for Poole Runners.

The race starts and finishes with a lap around the Ashdown Athletics Track before the head out onto the round. The route heads around Canford Heath and features quite a few rhythm breaking twists and turns and some mild undulations as well, the toughest of which being on the third mile.

Whizzing round in 27:22, Bryn Smith finished 5th in the overall standings. That was merely a glimpse of the kind of performances he's capable of. He wasn't even pleased with that run and felt that by his standards it was below par. If that's the case he's going to prove a real asset to the club going forward as they look to get back to being a force to be reckoned with in future races.

Completing the course in a time of 33:08, Laura Rothwell was the 5th female to get to the line. It was a decent run from Laura in her first official race for Bournemouth AC and there will certainly be plenty more to come from her.

Delivering his third consecutive Dorset Road Race League win, Christopher Peck got to the line first in 26:24. That was enough to fend off Lewis Clarke who had to settle for 2nd place in 26:39.

Thomas Corbin came in in 3rd place recording a time of 27:04, putting him just ahead of Charlie Williams

who was 4th in 27:08.

Bournemouth AC newboy Bryn Smith took 5th place in a time of 27:22 but his registration hadn't been completed yet so he wasn't counted as a scorer. Chris Wood was the next man to cross the line, taking 6th place in 27:55.

Alex Prisep of Romsey Road Runners was 7th in 28:08, just a second ahead of Dion Garner of Poole Runners who claimed 8th. Poole AC pair Dave Hicks and Benjamin Williams were 9th and 10th in 28:11 and 28:16 respectively. Dave took the 1st M50 prize, just ahead of Steve Cook who was 11th in 28:23.

Jack Galloway was Twemlow Track Club's third man in, finishing 13th in a time of 28:27. That was a second ahead of Thomas Woods of Littledown Harriers who was 14th in 28:28.

John Bassinder was Poole AC's fourth runner over the line. He registered a time of 28:36 to take 15th place. Twemlow Track Club weren't going down without a fight though and Jez Bragg and Alex Jones arrived next to complete their scoring team. They were 16th and 17th in 28:46 and 28:51.

Egdon Heath Harriers pair Jamie Barrington and Adam Davies were 18th and 19th in 28:54 and 29:10 which meant they had had four runners in and needed just one more. That came soon after when Matthew Underhill arrived to take 22nd place in 29:27.

On this occasion it wasn't enough to match Twemlow Track Club's score. Poole AC did manage to match it though when Luke Terry made it to the line in 25th place recording a time of 29:33. That meant it was Twemlow Track Club and Poole AC who had sealed the top two places in the men's fist division and Egdon had taken 3rd.

Purbeck Runners man Julian Critchlow was the top over 60 man, as he usually is, coming in in a time of 29:41. That put him in 26th place on the leader-board.

Emily Hilliar of Poole AC was 1st female, clocking a time of 30:02 which put her in 36th place overall. She was 55 seconds quicker than Georgina Povall who was the next woman in. Georgina arrived in 30:57 which put her in 49th place. Helen O'Neile crossed the line three seconds later to take 50th place.

Caroline Stanzel then sealed 4th female spot in a time of 32:07. The put her in 61st place overall and she was 1st in the over 35 category.

Finishing 1st in the Over 55 Female category, Debbie Lennon registered a time of 35:49 which made her 15th placed lady and 110th overall. She topped the standings in the 60-64 age group in the Dorset Road Race League for the season so far, with her teammate Heather Khoshnevis in 2nd.

Poole Runners pipped Egdon Heath Harriers to top spot, Poole AC coming 3rd and Littledown Harriers taking 4th.

Although there was some improvement on previous performances, the result hadn't lifted either the Bournemouth AC men or ladies off the bottom of the table. There were still seven races remaining of the season though so plenty of opportunity to rescue the situation.

It has just been announced there will be special September edition of the Round the Lakes 10k which will replace the cancelled Hoburne 5. That should get the juices flowing amongst the Dorset club running fraternity.

Egdon Heath Harriers remain top of the men's first division despite only finishing 3rd at the May 5. Twemlow Track Club are 2nd with Poole AC in 3rd. Poole Runners edged ahead of Egdon Heath Harriers in the ladies' first division with their win at the May 5. After finishing 3rd at the May 5, Poole AC currently sit 3rd in the table after five fixtures.

In the men's second division, Westbourne won the May 5 fixture and that put them top of the table above Wimborne AC. The fight in that division was to finish in the top three in order to make it to the new look second division rather than being in the third division. Dorchester RIOT and Purbeck Runners are currently contesting for that all important 3rd spot.

In the ladies' second division it was Wimborne AC who came out on top at the May 5 but Dorset Doodlers still top the table as it stands after the finished 2nd. Bournemouth Joggers currently occupy 2nd place but Purbeck Runners and Royal Manor of Portland look like they'll be in the running for a promotion place. There's still a long way to go though and anything can happen.

Two teams will be facing relegation this season, leaving just five teams to be making up the first division for 2024 when the new three tier format comes into play.