

DORSET ROAD RACE LEAGUE

Puddletown Plod Half Marathon Race Report

The runners had been spared the sweltering hot conditions that had been a constant throughout most of the week leading up to the race. On the day, there was a light smattering of rain but nothing too noticeable.

Egdon Heath Harriers and Poole Runners each had two men apiece in the top four, with Christopher Peck making it four league wins in row when he crossed the line in 1:14:36.

It had been a close battle between him and Lewis Clarke of Poole Runners who was runner up in 1:14:41. Charlie Williams of Egdon Heath Harriers wasn't far behind either, taking 3rd place in 1:14:48. Those three were well ahead of the rest of the field.

In form Poole Runners man Dion Garner claimed 4th place, completing the course in 1:17:37 and, after making the switch from Littledown Harriers to Bournemouth AC, Matt Brown reached the line in 1:18:03 to take 5th place.

Nick Reynolds of Dorset Doodlers finished in 6th place and 2nd m40, recording a time of 1:18:40. Dave Hicks of Poole AC came in in 7th place with a time of 1:19:02 and he took the first m50 spot.

Joe Godden gave Poole Runners their third man in when he made it the line in 1:19:59 to put them in the hunt for the race win. Egdon Heath Harriers dismissed those hopes though by sealing the next three places and wrapping up the race win.

Matt Underhill was 9th in 1:20:41, followed by Adam Davies in 10th in 1:20:43 and Graham Sherwin took 11th in 1:22:37.

It was a dominant display from the red and blacks from Weymouth way and they also had the top three women in the race, with Nat Lawrence finishing as 1st female and 12th overall in a very impressive time of 1:22:47.

Georgina Povall was next to come in, registering a time of 1:26:52 which put her in 19th place overall. After running a reverse loop of the course before starting the race Alex Door put in an impressive display to clock a time of 1:30:08 and seal the race win for Egdon.

Completing the course in 1:41:31, Heather Khoshnevis took the 1st f60 position. She was also 17th fastest out of the 78 women in the race and came 82nd overall.

With Mark Peddle finishing 14th in 1:23:11 and Luke McKenzie reaching the line in 20th in 1:26:54, Poole Runners took 2nd place for the race. That put them 3rd in the table for the season so far, knocking

Poole Runners down to 4th.

Egdon Heath Harriers were well in command with four race wins in two 3rd places out of the six races so far. Although they didn't have any runners at Puddletown, Twemlow Track Club were still sitting in 2nd place with a win and two 2nd place finishes.

Not getting a team out didn't do the Bournemouth AC men any good and they remained rooted to the bottom of the table and it was not looking good for them at the half way stage in the season.

In the ladies first division, Poole could only manage 5th place which meant that with three wins and three 2nd places, Egdon Heath Harriers now had a better record than them in the fight for top spot.

Dorchester RIOT finished 2nd at Puddletown which moved them up to 3rd in the table ahead of Littledown Harriers. They were 3rd at Puddletown and currently sit 4th in the table.

Failing to get a team out again plunged Bournemouth AC further into disarray as they remained bottom of the table and looking prime candidates for relegation to the second division.

In the men's second division, Westbourne picked up the win and they were looking favourites for that top spot which would see them retain a place in the new look second division. Dorchester RIOT finished 2nd at Puddletown and they were 3rd for season so far behind Wimborne AC who could only manage 7th at Puddletown. Only three teams will keep their place in the second division.

A win for Dorset Doodlers in the ladies second division strengthened their position at the top and they looked prime candidates to keep their place in the division. Purbeck Runners were 2nd at Puddletown and they 4th in the table behind Wimborne AC who had no runners at Puddletown and Bournemouth Joggers who sit 3rd.

The first four men in the Puddletown Plod reflected how they are in the men's individual standings for the season so far, with Christopher Peck leading the way, Lewis Clarke in 2nd, Charlie Williams 3rd and Dion Garner 4th.

Geogina is top of the pile in the ladies individual standings ahead of Alex Door. After finishing 4th female at Puddletown, Karen Perrett of Weymouth St Pauls moved up to 3rd for the season so far ahead of Hannah Martyn of Egdon Heath Harriers.

Despite finishing 1st in the 60-64 category and 15th scorer overall, Heather remained 2nd in the category standings for the season so far behind Debbie. The BAC super-vets are currently 13th and 14th in the women's individual standings.

One of the best things about the Puddletown Plod is the incredible array of cakes they have available after the race. Being able to indulge in them goes some way toward the 13 miles of pain worthwhile!

The next Dorset League fixture would be the formidable Portland 10 – a race that features some immensely testing climbs and is a very challenging route.