Round 1: Canterbury 1

Round 1 of this year's Grand Prix was the Canterbury 10 miler with a brand new route on hand to greet the PWRs eager to get some early points on the scoreboard. There were 114 proudly entered as PWRs with 97 of those gunning for GP points out of the 1524 finishers - a sizable proportion for a race not on our doorstep.

The new route started and finished at the University of Kent perched at the top of Tyler Hill overlooking the city and its cathedral. The event was well organised and the new route was generally well received and not congested. Despite it feeling like a number of hills, a number of competitors set PBs for the distance including Melody Kane who broke her own club record.

This year's record GP entry has been divided into 20 different groups with the committee making a few changes after this opening round in a thankless attempt to ensure there are no runaway winners.

Group 1 (12 registered competitors)
1 Adam Wilkinson 57:08, 2 Greg Dunning 58:42, 3 Oliver York 01:01:58, 4 Kev Howarth 01:02:13, 5 Simon Thornhill 01:02:15, 6 Mark Philbrick 01:02:21, 7 Steve Camacho 01:03:04, 8 Silky Ng 01:03:25, 9 Mark Griffin 01:04:21.

Twelve runners have been put in the fastest group and with 9 in attendance they had the best turnout. Adam Wilkinson set the pace, although he wasn't the fastest PWR at Canterbury as Will Senbanjo who isn't registered for the GP was 11th overall, five places ahead of Wilkinson.

Greg Dunning joined Wilkinson in dipping under an hour for the 10 miles, with Oliver York next up from Kev Howarth. Simon Thornhill and Mark Philbrick completed the top six.

Championship: 1 Adam Wilkinson (20 points), 2 Greg Dunning (18), 3 Oliver York (16), 4 Kev Howarth (15), 5 Simon Thornhill (14), 6 Mark Philbrick (13), 7 Steve Camacho (12), 8 Silky Ng (11), 9 Mark Griffin (10), 10= Connor Gates, James Bevis & Toby Chapman (0).

Group 2 (9 registered competitors)
1 Melody Kane 01:03:57, 2 James Brinkley 01:05:42, 3 James Wall 01:05:54, 4 Stephen Pond 01:06:49, 5 Haki Bardhi 01:09:01.

Group 2 runner-up last season, Melody Kane took the honours in the same group from James Brinkley, and 2025 champion James Wall 3rd. Stephen Pond was 4th from Haki Bardhi who finished 3rd in last year's competition.

Championship: 1 Melody Kane (20 points), 2 James Brinkley (18), 3 James Wall (16), 4 Stephen Pond (15), 5 Haki Bardhi (14), 6= Christophe Cardon, Jason Mercer, Kevin Chadwick & Oliver Hitch (0).

Group 3 (8 registered competitors)
1 Johnny Gill 01:07:53, 2 Cameron Swatton 01:08:58, 3 Tim Williams 01:09:07, 4 Kobus Kellermann 01:10:58, 5 Matthew Pond 01:17:23.

Last year's Group 4 champion Johnny Gill took the honours in this year's Group 3 from Cameron Swatton making his debut in the series. Tim Williams, Kobus Kellermann and Matthew Pond made up the remainder of the Group 4s at the event.

Championship: 1 Johnny Gill (20 points), 2 Cameron Swatton (18), 3 Tim Williams (16), 4 Kobus Kellermann (15), 5 Matthew Pond (14), 6= Adam Shahin, Emma Stevens & Steve Bowley (0).

Group 4 (10 registered competitors)
1 John Kingscott 01:12:01, 2 Steve Wilde 01:12:19, 3 Jamie White 01:12:23, 4 Elly Phillips 01:12:41, 5 Marcus Elwes 01:12:59, 6 Oliver Evans 01:15:45, 7 Mark Franks 01:16:46.

