

A five mile off road race at Gin Pit Village was the race of choice for Congleton Harrier, Mikko Kuronen this weekend, he kept a close eye on his age group competition, initially running in a pack containing his nearest rivals before pushing on in the last mile to take 16th place overall from a field of 219 in a time of 31:02 and another first prize in his age category with his nearest challenger some 22 seconds behind.

Endurance rather than speed was the key for 6 Congleton Harriers as they took part in the Goyt Valley Challenge, organised by the Long Distance Walkers Association, two events were held with 5 Harriers opting for the 24.5-mile choice with Tim Evans taking the sprint option at just the 13.3 miles. The route is attractive but challenging through the western Peak District including Solomon's Temple, Axe Edge, Goyt Valley, Shining Tor, Lamaload Reservoir, Kettleshulme, Taxal Moor and Fernilee Dam to Buxton with 4,000ft of ascent and has an eleven hour time limit for the walkers, there was no danger of the Harriers being close to that with excellent performance from everyone, Rob Parkin making his debut at one of these events will certainly be returning for more, completed the course in 5hrs 35mins for equal 11th place, Suzanne Roebuck was 3 minutes behind in 15th place, with Debbie Hill the third Harrier to finish in 19th 5hrs 50 and Polly Kennerley and Gayle Evans coming across the line together in equal 28th in 6hrs 7minutes. Tim Evans decision to enter the shorter event paid dividends taking first place in 2:47.



L-R Debbie Hill, Polly Kennerley, Suzanne Roebuck, Rob Parkin and Gayle Evans

Congleton Harriers run three times a week from the leisure centre and always welcome new members for more details visit congleton-harriers.co.uk