

DORSET ROAD RACE LEAGUE

Weymouth 10 Race Report

Proving they do like to be beside the seaside, the penultimate race of the Dorset Road Race League season saw the runners and riders head over to Weymouth in their droves for a tasty but testing 10 miler along the coastal reaches.

The race starts with a couple of mile along the prom before heading up the hill at Bowleaze which is a testing climb. You actually do the Bowleaze loop twice as well, meaning that ascent and a few others have to be tackled twice.

The race was organized by Egdon Heath Harriers and they had home advantage. Their men had already won the league though, reaching that magic total of 7 wins at the Gold Hill 10k. That meant they could afford to relax, take their foot off the pedal and let someone else get a win for change, right? No, of course they weren't going to do that! They brought their big guns out anyway.

That included the already declared men's individual champion Christopher Peck who had won six races this season already. They also had Matt Papa, Daniel Hull, Corey Stone and Matt Underhill in their line up.

They also had a strong looking ladies side out, with Georgina Povall, Julie Wargent and Hannah Martyn featuring. They had all but secured the league title in the women's first division with their victory at Gold Hill but could confirm that at the Weymouth 10.

The tussle for the race win was between Christopher Peck and Lewis Clarke of Poole Runners, as it has been for most of the races this season. Once again it was Chris who came out on top, but there was only six seconds in it on gun time. On chip time, Chris went over the line in 54:18 and Lewis clocked a time of 54:26.

They were a fair way ahead of Shaun Dixon of Highgate Harriers who took 3rd in 56:08. He wasn't a scorer in the league though so Chris Wood of Twemlow Track Club got the next positional points. He finished 4th in 57:04.

Julian Rendell of Tonbridge AC took 5th in 57:52, although again, he wasn't a scorer in the league. Dave Hicks of Poole AC finished 6th in 58:46 and he was 1st M50. Daniel Hull of Egdon Heath Harriers arrived next, taking 7th place in 59:07. Then his teammate Matt Papa followed in to take 8th place in 59:14. That meant Egdon had had three men in in the top eight.

Poole AC man John Bassinder took 9th place in 59:24 and he was their second scorer. Barry Miller made it to the line in 1:00:15, putting him in 14th place and giving them their third scorer.

Egdon had the next three men in though which wrapped up the win for them. Corey Stone was 15th in 1:00:22, then it was Matt Underhill completing the scoring team in 1:00:45. Giles Heaman was there for back up as well, reaching the line in 16th place in a time of 1:00:55.

Littledown Harriers had a good day, securing 2nd place which was their highest position of the season. . Poole AC took 3rd in the end but they look to have sealed the runner up spot in the men's first division which will be a really good result for them.

Molly Rasch hadn't done any league races since winning the Broadstone Quarter on the first day of the season and she returning with a 1st female position. She crossed the line in 1:02:20 and that put her in 27th place overall. She was quite a way ahead of Georgina Povall who claimed second female spot in 1:04:55. She was 39th overall.

Becky Tovey of Chard Road Runners was 3rd lady in and 1st F40 in 1:06:34. She came 49th overall, then finishing as 4th female, Julie Wargent crossed the line in 1:09:06. She came 68th and arriving a couple of places later, Hannah Martyn wrapped up the race win for Egdon Heather Harriers.

That was their 7th league win of the season and it had turned out to be fine showing of dominance from the Egdon women. At one stage it looked like it was going to a battle that would go right down to the wire with Poole Runners, as it did the previous season but that wasn't really the case this time. The Littledown Harriers ladies took 2nd place at the Weymouth 10, with Dorchester RIOT 3rd and Poole Runners 4th.

With their sixth league win of the season Westbourne were confirmed as winners of the men's second division and they will take their place in the new look second division with Wimborne AC who came 2nd at the Weymouth 10. Although they haven't done well in the last five races, Dorchester RIOT look like they could be ones to take that third spot and make it into the second division.

In the ladies second division, Dorset Doodlers got their fourth race win of the season. They were in command of top spot but Wimborne AC could still wrestle it away from them with a win in the Boscombe 10k.

They finished 2nd at the Weymouth 10. Royal Manor of Portland were in pole position to take that 3rd position and gain a place in the new-look second division. Purbeck Runners could still pip them to the post though if they were to win on the last day of the season.

In the women's individual table, it was level on points at the top between Alex Door and Hannah Martyn so that will go down to the final day of the season. The highest finisher will seal it.

With some important placings yet to be decided, the Boscombe 10k promises to be a barn stormer of the race to end the season with and will certainly be one not to be missed.