With Gill promoted to the group above, the way was clear for John Kingscott who had been runner-up to Gill last year, to take the Group 4 victory. It was close though at the top in this group with 2nd-placed Steve Wilde just 18 seconds behind, and Jamie White, Elly Phillips and Marcus Elwes covered by the next 40 seconds!

Championship: 1 John Kingscott (20 points), 2 Steve Wilde (18), 3 Jamie White (16), 4 Elly Phillips (15), 5 Marcus Elwes (14), 6 Oliver Evans (13), 7 Mark Franks (12), 8= Charles Crabtree, Nick White & Tom Medhurst (0).

Group 5 (12 registered competitors)
1 Paul Edmonton 01:15:30, 2 Kerrie Donohue 01:16:11, 3 Chloe Haffenden 01:16:54.

Just the three Group 5s took on Canterbury, with Paul Edmonton leading the way from Kerrie Donohue and 2025 Group 5 champion Chloe Haffenden.

Championship: 1 Paul Edmonton (20 points), 2 Kerrie Donohue (18), 3 Chloe Haffenden (16), 4= Ben Nash, Catherine Round, Jeremy Belbin, Jim Winbourne, Laura Elvin, Sam Gibbs, Simon Keyes, Steven King & Stuart Scott (0).

Group 6 (11 registered competitors)
1 Chloe Wilkinson 01:18:39, 2 Andy Hall 01:20:04, 3 Trevor Adams 01:20:59, 4 Ellen Ball 01:29:47.

Chloe Wilkinson took first blood in this group - a champion from the 2022/23 season she beat last year's Group 6 champion Andy Hall, Trevor Roberts and Ellen Ball.

Championship: 1 Chloe Wilkinson (20 points), 2 Andy Hall (18), 3 Trevor Adams (16), 4 Ellen Ball (15), 5= Alison Horn, Callum Biggins, David Moore, Greg Farrell, Michael Reeves, Paul Whelan & Steven Wynne (0).

Group 7 (8 registered competitors)
1 Kirsty Caulfield 01:18:20, 2 Kevin Ly 01:19:45, 3 Jonathan Bond 01:21:10, 4 David Welfare 01:21:49, 5 Ed Bossert 01:26:21, 6 Guy Sims 01:34:11, 7 Roger King 01:37:33.

All but one of the Group 7s raced with Kirsty Caulfield finishing 1st over the 10 miles from Kevin Ly and Jonathan Bond. Last year's Group 7 and Group 8 champions were next up - David Welfare ahead of Ed Bossert.

Championship: 1 Kirsty Caulfield (20 points), 2 Kevin Ly (18), 3 Jonathan Bond (16), 4 David Welfare (15), 5 Ed Bossert (14), 6 Guy Sims (13), 7 Roger King (12), 8 Matt Leggett (0).

Group 8 (9 registered competitors)
1 Ian Bauly 01:24:05, 2 Tabitha Rogers 01:25:13, 3 Mike Roberts 01:27:41, 4 Mark Burgess 01:28:04, 5 Stuart Isaacs 01:42:53.

Group 8 was won by Ian Bauly from Tabitha Rogers, Mike Roberts and Mark Burgess. Stuart Isaacs struggled home in 5th - another injury sidelining his chances.

Championship: 1 Ian Bauly (20 points), 2 Tabitha Rogers (18), 3 Mike Roberts (16), 4 Mark Burgess (15), 5 Stuart Isaacs (14), 6= Adam Waterman, Liane Evans, Scott Haragan & Seaton Giles (0).

Group 9 (10 registered competitors)
1 Andrew Vadron 01:21:06, 2 Steve Burnett 01:21:24, 3 Lucy Tang 01:23:35, 4 Julian Edmonds 01:25:50, 5 Agne Zavistanavice 01:29:25, 6 Emma Chapman 01:31:11.

Three of the Group 9s were quicker than the quickest Group 8, with Andrew Vadron leading the way from Steve Burnett and Lucy Tang. Julian Edmonds, Agne Zavistanavice and Emma Chapman completed the top six.

