

North Dorset Village Marathon - 5th May 2024- Captains Report

Sunday saw the return of the Dorset Road Race League with race number 4 being the North Dorset Village Marathon, with full teams for both the Men and Ladies and both earning very respectable 3rd place finishes in the league. The course is undulating, and particularly around mile 16-22, so it is great to see so many Harriers taking on the challenge and doing our club proud.

For the Men, we had 7 eager men turn out in Orange for one of the most scenic marathons around, which was very well organised as ever, and with favourable race conditions too - not too warm, the sun behaved and there was just a little drizzle during the race. Some great running saw us achieve a 3rd place finish the club - our best result so far this season!

Leading the Harrier Men home was Captain **Steve Williams** in 3:05:50 who went out chasing yet another sub-3 but faded slightly towards the end and still put in a valiant effort given that he had only run London 2 weeks prior! Second home and making a superb marathon debut was **Stu Clarke** in 3:07:44, this was a fantastic effort and there is surely more to come from him on a flatter course! Third home and looking to capitalise on a big PB run last year here was **Mark Everett** in 3:15:20 who was not quite able to resist the urge to walk in the closing stages. Fourth man home was **Rob Jones** who despite only starting his training 6 weeks prior, put in a solid effort to finish in 3:18:06. Fifth home to complete the scoring for the men's team was **Luke Dowsett** who started well but struggled slightly in the latter stages and still finished in a very respectable 3:21:22. Next home saw **David Wilson** shuffle across the line having also completed London only 2 weeks prior who was followed shortly after by marathon machine **Paolo De Luca** in 3:43:18 having already done the Thames Meander, Rome and Reverse London marathons already this year!

Full results for the men:

17th - Steve Williams - 3:05:50
20th - Stuart Clarke - 3:07:44
25th - Mark Everett - 3:15:20
28th - Rob Jones - 3:18:06
37th - Luke Dowsett - 3:21:22
47th - Dave Wilson - 3:27:39
65th - Paolo De Luca - 3:43:18

The Ladies pulled together the minimum of 4 runners needed to score for the DRRL and put in some awesome efforts. Off the back of London Marathon and in first in for the ladies was **Heather Khoshnevis** (3.35.17) This awarded her not only 1st in her age category but also 2nd in the Dorset County Champs Masters category- amazingly with the added hills, Heather was 6 minutes quicker than at London! Next in with an almighty PB was **Danielle Noblet** who ran only her 2nd ever marathon. Danielle had some surprise support along the way who obviously boosted her to fly in to finish in 3.52.22. Then running, walking, dancing (thanks to the street corner choir), singing and totally entertaining themselves on what would have been a lonely run otherwise, were ladies captain **Shazza** and **Jo Peasland** (who ran her first race for LDH). Smiling as they both crossed the finish line together in 5.24.49.

Full results for the ladies:

56th Heather Khoshnevis 3.35.17

79th Danielle Noblet 3.52.22

152nd Josephine Peasland 5.24.49

153rd Sharon Taylor 5.24.49

A massive thanks also to the Littledown supporters who were on their bikes cycling up and down the field the whole way offering words of support and encouragement to our runners- **Isabel Griffiths, Debbie Dowsett, Kevin Dowsett and Billy Nixon.**

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

The next race in the Dorset Road Race League is **The May 5** on Sunday 19th May- a lovely local 5 miles race around Canford Heath which starts and finishes on the track at Ashdown. Entries are available [here](#) and on the day entries may also be available if there are spaces still available.

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