

## Congleton Harriers Race Reports.

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> June saw the running of the 2<sup>nd</sup> race in the Staffs Moorlands Summer Series. The event was run over the Roaches and started on the road just above the village of Upperhulme. In recent races the runners have suffered from the very high temperatures but in this race it was entirely the opposite, very low temperatures made doubly worse by driving rain and gale force winds and it felt more like January than June. After running up the steep road the runners took a right turn and began climbing up the steep path. For the stronger runners at the front there were no problems (except the severity of the climb) but for the slower runners it meant having to join the queue to get up the hillside. On the narrow path passing was impossible and if the runner in front had to walk then so did you. Once on top racing re-commenced though the wind did its best to blow you off the track. After negotiating the ridge the runners enjoyed a gradual descent down the road before turning right to enjoy the 1½ miles of muddy tracks across the moorland. Although the race was uncomfortable for the runners it was considerably worse for the marshals and timekeepers and all the runners are very grateful for their efforts.

The strength of the Harriers can now be seen with members finishing well up the field and a number are already in contention for prizes. 1st Harrier home, from a field of over 200 finishers, was Simon Harding in 4<sup>th</sup> place in a time of 39.41 closely followed by James Pearce 39.59 (6). A fierce battle took place between Pete Newham and James Wood, with Newham taking in honours in 41.22 (14) with Wood finishing in 41.29 (15). Just behind was Andy Roberts in 42.27 (20)

Pride of place went to Claire Thompson who won the ladies race, finishing nearly 3 minutes ahead of her nearest rival. Claire's time of 43.12 gave her 20<sup>th</sup> place leaving in her wake many seasoned male fell runners!

The Harriers have one of the largest club representations in these races and members were now keeping the timekeepers very busy with Mick Fernyhough next home in 48.52 (73), Rich Benson 49.32 (80) and Seaton Kennerley 50.33 (88). Malcolm Jackson again enjoyed success when he finished in front of his wife Sandre in a time of 51.11 (94) with Sandre not far behind in 51.43 (102) and 3<sup>rd</sup> FV45. Gill Armstrong was 2<sup>nd</sup> LV35 in a time of 52.24 (110) followed by Debbie Hill 52.31 (112), Jude Newham 53.19 (115), Derek Dale 53.31 (116), Steve Dunn 54.23 (122), Jerry Comerford 54.30 (124). Harry Stubbs ran strongly to finish in 54.36 (132) just ahead of Liz Reeves 55.06 (133). Long serving member, Harold Pinkney, was next to finish in 55.35 (139) just ahead of new member Fran Jones 56.08 (141)

Pete Doyle, suffering from a virus, was next home in 58.32 (157), leading in Judith Ceuppens (59.04 (160), Derek Lucas 60.27 (162) and Ella Lyman 60.54 (164). Next to finish was Anna Reeves- but she went through the finish so fast they were unable to record her number or time! Bringing home the Harriers team were Caroline Partner 67.33 (188) and Katie Benson 67.47 (189).

**In addition to the main race there are also two races for children and again the club was well represented. The Harriers had 6 runners in the mini event and emulating her mother, Claire Thompson's achievement in the main race Tanisha Orchard 1<sup>st</sup> girl home in the brace achieving 7<sup>th</sup> place overall. Joshua Carr was next to finish in 14<sup>th</sup> place followed by Henry Foddy (21), Rosie Pearce (29), Joseph Pearce (34) and Matty Jones (38). There were 42 finishers.**

**Forthcoming Events**

**Thurs. 28<sup>th</sup> June Rudyard Lake 5M (4<sup>th</sup> race Summer Series)**

**Thurs. 5<sup>th</sup> July Buxton Hilly 4.7M (5<sup>th</sup> race Summer Series)**

**Sun. 8<sup>th</sup> July Bollington Nostalgia Hill Race 7M 1200 ft of ascent**

**Tue 10<sup>th</sup> July Fenton Park 5K**

**Sat 14<sup>th</sup> July Club 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner-Dance at Park Pavilion**