Championship: 1 Andrew Vadron (20 points), 2 Steve Burnett (18), 3 Lucy Tang (16), 4 Julian Edmonds (15), 5 Agne Zavistanavice (14), 6 Emma Chapman (13), 7= Adam Jenkins, Anthony Donohue, Edwina Cheng & Paul Strachan (0).

Group 10 (9 registered competitors)
1 Paul Munday 01:22:54, 2 Millie Haffenden 01:25:10, 3 Rachel Knowles 01:25:58, 4 Katie Isaacs 01:27:59, 5 Amelia Isaacs 01:28:27, 6 Vassilis Sakizlis 01:29:43, 7 Rachel King 01:30:28.

Paul Munday put his phone away and concentrated on putting in a good performance to take the race win. Millie Haffenden was 2nd from a 2024 Champion Rachel Knowles and the two Isaacs siblings - Katie leading home Amelia on this occasion.

Championship: 1 Paul Munday (20 points), 2 Millie Haffenden (18), 3 Rachel Knowles (16), 4 Katie Isaacs (15), 5 Amelia Isaacs (14), 6 Vassilis Sakizlis (13), 7 Rachel King (12), 8= David Groom & Stephen Woodgate (0).

Group 11 (10 registered competitors)
1 Iain Jameson 01:28:08, 2 Viral Tanna 01:30:10, 3 Wendy Everest 01:31:11, 4 Dean Chapman 01:38:34.

Group 11 was won by Iain Jameson with Viral Tanna in his favoured runner-up spot (don't mention the quizzes). Wendy Everest and Dean Chapman completed the Group 11 runners at Canterbury.

Championship: 1 Iain Jameson (20 points), 2 Viral Tanna (18), 3 Wendy Everest (16), 4 Dean Chapman (15), 5= Andrew Cochrane, Ben Clarkson, David Horsfield, Hilary Morton, Nigel Hewson & Steve Munday (0).

Group 12 (11 registered competitors)
1 Joe Murray 01:30:54, 2 Pippa Niven 01:31:55, 3 Sally Callaghan 01:32:17, 4 Louis Strover 01:33:03, 5 Jackie York 01:34:29.

The five Group 12s were headed home by Dublin marathoner Joe Murray followed by Pippa Niven, Sally Callaghan, Louis Strover and Jackie York.

Championship: 1 Joe Murray (20 points), 2 Pippa Niven (18), 3 Sally Callaghan (16), 4 Louis Strover (15), 5 Jackie York (14), 6= Maxine Horsfield, Neil Sutton, Steven Dong, Stuart Collins, Summer Bond & Tara Dennehy (0).

Group 13 (10 registered competitors)
1 Rebecca Sampson 01:29:34, 2 Matt Smith 01:34:16, 3 Damian Parker 01:41:40, 4 Tracey Isaacs 01:42:54.

Group 13 was quite spread out with Rebecca Sampson comfortably clear of Matt Smith who in turn was clear of Damian Parker and Tracey Isaacs - accompanying injured hubby Stuart to the line.

Championship: 1 Rebecca Sampson (20 points), 2 Matt Smith (18), 3 Damian Parker (16), 4 Tracey Isaacs (15), 5= Catherine Crabtree, Emma Horan, Jo Stephens-Smith, Kevin Castle, Nick Squires & Richard Bodie (0).

Group 14 (9 registered competitors)
1 Rob Sampson 01:38:52, 2 Pam Dodds 01:39:47, 3 Jim Kirkland 01:53:08.

Completing a family double, Rob Sampson took the Group 14 honours to duplicate Rebecca's win in Group 13. Pam Dodds was 2nd from Jim Kirkland.

Championship: 1 Rob Sampson (20 points), 2 Pam Dodds (18), 3 Jim Kirkland (16), 4= Colin Ligier, Daisy Makin, Emma Alford-Smith, Hannah Lloyd, Liz Delamain & Rob White (0).

