Round 4: DARENT VALLEY 10k – 10.05.2026

The Darent Valley 10k on May 10th was round 4 of this year's GP series. After a bumper turnout at the previous round, numbers were down for this usually popular race - no doubt due to it being a late replacement for the Hildenborough 5 miler which never got off the ground.

Three PWRs decided it would be good to combine this round with training runs for the Three Castles 50km ultra later in the month, so Louis Strover and Sally Callaghan ran back from Eynsford, while Kevin Ly took it one step further by running there and back - a total of 43km!

Although Darent Valley is always an enjoyable but hard race, there were timing issues once again which meant numerous emails to the organisers to sort them all out.

Group 1 (12 registered competitors)
1 Kev Howarth 37:28, 2 Simon Thornhill 37:47, 3 Mark Philbrick 38:45, 4 Mark Griffin 40:41.

Kev Howarth took the Group 1 honours and was the first MV50 home. Simon Thornhill was less than 20 seconds behind in 2nd, with Mark Philbrick and Mark Griffin 3rd and 3th.

Championship: 1 Kev Howarth (70 points), 2 Simon Thornhill (62), 3 Mark Philbrick (60), 4 Silky Ng (47), 5 Mark Griffin (38), 6 Oliver York (31), 7= Adam Wilkinson & Connor Gates (20), 9 Greg Dunning (18), 10 Steve Camacho (12), 11= James Bevis & Toby Chapman (0).

Group 2 (9 registered competitors)
1 Oliver Hitch 42:53.

Oliver Hitch was the only Group 2 so duly pocketed the 20 points on offer.

Championship: 1 James Brinkley (49 points), 2 James Wall (48), 3= Jason Mercer & Oliver Hitch (34), 5 Melody Kane (33), 6 Haki Bardhi (32), 7 Christophe Cardon (20), 8 Stephen Pond (15), 9 Kevin Chadwick (0).

Group 3 (8 registered competitors)

1 Emma Stevens 44:26

As in Group 2 there was only one PWR in this group, Emma Stevens, and she therefore took the win and has moved up from 4th to 2nd in the championship table.

Championship: 1 Tim Williams (56 points), 2 Emma Stevens (50), 3 Johnny Gill (38), 4 Kobus Kellermann (31), 5= Cameron Swatton & Adam Shahin (18), 7 Matthew Pond (14), 8 Steve Bowley (0).

Group 4 (10 registered competitors)
1 Jamie White 46:13.

Jamie White has contested every round and now leads the Group 4 championship helped by no other shows at Darent Valley.

Championship: 1 Jamie White (67 points), 2 Steve Wilde (56), 3 John Kingscott (40), 4 Mark Franks (39), 5 Elly Phillips (31), 6= Marcus Elwes & Oliver Evans (27), 8 Nick White (18), 9 Tom Medhurst (15), 10 Charles Crabtree (0).

Group 5 (12 registered competitors)
1 Chloe Haffenden 44:41, 2 Simon Keyes 45:48, 3 Kerrie Donohue 47:19.

Last year's Group 5 champion Chloe Haffenden claimed her first win of 2026 from Simon Keyes and Kerrie Donohue. Haffenden now leads the championship from Donohue, with triple round winner Paul Edmonton demoted to 3rd.

Championship: 1 Chloe Haffenden (69 points), 2 Kerrie Donohue (67), 3 Paul Edmonton (60), 4 Simon Keyes (49), 5 Laura Elvin (29), 6 Jeremy Belbin (16), 7 Stuart Scott (15), 8= Ben Nash, Catherine Round, Jim Winbourne, Sam Gibbs & Steven King (0).

Group 6 (11 registered competitors)
1 Chloe Wilkinson 47:38, 2 Andy Hall 49:26.

It was a repeat of the season opener for Group 6, with Chloe Wilkinson leading in Andy Hall. Last year's Group 6 champion Hall now heads the championship table from Ellen Ball.

Championship: 1 Andy Hall (51 points), 2 Ellen Ball (48), 3 Chloe Wilkinson (40), 4 Trevor Adams (34), 5= David Moore & Steven Wynne (20), 7 Michael Reeves (16), 8= Alison Horn, Callum Biggins, Greg Farrell & Paul Whelan (0).

Group 7 (8 registered competitors)
1 Kevin Ly 48:15, 2 Kirsty Caulfield 48:32, 3 Jonathan Bond 52:20, 4 Roger King 53:49, 5 Ed Bossert 54:21.

Despite having run to Eynsford, Kevin Ly took his second win in a row. The other Group 7 to have won this year, Kirsty Caulfield, was 2nd - these two clear of Jonathan Bond, Roger King and championship leader Ed Bossert.

