

DORSET ROAD RACE LEAGUE

Hoburne 5 Race Report

With the Men's First Division title race done and dusted, the took on a slightly different feel as the pressure on the Egdon Heath Harriers and Bournemouth AC squads eased somewhat. There was still all to play for though with individual league positions and category points up for grabs. The Women's First Division wasn't quite decided yet but Egdon Heath Harriers only had to stop Poole Runners winning one of the three remaining fixtures to seal the title.

Wimborne AC also needed a win in Men's Second Division in all three remaining fixtures to prevent Twemlow Track Club from taking top spot and sealing promotion to the First Division. And it was the same for Dorset Doodlers in the Ladies Second Division. They had to win at Hoburne to stay in the hunt for top spot, otherwise Dorchester RIOT would seal promotion.

The Hoburne 5 race was organised by **Christchurch Runners** and started and finished at **Hoburne Holiday Park**. It was supposed to begin with a lap around the Holiday Park and then head out onto the roads from there. However, there was an incident at the start that threw the race into complete chaos.

As the leaders sped off down the pathway, there was supposed to be a turning point they were to go down. The marshal who was supposed to be on the turning point was not at his post though when race started and that resulted in the front group continuing on past the turn and heading in the wrong direction.

Some of the runners who did know the route then tried to call them back to get them to turn around. When they eventually realised and turned round, they had suddenly gone from being at the front of the race to being right at the back. Hence they had to run back as quickly as they could and try to catch up with the rest of the field.

They then had to work much harder than they would otherwise have had to in that first kilometre to get back to the front of the field. It was certainly not the ideal start to the proceedings for the quicker runners.

Christopher Peck of Egdon Heath Harriers continued his fantastic form to bring home the race win, registering a time of 27 minutes exactly.

Dion Garner of Poole Runners took 2nd place in 27:28 and James Phillips came in 3rd in 27:57. Jez Bragg of Twemlow Track Club claimed 4th position in 28:13.

Adam Jundi finished 5th in 28:29, although like James Phillips, he wasn't representing a Dorset Road Race League club. And it was the same for Andrew Ridley who took 6th place in 28:36.

Haydan Clarke was Runners' second man in in 7th place with Szymon Chojnacki giving Bournemouth AC their first finisher in 28:40.

John Bassinder of Poole AC arrived in 9th place registering a time of 28:51, with Joe Godden coming as third scorer for Poole Runners in a time of 28:57, which put him in 10th place.

Adrian James was 11th and second scorer for Bournemouth AC who then had Matt Du Cros arrive in 14th in a time of 29:32 and Sam Jackson in 15th in 29:40.

It was an enthralling battle between Poole Runners and Bournemouth AC for top spot in the fixture and Neil Sexton was Poole Runners fourth man in, getting round in 30:11 which put him in 17th place and tipped the balance in Poole Runners favour.

Both teams now only needed one more man in. Robin Copestick was Bournemouth AC's fifth man in and final scorer, clocking a time of 30:46.

Shortly after though, Esref Ozdemir arrived to seal the win for Poole Runners. He crossed the line in 30:59 which put him in 24th place. It was tight between the two teams but Poole Runners had just edged it.

Jessie Lutwyche had a tremendous run to finish as 1st female in a time of 29:23. Running for Birchfield Harriers though, her result didn't actually matter as far as the Dorset Road Race League went.

Georgina Povall of Egdon Heath Harriers was 2nd female and 1st point scorer. She got round in 30:51 which put her in 23rd overall. Poole Runners of course knew that they needed to win the fixture to keep the Ladies First Division title race alive.

Their hopes were boosted when Kate Wilkinson was the next female to come in and she finished in 38th place in a time of 32:21. Laura Baker-Little then followed shortly after in 40th place and she recorded a time of 32:28. Now it was getting interesting.

Poole Runners' hopes of getting the win they needed were dashed though when Alex Door arrived to finish as 4th scoring female in 33:10. Then Julie Wargent followed shortly after to take 5th scoring place and 46th overall in 33:21.

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With Bournemouth and Poole Runners occupying the top two positions in the Men's First Division for the fixture, Littledown Harriers finished as 3rd placed team, with champions Egdon Heath Harriers taking their foot off the gas a bit and coming in in 4th place.

In the Men's Second Division it was Westbourne who won the fixture which meant that Twemlow Track Club were confirmed as champions, since it was Wimborne AC who needed the win to keep the title race alive.

Both Dorchester RIOT and Dorset Doodlers failed to field scoring teams at the Hoburne 5 which mean that Dorchester RIOT were confirmed as champions of the Ladies Second Division. That was another scenario where the 2nd placed team needed to win the stay with a shout.

It wouldn't be long before the clubs were getting their teams together once again and heading out for the next fixture in the calendar which was the Gold Hill 10k. There they would be doing battle over some Dorset's steepest and sharpest inclines in the penultimate race of the Road Race League campaign.

(Many thanks to Richard Brawn for supplying this text)