

Racing was again curtailed this weekend; this time due to Storm Dennis which proved to be a menace particularly to the road racing fraternity with both the Wrexham Bakery Half Marathon and the Rugeley 10 mile succumbing to the flooding which impacted a number of Congleton Harriers. Further north several significant fell races were also called off although these don't appear to have impacted any Harriers. There were however, quite a large contingent of Harriers anxiously scanning weather forecasts and race websites on Saturday to see if the two trail races that were listed in the club competition would survive. Thankfully both the Knype Pool Charity race (ably organised by Biddulph Running Club) and the Stockport Trail Half Marathon both survived.

At both venues the strong winds and heavy downpours held off on the day and, despite the rain the day before, the routes were clear enough to allow racing. Conditions underfoot were obviously very wet and muddy with plenty of puddles due to amount of rain that had previously fallen on the already sodden ground.

Out of the 417 runners congregated at Marple for the Stockport Trail Half there were 7 Harriers. Jack Schofield had a tremendous run finishing 2nd overall in 1:14:29. Mel Worthington also had a fine run finishing 65th (7th lady overall and winner of the F40 age category) in 1:37:14. Sarah Proudmore was 168th in 1:50:54, Paul Crean was 201st in 1:55:16, Suzie Roscoe was 210th in 1:55:45, Rob Parkin was 212th in 1:56:02 and David Whittaker was 222nd in 1:57:41.



Jack Schofield

Photo: Jon-Paul Kearns

At Knype Pool there were 14 Harriers lining up on the starting line for the 4.7-mile undulating run around the reservoirs and through the trees which made the Harriers the club with most runners in attendance out of the 154 at the race. Tom Walker was first back in 7th place in 32:51 followed by Stuart Rider, 12th in 34:25, Charmaine Wood, 38th in 39:33, James Yates, 46th in 40:28, Elizabeth Lingford, 47th in 40:36, Guy Lingford, 50th in 41:40, Nick Budd, 51st in 41:49, Kelly Hurlstone, 75th in 45:18 (an impressive run given she sandwiched the race between a further 15 miles of

marathon training immediately before and after the event), Duncan Young, 78th in 45:41, Michael Stanley, 83rd in 46:36, Nigel Poole, 90th in 47:37, Gemma Brinkhurst, 94th in 48:54, Harry Stubbs, 104th in 50:03 and Dave Taylor 121st in 54:09. Elizabeth Lingford was age category winner in the F55 category whilst Wood and Stubbs were 2nd in their respective F40 and M70 age categories (Wood was also 5th lady overall) and Guy Lingford, Budd and Hurlstone were 3rd in the M60, M55 and F age categories.

Further afield, and in much more pleasant climes, Claire Cheetham participated in a 15K race out in Valencia, Spain setting a new PB for the distance by finishing 607th out of 3888 runners in a fast time of 1:07:48.

It's now only a couple of weeks before the Cloud 9 Fell race which will take place on Sunday 1st March. With everything arranged the race organisers are now keeping their fingers crossed now that no further storms or bad weather will appear which could upset proceedings. It's a popular event and there is a steady stream of enquiries about joining the waiting list as the race is now sold out.

The club is always keen to see new members whether you are a speedy racer (on or off-road) or more of a social runner. So, if you are thinking of joining then just come along to one of the regular/ club runs for a few weeks and try us out for size; you will be made to feel more than welcome with no obligation to join. Regular club runs are held on Monday and Tuesday with speed training runs on a Thursday. Mondays are especially good for runners wanting to try the club out for size and is proving to be very popular.

You can find full details on our Congleton Harriers website: Congleton-harriers.co.uk. You can also connect with the club on Facebook where details of club activities are posted regularly.