Championship: 1 Ed Bossert (62 points), 2= Kirsty Caulfield & Kevin Ly (58), 4 Roger King (45), 5 Jonathan Bond (32), 6 David Welfare (15), 7 Guy Sims (13), 8 Matt Leggett (0).

Group 8 (9 registered competitors)
1 Ian Bauly 50:14, 2 Stuart Isaacs 56:44.

Having missed the previous round, normal service was resumed in Group 8 with Ian Bauly taking the win. Stuart Isaacs was 2nd.

Championship: 1 Ian Bauly (60 points), 2 Mark Burgess (50), 3 Stuart Isaacs (32), 4 Adam Waterman (31), 5 Mike Roberts (30), 6= Tabitha Rogers, Liane Evans & Seaton Giles (18), 9 Scott Haragan (16).

Group 9 (10 registered competitors)
1 Andrew Vadron 46:32, 2 Agne Zavistanavice 52:47, 3 Paul Strachan 53:13, 4 Lucy Tang 57:17.

Andrew Vadron also missed the Members 10k but was back for this round and was well clear of the others in his class to take his third win of the series. Championship leader Agne Zavistanvice was 2nd from Paul Strachan and Lucy Tang.

Championship: 1 Agne Zavistanavice (64 points), 2 Andrew Vadron (60), 3 Lucy Tang (46), 4 Steve Burnett (36), 5 Emma Chapman (33), 6 Paul Strachan (31), 7 Anthony Donohue (18), 8= Julian Edmonds & Adam Jenkins (15), 10 Edwina Cheng (0).

Group 10 (9 registered competitors)
1 Rachel Knowles 50:39, 2 Vassilis Sakizlis 52:45, 3 Millie Haffenden 54:25, 4 Paul Munday 59:57.

There was an upset in this group with three times winner Paul Munday down in 4th place. Rachel Knowles took the victory from Vassilis Sakizlis and Millie Haffenden.

Championship: 1 Paul Munday (75 points), 2 Millie Haffenden (66), 3 Rachel Knowles (49), 4 Vassilis Sakizlis (46), 5 Katie Isaacs (33), 6 Amelia Isaacs (30), 7 Rachel King (12), 8= David Groom & Stephen Woodgate (0).

Group 11 (10 registered competitors)
1 Nigel Hewson 54:37, 2 Viral Tanna 59:46.

Nigel Hweson repeated his Paddock Wood success, with Viral Tanna in 2nd place. Ian Jameson retains his championship lead but is now only two points ahead of Hewson.

Championship: 1 Iain Jameson (58 points), 2 Nigel Hewson (56), 3 Viral Tanna (36), 4 Wendy Everest (31), 5 Dean Chapman (29), 6 David Horsfield (18), 7 Steve Munday (13), 8 Andrew Cochrane (12), 9= Ben Clarkson & Hilary Morton (0).

Championship: 1 Iain Jameson (58 points), 2 Nigel Hewson (36), 3 Wendy Everest (31), 4 Dean Chapman (29), 5= Viral Tanna & David Horsfield (18), 7 Steve Munday (13), 8 Andrew Cochrane (12), 9= Ben Clarkson & Hilary Morton (0).

Group 12 (11 registered competitors)
1 Joe Murray 54:16, 2 Sally Callaghan 62:27, 3 Louis Strover 62:33.

Canterbury winner Joe Murray was the class of the Group 12 field, although maybe Sally Callaghan in 2nd and Louise Strover in 3rd were saving something for the run home? These three are now at the top of the championship classification.

Championship: 1 Joe Murray (58 points), 2 Sally Callaghan (49), 3 Louis Strover (46), 4 Jackie York (45), 5 Pippa Niven (38), 6 Maxine Horsfield (34), 7 Stuart Collins (20), 8= Neil Sutton, Steven Dong, Summer Bond & Tara Dennehy (0).

Group 13 (10 registered competitors)
1 Matt Smith 55:33, 2 Emma Horan 56:08, 3 Tracey Isaacs 56:44, 4 Richard Bodie 59:04.

Matt Smith took his first win of the series and has moved up from 3rd to 1st in the championship table. Emma Horan was 2nd from Paddock Wood victor Tracey Isaacs and debutant Richard Bodie.

Championship: 1 Matt Smith (54 points), 2= Tracey Isaacs & Emma Horan (51), 4 Rebecca Sampson (38), 5 Damian Parker (28), 6 Jo Stephens-Smith (20), 7 Richard Bodie (15), 8 Kevin Castle (14), 9 Nick Squires (13), 10 Catherine Crabtree (11).

