

## Congleton Harriers Race Reports.

During the past month there have been a number of half marathons and the Harriers have been represented in a number of them. First was the City of Nottingham race in which husband and wife team Sandre and Malcolm Jackson competed. A close race ensued between the pair with Malcolm just finishing ahead of his wife in a time of 1.43.07 (887<sup>th</sup> position) with Sandre close behind in 1.44.04 (964). There were 6507 finishers.

A week later on the 16th Sept two Harriers competed in the Ashbourne Half where Bryan Lomas, making a welcome return to racing, finished in an excellent 4<sup>th</sup> place with a time of 1.22.23. Alex McCormick also ran, completing the course in 1.32.35 (33) in a field of 186. On the same day, and more locally, the Sandbach 6 took place and Jim Bradbury led the Harriers home in a time of 46.24 (36), followed by David Forster 46.38 (37), Debbie Hill 47.03 (40) and Tony Smith 50.32 (55). There were 90 finishers.

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept saw the running of the Meerbrook 15k, and 4 Harriers took part. Rich Benson was 1<sup>st</sup> Harrier to complete the arduous course in 1.13.07 (96) followed by Sandre Jackson 1.18.00 (128), Malcolm Jackson 1.19.19 (137) and Peter Brinsley 1.34.48 (215). On the same weekend four Harriers and their families made the journey up to the Lake District to take part in the Scafell Pike fell race over 4.5 miles and including over 3,000ft of climbing. James Pearce, who is very much at home on the mountains, completed the course in approx. 62 minutes (official times have not yet been released). Pete Newham was going well until he reached the top but at the start of the descent he fell hitting his mouth on a rock resulting in the loss of two front teeth, we now know what is on the top of Newham's wish list for Christmas! Feeling shaken he waited for the next Harrier to reach the summit and together both he and Pete Doyle descended slowly to finish the race on 1.49.00. In the meantime Seaton Kennerley had completed the very hard course in 1.28.00.

Last Sunday saw the staging of both the Macclesfield Half Marathon and also the Great North Half Marathon. Although both races were held over hilly courses the main difference was the number of competitors in each race. Macclesfield had a field of 668, whilst the Great North boasted the largest field for any race in Europe with 50,000 starters. Despite the differences in size both races were very competitive. The Harriers had six representatives in the local race with Alex McCormick improving on his Ashbourne race with fine time of 1.28.46 (45), followed by Rob Parkin 1.41.31 (209). Debbie was close behind in an excellent 1.42.49 (222) followed by Felicity Doyle 1.52.32 (401), Andrew Bell 1.56.17 (459), Peter Brinsley 2.11.09 (602) and Caroline Partner 2.21.14 (640). Meanwhile three Harriers made the long journey up to Newcastle in the hope that they would appear on TV, this was not to be! The race took place in ideal conditions, which suited all runners. Jason Chappell was 1<sup>st</sup> to finish in a time of 1.33.43 and an excellent 1105<sup>th</sup> position. Liz Reeves was delighted to set a new personal best with a time of 1.44.50 (3905) whilst Derek Lucas was very happy to finish well within his target time when he completed the course in 1.49.13 (5704).

The Cross Country season starts on 6<sup>th</sup> October, see club website for further details.

**DRL.**