

DORSET ROAD RACE LEAGUE

Gold Hill 10k Race Report

Featuring that famous hill from the Hovis advert of the 70's, the Gold Hill 10k is one of the toughest road races of its kind with many steep and gruelling climbs to overcome.

Egdon Heath Harriers man Christopher Peck somehow made light work of it though, putting in a tremendous display to get round in a time of 36:05. That was an average pace of 5:49 minutes per mile, despite the 900ft of ascent.

It was Christopher's sixth race win of the season and he'd already sewn up the individual male victory.

City of Salisbury man Stuart Holloway took 2nd place in 36:27 but given that his club are not in the Dorset League, the points for 2nd scorer went to Lewis Clarke of Poole Runners. He got round in 37:06 to take 3rd place.

That meant Lewis only needed one more race on board to seal 2nd place in the men's individual for the season. He'd had two wins and four 2nd place finishes.

Bournemouth AC man Josh King went over the line in 37:37 which put him in 4th position. Jez Bragg of Twemlow Track Club finished 5th in 38:27 and Christopher Wright of Dorset Doodlers secured 6th in 39:21.

Barry Miller of Poole AC claimed 7th place in 39:32 and Westbourne man Pete Doughty was the only other man to make it round in under 40 minutes. He clocked a time of 39:52.

Corey Stone of Egdon Heath Harriers took 9th place in 40:10, with Julian Critchlow of Purbeck Runners coming in as first over 60 and 10th overall in 40:56.

Coming in as 1st female, Vicki Ingham crossed the line in 20th place overall in 41:37. That was Vicki's sixth race win of the season. One more race out of the remaining two would surely see her crowned ladies champion.

Egdon Heath Harriers woman Georgina Povall finished runner up for the fourth time this season, taking 41st place overall in 45:06. Hannah Martyn, also of Egdon finished 3rd female in 45:46 which put her 45th overall, just one place behind Ricky.

Virginie Morris of Dorchester RIOT was 4th female, registering a time of 46:22 which put her in 48th place overall. With a 5th placed female finish, Julie Wargent sealed the race win for the Egdon ladies. She clocked a time of 47:10 which put her in 55th place overall and she was first over 50 woman to reach the line.

Having now signed up for Poole Runners, Gemma Bragg came in as 6th placed female. She got round in

a time of 47:18 which put her in 58th place overall.

With Eleanor finishing 9th in 49:07 and Karen Mitchell taking 12th in 49:17, Dorchester RIOT picked up 2nd place in the women's First Division behind Egdon. Poole Runners only needed one more woman in to complete their scoring team of three and Lisa Pitcaithley gave them that. She went over in 96th place, registering a time of 52:36.

That was two seconds after Bournemouth AC lady Debbie Lennon who took 3rd in the 60-64 category. Having now switched allegiances back to Littledown Harriers, Heather Khoshnevis was 1st in the that category and was 10th female in a time of 49:09.

That was Heather's sixth race of the season, so all she needed was one more to complete her scorecard for the season. Debbie still needed to do both of the final two fixtures to get her seven races in but if she did, it was going to be very tight between the two of them for top spot in the category.

Steven Noble and Matthew Underhill got over the hills well to complete the scoring team of five for the Egdon Heath Harriers men, with Christopher Peck, Corey Stone and Joseph Usher. That was enough to give them minimum points for the league win at Gold Hill. If they weren't already, that confirmed Egdon Heath Harriers as men's champions as it was their seventh win of the season, making it impossible for anyone else in match them.

In truth, they didn't really have a lot of competition this season, the Bournemouth AC falling away and Twemlow Track Club not quite managing to live up to the hype in their first appearance in the top division. In fact, Poole AC had surprisingly emerged as their closest challengers. They could only manage 5th at Gold Hill though, with Poole Runners taking 2nd, Twemlow getting 3rd and Littledown Harriers claiming 4th.

It was a fifth win of the season for Westbourne in the men's Second Division, putting them in a very strong position to top the table. Wimborne AC were the only team that could realistically topple them and they could only manage 3rd at Gold Hill, with Dorset Doodlers taking 2nd. The top three teams take their place in the new look Second Division though so Dorchester RIOT, Purbeck Runners and Royal Manor of Portland were all in the hunt for that final spot.

In the ladies Second Division, Dorset Doodlers accrued their third win of the season, with Wimborne AC taking 2nd and Gillingham Trotters surprisingly taking 3rd. With a 4th place finish, Royal Manor of Portland were in pole position for that all important 3rd spot that would see them as one of the five teams making up the newly formed Second Division.

That left just the Weymouth 10 and the Boscombe 10k to go to wrap up the season.