

Blackmore Vale Half Marathon 4th February 2024- Captains Report

Last Sunday saw the second of the Club Championship races for 2024 take place with the Blackmore Vale Half Marathon, which was also the second race on the Dorset Road Race League for this year. A tough, undulating course with an infamous last climb to the finish but one that is also a PB course for many!

The weather remained dry, although it was fairly blustery which meant runners had to battle into head winds around a large part of the course. There were 329 finishers of the race, of which a fantastic 30 were Harriers!

Ladies report:

9 hardy ladies turned out on Sunday for the 31st Blackmore Vale Half Marathon which was organised by the Lions Club. It was the 2nd race for both the Dorset Road Race League and the Club Champs.

First four ladies back for Littledown Harriers and determining the teams placing in the DRRL league were 1st (2nd in age category) **Heather Khoshnevis** (1:39:22), 2nd **Maria Everett** (1:46:07), 3rd **Jelena 'Jeli' Davey** (1:54:42) and 4th **Lauren Stocker** who celebrated her 18th birthday by running the hills of Blackmore (1:59:21)- that'll be a birthday to remember!

Only 13 seconds separated **Danielle Noblet** (2:04:15) and **Katie Collingwood** (2:04:28) who came in 5th and 6th for the team respectively. Well done to both. A battle to the top of the hill for that extra Club Champs point!

7th Littledown lady was **Suzanne Janes** (2:13:45) and 8th was **Claire Adams** (2:19:51) who both put in solid performances. **Captain Shazza** (2:23:13) followed a few minutes later to ensure all the ladies got back safely!

The Littledown Harriers ladies team came in 3rd for the race, putting them 4th overall in First division of the Dorset Road Race League.

Full Ladies Results:

Heather Khoshnevis	01:39:22
Maria Everett	01:46:07
Jelena Davey	01:54:42
Lauren Stocker	01:59:21
Danielle Noblet	02:04:15
Katie Collingwood	02:04:28
Suzanne Janes	02:13:45
Claire Adams	02:19:51
Sharon Taylor	02:23:13

Mens Report:

We had a fantastic turnout of 21 men making the long journey to North Dorset to join the fun at Blackmore Vale Half - an undulating course with a nasty sting in the tail with the last hill being particularly steep!

For the Dorset Road Race League we managed to get 4th team (of 5) in division 1... an improvement of one place on Broadstone Quarter :-)... Let's hope we can continue to improve and make a bit of a battle out of our relegation fight this season!!

For individual performances, leading the way again was the fantastic **Sam Davis** - the man is on fire. In second place **Christian Rödiger** managed to catch and pass **Tom Cawley** towards the latter stages of the race - both securing fantastic sub 1:25 times.

Next in was **Mark Packer** with another solid performance. And not too far behind to complete our league scorers was **Scott Blakeway** who paced it much better this year - and was flying past people in the second half of the race like they were standing still (I heard a comment from one runner being passed - how demoralising!).

Not too far behind was **Bradley Dawson**, managing to out-sprint a tired Vince Fowler in the final straight on the field and bag a shiny new PB in the process!

Next to finish and very nearly not starting was Captain **Steve Williams**, who arrived at the race having not actually entered but thankfully managed to get an on the day entry, much to everyone's amusement!

And remember we all count for the league as we push rival club scorers further down the field...

Full Men's Results:

19 th Sam Davis	01:22:42
29 th Christian Rödiger	01:23:53
33 rd Tom Cawley	01:24:38
35 th Mark Packer	01:25:24
38 th Scott Blakeway	01:26:04
41 st Bradley Dawson	01:26:45
42 nd Vince Fowler	01:26:49
44 th Steve Williams	01:27:29
52 nd Steve Goodman	01:29:09
58 th David Wilson	01:29:38
70 th Luke Dowsett	01:31:58
80 th Gary Worsley	01:33:20
85 th Ant Robins	01:33:47
86 th Paolo De Luca	01:33:51
92 nd Mark Everett	01:34:53
102 nd Andrew Rumsey	01:36:10
130 th Joseph Hamblion	01:39:40
173 rd Mark Mulcahy	01:49:40
190 th Paul Turle	01:51:49
241 st Mat Sharp	02:02:43
291 st Chris Lane	02:20:30

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

The next DRRL event is [Lytchett 10](#) this Sunday 11th February and entries are still available.

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