

## Weymouth 10- 22nd October 2023- Captains Report

It was an early start for the 25 Harriers who made the journey to Weymouth on Sunday morning for a 9am start for the Weymouth 10. The penultimate race in both the Dorset Road Race League (DRRL) as well as our Club Championships.

There was a chill in the air as we left home at 7am, with temperatures showing just 6°C in the car and dropping down to 3°C on the way with warnings of ice but on arriving in Weymouth the sun came out and it started to warm up ready for the start.

The course starts at Weymouth Pavilion with a 2 mile flat section along the prom, before you hit an uphill up to Bowleaze holiday park which you run through and then loop back round and do another loop before heading back onto the prom for the 2 miles back. The weather started off sunny with rain coming down halfway and then the sun came out again for the finish.

For the Men, we had 14 out in Orange and it was the in-form **Thomas Woods** keen to obliterate all of his Dad's fictional PB's who started fast and led the Harriers home in a fantastic PB of 1:00:03 and finishing 13<sup>th</sup> Overall. Behind him was a fantastic race for the line, with **Christian Rodiger** being taken by surprise by **Mark Packer** in the closing stages of the race and not quite having a sprint finish to hold him off. Mark therefore was the second harrier home in 1:01:13 and Christian third in a PB of 1:01:17, both finishing in the top 20 in 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> respectively. It was a debut for our fourth harrier after years of resisting the striking orange vest, **Sam Davis** finished in 1:02:08 which was a very solid performance considering he had finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Run to the Sea Ultra just the weekend previous- it's great to finally have you on board Sam! Fifth home to complete the scoring for the men was **John Haines** in 1:05:23 with another great performance, closing down and overtaking sixth finisher **Steve Goodman** in the closing stages of the race who had made a quick start and finished in 1:05:40. Next home was **David Wilson** in 1:07:33, followed by **Mark Everett** 1:08:53 making it 8 Harriers home in under 70mins! Next home was **Jez Kelly** in 1:11:33, then **Mark Mulcahy** (1:13:14), **Barry Telling** who was up with the leaders at the start (1:21:24), **Martin Hudson** (1:24:02), **Craig Byrne** (1:29:29) and **Mike Terry** (1:43:39).

In the DRRL, the men achieved a fantastic 2<sup>nd</sup> Place finish- our highest finish of the season and maintains our 5<sup>th</sup> place in the first division. Mark Packer continues his reign as leading Harrier in the individual league and is currently sat in 14<sup>th</sup> position with Steve Williams, Mark Everett and John Haines in 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> places respectively.

For the Ladies, we had a fantastic 11 out racing which was great to see with the first three battling hard all race with the team from Dorchester RIOT. Leading the Harrier ladies home once again was **Philippa Shawyer** just a few seconds outside of her PB in 1:12:03 and finishing 8<sup>th</sup> female overall, second Harrier home was **Louise Austin** who executed a perfect race and was able speed up in the last 3 miles to achieve a new PB of 1:12:26, third lady home to complete the scoring for the team was **Maria Everett** in 1:12:42 who was also just outside of her PB and had a fantastic race to the finish with one of the Dorchester Riot ladies to finish on exactly the same time! Fourth Harrier lady home was **Heather Khoshnevis** who put in a brilliant effort finishing in 1:15:56, despite feeling under the weather. Next home and making her debut in Orange for the Harriers having only re-joined the club as an affiliated member the week before was **Danielle Noblet** in 1:21:31- well done Dani! She was followed home by **Jelena Davey** in 1:22:41, **Katie Collingwood** in 1:29:14, **Sharon Taylor** in 1:35:09, **Becky Sinkinson** in 1:47:40, **Angie Bond** in 1:49:58 and it was great to see **Janet Hooper** back racing again who finished in 1:51:13.

Overall, in the race and in the DRRL, the Ladies picked up a fantastic 2<sup>nd</sup> Place team, which is also our highest place finish of the season and maintains our position of 4<sup>th</sup> place in the First Division. In the individual table, Maria Everett maintains her position of leading Littledown lady in 5<sup>th</sup> place overall, with Philippa Shawyer just 3 places behind in 8<sup>th</sup> and Heather Khoshnevis in 12<sup>th</sup>.

For full league tables, fixtures and further details of the league check out the website at <http://drrl.co.uk/>.

The next and final DRRL race of the season is the **Boscombe 10k** on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November which is also our final Club Championship race of the year. Being a local race, it is always a Sea of Orange with both club members running and marshalling, so there is great support all over the course. If you are running, remember to wear your club vest if you are an affiliated Littledown Harrier so that you score for the club!

If you have any questions about being an affiliated runner, please reach out to any of the captain's team.