

## 2019 Woldingham 10k Race Report

“Are you on for Sunday, then?” I asked after the Tuesday run. “Nah, mate. I’ve got a 20 mile marathon training run on Friday. I fancy an easy weekend”, he said - and I knew he would race. “Still not doing Woldingham, then?” I asked at the Thursday run. “No. We’re going out on Saturday night for a drink and a spot of dinner after my 20”, he said - and I knew it was just a question of waiting for the text. *Sunday 08:25 whatsapp message:* “Morning Simon. I know it’s a bit late, but would it be possible to grab a lift to the race this morning...Sean” ...

It is a windy morning, and we have to slalom around the branches blown down onto the road as we make our way to the race. When we get there, for the first race of this year’s Summer Series, it is, frankly, not all that summery; in fact it is a bit chilly. But there are plenty of Oxted Runners and Friends of the Oxted Runners there, and everything is going to be great. And it is. By the end of the races the sun has even come out...

The Woldingham 10 km takes place in the grounds of Woldingham School on traffic free paths and drives. 90 percent of the route is on good quality tarmac, and the other 10 percent is on poor quality tarmac and concrete. You do two 5 km laps. The good quality surface means a fast time, though some have suggested that the track could be a touch less than the full 10km. Whatever: it is the same as last year, same undulating mini-lap at the start, same 1 km drag up a not very difficult hill, same fast descent of that hill. But this year with added wind in your face as you go up the hill. Mysteriously, wind always seems to drop as you descend...

The start is ...interesting. The 5 km race and the 10 km race start at the same time and from the same place. There are lots of waist-high juniors at the front as the starting hooter goes. They can run quickly in short bursts, but are prone to sudden halts and changes of direction. It would definitely be a Bad Thing to knock one over...

Thirty seven minutes and five seconds after the start, Sean is back over the finish line in first place. The rest of us get better value for our entry fees by spending quite a lot longer out on this mostly very pleasant course. (Nobody thought the second ascent of the hill directly into the gale was pleasant at all, and I for one, spent quite a lot of time on this leg!) George Donnelly didn’t get much better value than Sean; he was back in 39:17, and in fourth place overall. Maggie Statham-Berry was the first woman Oxted Runner back, despite being misdirected by the marshals at one point and probably running further than anyone else. Maggie also won the event prize for female vets. The best age graded performances by Oxted Runners were by Sean and Maggie- vg in both cases. But the ‘one person, one prize’ rule is operation so our age graded awards go to Jonathan Buxton and Kim Sullivan. Tiny prizes will be awarded soon!

So that’s it. The Summer Season is up and running. A great time was had by all at our now traditional season opener. The second race in the series is the Mel’s Milers 10km at Christ’s Hospital at the end of the month – a flat, fast, traffic- free, mixed terrain course – some tarmac, mostly tracks and paths, won’t get too muddy...Enter at [www.melmilers.co.uk/mels-milers-10k](http://www.melmilers.co.uk/mels-milers-10k) . Simon Brooks

## Woldingham Mad March Hare 10km – 10 March 2019

100 Finishers	Race Position	Time	Age graded %	Age Graded Time
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### Women

Maggie Statham-Berry	44	51:25	81.1	37:24
Kim Sullivan	66	56:18	67.3	45:06
Nicola Burnett	70	56:51	64.1	47:20

### Men

Sean Mccabery	1	37:05	79.7	33:32
George Donnelly	4	39:17	68.9	38:46
Jonathan Buxton	20	45:14	72.5	36:51
John Warren	30	47:40	62.0	43:06
Simon Brooks	32	48:48	69.8	38:17
Stuart Wells	36	49:51	55.6	48:03
John Holmes	40	50:42	69.1	38:38
Pat Sullivan	65	56:14	58.8	45:48
Paul May	67	56:20	59.9	44:37

Friends of the Oxted Runners: Chris Sharpe 8<sup>th</sup>/41:44, Ben Sharpe 33<sup>rd</sup>/49:03, Les Huitson 55<sup>th</sup>/54:03