

Niall Digby of Sigma Sport claimed top spot in an event that certainly lived up to its name.

The preceding weather reports didn't bode well for Sunday's event and they were unfortunately correct with half the field DNSing, many on the morning. That's not a great state of events though perhaps understandable given the conditions.

Overnight torrential rain continued through the morning and was coupled with a strong biting northerly wind which dropped the temperature down to around 2 - 3' C. Truly testing conditions that were topped off with flooded roads, many of which were still in a rough potholed state from the winter.

This wasn't so much a race as more of a battle against the elements though it was slightly surprising that there was only one DNF. Central Sussex regular Stuart Payne had persuaded his nephew Rhys to come over from Wales to try some of our 'great early season events', a statement that Rhys may have other thoughts on.

With such a depleted field there wasn't much chance for catching others though Geoff Smith almost caught first man off Nathan Gale and Niall Digby and Paul Thatcher shared some of the misery before the final climb to Handcross.

Alan MacInnes of promoting club East Grinstead was delighted with his 3rd spot, 42 seconds behind second place man Tony Reeves from GS Stella. A number of clubs had fielded teams but only Lewes Wanderers had three finishers in the form of Jan Stegers, Rob Pelham and Ton Glanfield to claim the team prize.

The only lady brave enough to face the elements was Elaine Scott of Brighton Excelsior and claimed a richly deserved bottle of wine from promoter Steve Dennis.

Position	Name	Club	Cat.	Time	'+/-
1	Niall Digby	Sigma Sport	V40	55.39	'+4.21
2	Tony Reeves	G.S.Stella	S	56.25	
3	Alan MacInnes	East Grinstead CC	S	57.07	
4	Tom Glandfield	Lewes Wanderers CC	S	58.41	
5	Rhys Payne	Porth & District CC	S	'59.00	
6	Rob Pelham	Lewes Wanderers CC	S	59.49	
7	Paul Thatcher	Brighton Mitre	V46	1.00.03	'+2.55
8	Mark Storie	G.S.Stella	S	1.00.14	
9	Johan Stegers	Lewes Wanderers CC	V46	1.00.53	'+2.05
10	Geoff Smith	Sussex Nomads CC	V59	1.01.42	'+7.39
11	Nathan Cole	Worthing Excelsior CC	S	1.04.40	
12	Richard Woodward	East Grinstead CC	V48	1.07.14	-3.24
13	Robert Downham	Worthing Excelsior CC	V41	1.10.10	-9.32
14	Stuart Payne	Central Sussex CC	V47	1.15.58	- 12.35
15	Robin Johnson	Brighton Mitre CC	V61	1.19.29	-9.06
16	Elaine Scott	Brighton Excelsior CC	WV61	1.23.28	-9.12
	Graeme Blair	Serpentine CC	V41	DNF	
	Steve Dennis	East Grinstead CC		DNS	
	Mark Jones	G.S.Stella		Apol	
	Ben Hardisty	East Grinstead CC		DNS	
	David O'Donovan	Kingston Wheelers CC		Apol	
	David Shephard	G.S.Stella		DNS	
	Mel Roberton	Worthing Excelsior CC		Apol	
	Peter Logan	Worthing Excelsior CC		DNS	
				Apol	

Ben Instone	www.scientific-coaching.com/SRM	DNS
Steve Connery	Southborough & District Wheelers	DNS
Simon Neave	South Western R.C.	DNS
Paul Alderson	South Western R.C.	DNS
Nick Dwyer	Lewes Wanderers CC	DNS
Philip Watkins	Purley CRT	DNS
Ted Boorman	East Grinstead CC	DNS
Alan Lloyd	Lewes Wanderers CC	DNS
Ian Bashford	Old Portlians CC	DNS
Andrew Green	Addiscombe CC	DNS
Clive Jackson	Central Sussex CC	DNS
Michael Coyle	Brighton Mitre CC	DNS
Bryn Tully	Anerley CC	DNS
Mick Deen	Redmon CC	DNS
Richard Tully	Anerley CC	DNS