

## 32<sup>nd</sup> Cloud 9 Fell race sees big turnout.

Congleton Harriers have hosted and organised the Cloud 9 hill race for over 30 years and in its history only once has it been cancelled and that was due to the outbreak of foot and mouth disease.

There being no beast from the east in sight this year (unlike last) meant the run into the race was less stressful for the Race Director Nigel Poole. Though a major water leak at the leisure centre occurring during the night before the race did cause more of a 'minor distraction' on the day than a problem, some runners commenting it was a bit OTT for a boot wash!

Come 11am, over 250 runners made their way from race HQ at Congleton leisure centre to the start line along the Biddulph Valley Way, with Congleton Town Mayor Suzie Akers Smith setting them on their way.



*Susie Akers Smith starting the race*

*Photo: Suzie Roscoe*

With over seventy running clubs represented the race has long held appeal beyond the local area not only because of the challenging but scenic nine-mile route up and over the Bosley Cloud and round by the ancient Bridestone's but because of the friendliness of the many marshals that line the course that ensure nobody gets lost and any injured runners are properly looked after. Post-race, runners enjoy hot soup and tea/coffee as well as the finest selection of homemade cakes back in the relative warmth of the sports hall.



*Front runners on Biddulph Valley Way*

*Photo: Paul Bird*

In the race itself, local man and course record holder Simon Bailey was first home in a time of 55.34 (Record 52.10 in 2010) and last year's winner Carl Moulton from Boalloy was a close second in 56.13. Jason Burgess of Buxton AC was third this year in 57.56 having been runner up last year. Local lady Harriet Pickup of Boalloy, last year's winner, was sadly out due to injury and so was unable to defend her title which went to Amy Clarke of Buxton AC in a time of 68.07. Unusually two unaffiliated runners took second and third spots, Kate Davies coming in on 69.45 and Carla Brown a regular and winner in 2017 came third in 70.57.



*Race winner Simon Bailey*

*photo: Bryan Dale*



*Fastest woman – Amy Clarke*

*photo Bryan Dale*

Representing Congleton Harriers in the actual race were Josie Galbraith and Rob Soames. Soames finished 183<sup>rd</sup> in 1:31:56 and Galbraith finished 229<sup>th</sup> in 1:42:05.



*Josie Galbraith resplendent in pink hat*

*Photo: Bryan Dale*

Race Director Nigel Poole presided over prize giving duties and on behalf of himself and the club would like to thank all the people that made the race a success from club mates that performed a variety and often multiple roles, to friends and members of other local running clubs. He would also like to extend his thanks in recognition of the support received from the Congleton leisure centre, Jola Medics, Private landowners, National Trust and all race sponsors.

The club is always keen to welcome new members so if you are thinking of thinking of joining then just come along to one of the 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. You can find full details on our Congleton Harriers website: [Congleton-harriers.co.uk](http://Congleton-harriers.co.uk). You can also connect with the club on Facebook where details of club activities are posted regularly.

Alternatively, come along to the Congleton Park Run on Saturday morning as there are always a good number of Harriers in attendance who are more than happy to chat. On the first Saturday of the month they are even easier to spot as there are always 5 or 6 of them pacing in their yellow running vests (this Saturday was no exception with Jo Moss, Jason Jones, Nick Budd, Jackie Moss and Cathy Dean providing the encouragement to the other runners).