Group 14 (9 registered competitors)
1 Pam Dodds 60:41, 2 Emma Alford-Smith 60:53, 3 Liz Delamain 61:44.

There wasn't much between the three Group 19s, with just over a minute covering winner Pam Dodds, Emma Alford-Smith in 2nd and Liz Delamain in 3rd.

Championship: 1 Pam Dodds (58 points), 2 Rob Sampson (40), 3 Emma Alford-Smith (36), 4 Jim Kirkland (34), 5 Liz Delamain (29), 6 Daisy Makin (16), 7 Rob White (15), 8 Colin Logier (14), 9 Hannah LLoyd (0).

G**roup 15 (13 registered competitors)**
1 Nathalie Juchau 55:51, 2 Olivia Senbanjo 64:06, 3 Denise Eva 64:07.

Championship leader Nathalie Juchau was the class of the field, finishing well clear of Olivia Senbanjo and Denise Eva who were separated by just one second.

Championship: 1 Nathalie Juchau (60 points), 2 Denise Eva (52), 3 Olivia Senbanjo (48), 4 Lou Stocks (31), 5 Ian Matthews (29), 6 Amy Vistuer (20), 7 Julie Medhurst (18), 8 Terry Stocks (15), 9 John Perks (14), 10 Julie Travers (12), 11= David Allison, Matthew Bradshaw & Richard Dunstan (0).

Group 16 (11 registered competitors)
1 Eleanor Pinkerton 60:17, 2 Biljana Petrushevska 63:32, 3 Paula Gleeson 67:38.

Eleanor Pinkerton took her second victory of the season having won at Paddock Wood. Biljana Petrushevska was once again 2nd - the third time this season and all to different winners. Paula Gleeson's 3rd place moves her into the championship lead.

Championship: 1 Paula Gleeson (62 points), 2 Eleanor Pinkerton (55), 3 Biljana Petrushevska (54), 4 Rachel Inman (51), 5 Katie Garvey (35), 6 Eric Nash (28), 7 Jenny Waterman (18), 8 Archana Patil (16), 9 Sandra Goodwin (15), 10 Oscar Engles (14), 11 David Smyth (0).

Group 17 (9 registered competitors)
1 Christina Springbett 66:39, 2 Chris Haydon 71:45, 3 Jan Bodie 73:57.

The top two from Canterbury was repeated at Darent Valley, with Christina Springbett leading in Chris Haydon. Jan Bodie was 3rd.

Championship: 1 Christina Springbett (58 points), 2 Chris Haydon (49), 3 Emma Bossert (47), 4 Jan Bodie (31), 5 Barbara Carr (29), 6 Sonia Lowing (20), 7 Karen Mercer (16), 8 James Fisher (14), 9 Paul Pester (12).

Group 18 (9 registered competitors)
1 Kathy Strachan 68:49, 2 Kary Leggett 72:17.

A second win in a row for Kathy Strachan in this group, while 2nd place for Kary Leggett extends her championship lead.

Championship: 1 Kary Leggett (67 points), 2 Kathy Strachan (40), 3 Lyttleton Barrett (38), 4 Clare Evans (33), 5 Christina Bird (20), 6 Polly Branch (16), 7= Anne Hanifin, Giovanni Figoni & Linda Bowley (0).

Group 19 (7 registered competitors)
1 Kumiko Broadhurst 69:10, 2 Holly Hutson 73:36.

It is now two wins apiece for the top two in Group 19 as Kumiko Broadhurst repeated her Members 10k victory over Holly Hutson. However, Hutson remains well clear in the championship as she also has two 2nd places to add to her two wins.

Championship: 1 Holly Hutson (76 points), 2 Kumiko Broadhurst (40), 3 Sarah Davis (16), 4= Catherine Jones, Corinne Hollamby, Emma Sims & Pherenice Worsey-Buck (0).

Group 20 (9 registered competitors)
1 Karin Bradshaw 71:14, 2 Simon Gleeson 89:18.

Karin Bradshaw won Group 20 from Simon Gleeson who is rewarded for his full attendance by taking over the championship lead from three-times winner Liz Squires.

Championship: 1 Simon Gleeson (69 points), 2 Liz Squires (60), 3 Karin Bradshaw (18), 4 Colleen Harding (16), 5 Hannah Harrison (15), 6 Ruth Feltham (14), 7= Edmund Purves, Natasha Figoni & Sherry Bevan (0).

Report: Mark Burgess

PETTS WOOD RUNNERS
175
100
358
167
79
355
92
ANDY
RACHEL