

# DORSET ROAD RACE LEAGUE

## North Dorset Village Marathon Race Report

The route for the North Dorset Village Marathon features some testing climbs and is very rural, providing a picturesque backdrop for the runners as they make their way through the villages of Hinton St Mary, Manhull, Stalbridge, Todber, Stour Row, Margaret Marsh, West Orchard, Farrington, Child Okeford and Hammoon.

As always, it was one of the twelve Dorset Road Race League fixtures so there were points to play for. Plus, it was the Dorset County Championships as well, so there also medals and prestige at stake for the Dorset based runners competing.

As they seem to be able to do for every race, defending men's Dorset Road Race League champions Egdon Heath Harriers had managed to assemble a strong squad. That included the winner of the men's individual last season Christopher Peck, who was already top of the standings after the first three races of this campaign.

He was joined in the line up by Charlie Williams, Adam Davies and Martyn Bell, along with Simon Arthur who'd run under 2:43 at London the previous weekend.

Poole Runners were the only other club to get a team of five together so they would be Egdon's only challengers on this occasion. They had Haydon Clarke in their line up along with Joe Godden and James Godden, Iain Ferguson and Matthew East.

For the women, it would be a straight shoot out between Poole Runners and Egdon Heath Harriers, since they were the only clubs in the top tier with three ladies out.

After winning the Marnhull 12k, Christopher Peck was looking for a second consecutive league victory and sure enough, he got it. Registering a time of 2:39:31, he'd taken it ahead of his Egdon Heath Harriers teammate Charlie Williams who was 2nd in 2:42:40.

It was an Egdon Heath Harriers one-two with Christopher Peck (left) taking 1st and Charlie Williams (right) coming 2nd

Kieron Summers of Weston AC was 3rd in 2:45:01 but since his club aren't in the Dorset Road Race League, the next points went to John Bassinder of Poole AC who was 4th in 2:47:17.

Ryan Snell of Axe Valley Runners was 5th in 2:49:18 but again, since his club aren't in the league, it was Simon Arthur who took the next points. Despite his exploits the previous weekend, he got round in 2:51:19 to take 6th place.

Poole Runners man Haydan Clarke was 7th, clocking a time of 2:51:51. Sam Davis was the next over the line, recording a superb new PB of 2:55:59, before Sam Jackson arrived to take 9th place in 2:58:12.

Egdon Heath Harriers man Adam Davies completed the top ten and he was the last man to come in under three hours. Clocking a time of 2:59:20, he was Egdon's fourth scorer, meaning they only needed one more man in. Poole Runners had only had one in so far so it was looking like a comfortable win for the red and blacks.

Lorenzo Bianchi of Wimborne AC was 12th in 3:02:52, with Barry Miller of Poole AC following up his sub 2:51 time at London with a 3:03:42.

Littledown Harriers pair Stephen Williams and John Haines were 14th and 15th in 3:04:13 and 3:05:06, with Mark Everett giving the oranges their third man home when he arrived in 18th place, recording a time of 3:10:59.

Poole Runners pair James and Joe Godden were 20th and 21st 3:13:13 and 3:13:14 before Martyn Bell arrived to complete the scoring team of five for Egdon. Registering a time of in 3:14:18, he took 22nd place securing an emphatic win for the Egdon men. It was their third win of the season out of the first four fixtures and they were looking very much favourites to retain their crown.

Iain Ferguson was 33rd in 3:25:08 for Poole Runners and Matthew East completed their scoring team, taking 40th place in 3:27:32. Being the only other team with five men, they had taken 2nd place in the league standings for this race.

Proving she had the recipe for success, 19 year old Daisy Baker finishing as first female, recording a time of 3:21:18. That put her in 28th place overall. Littledown lady Louise Austin was 2nd female in 3:29:04 which put her 42nd overall.

Jody Higham of Egdon Heath Harriers was next woman in, crossing the line in 3:31:49 which put her 46th and she was followed by Eleanor Rollett of Dorchester RIOT who was 47th in 3:33:24.

Maria Everett of Littledown Harriers was 5th female in 3:37:01, which put her 53rd overall and Donna Pearce of Lytchett Manor Striders was 6th lady in 3:38:52. That put her in 57th place in the overall standings. 167 runners successfully completed the course.

In the league standings for the ladies, it was Poole Runners who took top spot, with Egdon Heath Harriers having to settle for 2nd. Littledown Harriers and Dorchester RIOT both had two runners each.

In the men's top division, Littledown Harriers were 3rd with their four men and Poole AC were fourth with only two runners.

For the men's second division, only four scorers are required and three teams managed that. Wimborne AC scored highest out of the three to win the fixture, with Dorchester RIOT taking 2nd and Dorset Doodlers in 3rd.

Bournemouth Joggers were the only team to get three runners out in the ladies' second division so they

won the fixture, taking them to top spot in the standings. They were also the lowest scoring team at the Lytchett 10 as well. Dorset Doodlers are currently in 2nd place.

The win for Poole Runners evened the score at the top of the ladies first division as both them and Egdon Heath Harriers had two wins and two second places from the first four fixtures. It looks like it could be another close contest between them this season.

With Twemlow Track Club failing to get any men out for the North Dorset Village Marathon, Poole Runners climbed up to 2nd place in the table behind Egdon Heath Harriers.

The tables still didn't make good readings from a Bournemouth AC perspective as they were bottom of both the men's and the women's standings.