G**roup 15 (13 registered competitors)**
1 Nathalie Juchau 01:39:00, 2 Denise Eva 01:41:58, 3 Lou Stocks 01:42:58, 4 Terry Stocks 01:43:33, 5 Olivia Senbanjo 01:44:22, 6 Ian Matthews 01:44:35, 7 Julie Travers 01:45:10.

It was good to see Nat Juchau getting some miles under her belt and on her new knee. Juchau took the Group 15 win from Denise Eva and the two Stocks', Lou heading home Terry. Olivia Senbanjo was 5th, with Ian Matthews and Julie Travers not far behind in 6th and 7th.

Championship: 1 Nathalie Juchau (20 points), 2 Denise Eva (18), 3 Lou Stocks (16), 4 Terry Stocks (15), 5 Olivia Senbanjo (14), 6 Ian Matthews (13), 7 Julie Travers (12), 8= Amy Vistuer, David Allison, John Perks, Julie Medhurst, Matthew Bradshaw & Richard Dunstan (0).

Group 16 (11 registered competitors)
1 Katie Garvey 01:39:13, 2 Biljana Petrushevska 01:43:40, 3 Rachel Inman 01:47:11, 4 Paula Gleeson 01:48:36, 5 Eric Nash 2:00:09.

Katie Garvey set the pace in Group 16 from Biljana Petrushevska. Rachel Inman was next up from last year's Group 14 champ Paul Gleeson and Eric Nash as he continues his quest to complete the London Marathon in memory of his sister.

Championship: 1 Katie Garvey (20 points), 2 Biljana Petrushevska (18), 3 Rachel Inman (16), 4 Paula Gleeson (15), 5 Eric Nash (14), 6= Archana Patil, David Smyth, Eleanor Pinkerton, Jenny Waterman, Oscar Engles & Sandra Goodwin (0).

Group 17 (9 registered competitors)
1 Christina Springbett 01:50:27, 2 Chris Haydon 01:50:51, 3 Emma Bossert 01:51:09, 4 Barbara Carr 01:51:17, 5 James Fisher 01:52:25.

Less than two minutes covered all five Group 17s with Christina Springbett leading the way from Chris Haydon, Emma Bossert, Barbara Carr and James Fisher.

Championship: 1 Christina Springbett (20 points), 2 Chris Haydon (18), 3 Emma Bossert (16), 4 Barbara Carr (15), 5 James Fisher (14), 6= Jan Bodie, Karen Mercer, Paul Pester & Sonia Lowing (0).

Group 18 (9 registered competitors)
1 Lyttleton Barrett 01:47:06, 2 Clare Evans 01:53:37, 3 Kary Leggett 02:02:18.

Just the three in Group 18 with Lyttleton Barrett leading home Clare Evans and 2024 Group 12 champion Kary Leggett.

Championship: 1 Lyttleton Barrett (20 points), 2 Clare Evans (18), 3 Kary Leggett (16), 4= Anne Hanifin, Christina Bird, Giovanni Figoni, Kathy Strachan, Linda Bowley & Polly Branch (0).

Group 19 (7 registered competitors)
1 Holly Hutson 02:02:21.

Holly Hutson was the sole Group 19 representative so picks up a very useful 20 points for her efforts.

Championship: 1 Holly Hutson (20 points), 2= Catherine Jones, Corinne Hollamby, Emma Sims, Kumiko Broadhurst, Pherenice Worsey-Buck & Sarah Davis (0).

Group 20 (9 registered competitors)
1 Liz Squires 02:04:09, 2 Simon Gleeson 02:09:42.

Social Secretary extraordinaire Liz Squires led home Simon Gleeson in Group 20.

Championship: 1 Liz Squires (20 points), 2 Simon Gleeson (18), 3= Colleen Harding, Edmund Purves, Hannah Harrison, Karin Bradshaw, Natasha Figoni, Ruth Feltham & Sherry Bevan (0)

Report: Mark Burgess