

Hundreds turn out to face the mud in Darent Valley 10k



VICTORS: Mens' winners, from left, Spencer Hempsted (third), Anthony Jackson (first) and Dan Watt (second)



STARTING LINE: The runners line up ready to begin

Sudden sunshine adds spring to runners' steps

By Emma Curry
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SPURRED on by the sudden appearance of the spring sunshine, runners slogged their way through mud on the Darent Valley 10k run on Sunday.

Some 561 competitors took to the roads and footpaths from Anthony Roper Primary School, Eynsford, through Farningham, past Lullingstone castle and back to the school.

Anthony Jackson, of Sittingbourne Athletics Club, was the first to make it back to the school grounds, crossing the finish line with a time of 34 minutes, 55 seconds.

Daniel Watt, from the Tunbridge Wells Harriers, was in second place, in 35 minutes 18 seconds, and Spencer Hempsted came third in 35 minutes 34 seconds.

Race director Mike Baron said: "The event went really well - some of the course, which was off roads, was really muddy because of all the heavy rain we have had, but the runners managed and it went very smoothly. "I was busy running round setting up road blocks before the event started at 8.30am. The atmosphere was great - absolutely buzzing and it was mostly local clubs taking place."

The event was organised by Swanley Athletics Club.



WINNERS: From left, Alice Heather-Hayes (second), Tina Oldershaw (first) and Nicola Wilkinson (third)


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