

DORSET ROAD RACE LEAGUE

Lytchett 10 Race Report

The second fixture of the 2025 Dorset Road Race League season took place at the Lytchett 10, following the postponement of the Blackmore Vale Half Marathon the previous weekend. With a revised course layout adding a further element of intrigue, a high-quality field assembled for what proved to be a competitive and closely contested race.

Men's Race

After battling for the runner-up position in last year's race, Christopher Peck (Egdon Heath Harriers) and Rob McTaggart (Bournemouth AC) renewed their rivalry at the front of the field. Poole AC were strongly represented by Thomas Corbin and Lewis Clarke, while Egdon's Jonathon Churchill was also among those expected to contend. Brian Underwood added further strength to the Poole AC line-up, and Twemlow Track Club fielded a solid squad including Chris Wood, Jack Galloway and Lee Dempster.

An early lead group of six formed, featuring Peck, McTaggart, Corbin, Clarke and Churchill, with Luke De-Benedictis (Bournemouth AC) initially going with the leaders before the uphill third mile began to stretch the field.

McTaggart made a decisive move on the descent during mile three to open a gap. Corbin briefly closed him down on the following climb, but another strong downhill section allowed McTaggart to establish a lead that ultimately proved decisive. Peck mounted a late challenge but was unable to bridge the gap, with McTaggart taking victory in 55:05. Peck finished 10 seconds later in 55:15 to claim second place for the second consecutive year.

It marked McTaggart's first Lytchett victory since 2005, when the race was staged as the Lytchett Manor 10. Notably, his performance came as part of a longer training run, having completed substantial mileage before and after the race itself.

Corbin secured third in 55:51, followed by Churchill (56:12) and Clarke (56:30). Rupert Allison was sixth in 57:13, with Galloway clocking 57:25. Underwood finished eighth in 57:48, just ahead of unattached runner Alex Woodman (57:53), while Dempster completed the top ten in 58:37.

Egdon Heath Harriers' Steve Kellaway was 11th in 58:50, and Poole AC's Luke Terry placed 12th in 58:59. De-Benedictis completed the race in 13th (59:02). Wood (14th, 59:07) and Ed Davies (16th, 59:52) ensured Twemlow Track Club were the first team to record five finishers, while Tim Rooke (22nd, 1:00:51) completed the scoring five for Poole AC.

Despite Twemlow Track Club's depth, Poole AC produced the lowest aggregate score among the Men's First Division teams, with Twemlow Track Club second. Egdon Heath Harriers were third and Bournemouth AC fourth.

Julian Critchlow took first place in the 60–69 age category in 1:02:32 (31st overall).

Women's Race

The women's contest saw Isabel Zanconato (Purbeck Runners) and Katie Gunn (Bournemouth AC) renew their competitive rivalry. Zanconato secured victory in 1:05:24 (53rd overall), finishing 29 seconds ahead of Gunn, who was runner-up.

Poole AC filled the next three positions, with Rachael Haddow third in 1:06:14, Becky Neal fourth in 1:06:32 and Dawn Andrews fifth in 1:07:00.

Jenny Marshall was sixth female and first in the 40–49 category (1:08:01). Egdon Heath Harriers' Victoria Pye (1:08:49) and Teresa Green (1:08:57) placed seventh and eighth respectively. Emma Caplan (Bournemouth AC) was ninth female and first in the 50–59 category in 1:09:23, with Hannah Jardine completing the top ten in 1:09:57.

Poole AC secured top position among the Ladies' First Division teams, with Isabella Louth completing their scoring team as 14th female and first Under-21 (1:12:01). Abigail Barnes (17th female, 1:13:17) ensured Egdon Heath Harriers placed second in the fixture standings.

Bournemouth AC achieved the best score among the Ladies' Second Division teams ahead of Purbeck Runners.

League Standings

After two fixtures, Poole AC lead the Men's First Division standings, with Twemlow Track Club second and Bournemouth AC third. Egdon Heath Harriers top the Ladies' First Division with a first and second-place finish from the opening two races.

Poole Runners head the Men's Second Division following two victories, with Littledown Harriers second on both occasions. Dorchester RIOT and Purbeck Runners share the early advantage in the Men's Third Division, while Lytchett Manor Striders have won both Ladies' Third Division fixtures to date.

The next event in the Dorset Road Race League calendar is the Bournemouth Bay Half Marathon on 22nd March, which will feature as a league fixture for the first time.