

There was a strong turn-out of Congleton Harriers Runners at the Wilmslow Half Marathon on 24<sup>th</sup> March. Fourteen Harriers competed and there were again some impressive performances recorded including a top 100 finish (out of the 2,836 runners), a couple of age group top three positions and three new personal bests.

Dan Gibbs led the way finishing 71<sup>st</sup> in a time of 1.20.26. Paul Steel was 338<sup>th</sup> in 1:31:12, Emma Weston was 354<sup>th</sup> in 1:32:05, Carol Bird was 420<sup>th</sup> in 1:33:46, Mark Tilstone was 422<sup>nd</sup> in 1:36:39, James Yates was 537<sup>th</sup> in 1:36:39, Nick Wilkins was 807<sup>th</sup> in 1:41:56, Martin Sands was 903<sup>rd</sup> in 1:43:19, Roy Cochran-Patel was 905<sup>th</sup> also in 1:43:19, Ellie Linsell was 1220<sup>th</sup> in 1:48:34, Jody Brooks was 1529<sup>th</sup> in 1:53:02, Andrew Bell was 1671<sup>st</sup> in 1:53:13, Sue Blake was 1932<sup>nd</sup> in 1:59:47 and Martin Wood was 2072<sup>nd</sup> in 2:02:54.



*Dan Gibbs post Wilmslow Half*

*Photo: D Gibbs*

Weston, and Bird were both 2<sup>nd</sup> in their respective age categories. Yates, Cochran-Patel and Linsell were the three Harriers to set new personal best times.



*R-L: Age category winners Emma Weston and Carol Bird with Paul Steel and Mark Tilstone*

*Photo: P Steel*

Three other Harriers were also in action on 24<sup>th</sup> albeit facing a very different challenge from their road racing colleagues. The three were competing in the Edale Skyline race which is a tough fell race covering 21.1 miles and featuring 4505' of ascent. The route is unmarked, and the runners must find their own way to a set number of checkpoints throughout the course. Consequently, to even enter the race each runner must demonstrate that they have what it takes in terms of their off-road running and navigational skills résumé to the satisfaction of the race organisers before being allowed to participate.

There were 300 runners taking on the challenge of which 13 were unable to complete the course. Andy Roberts finished 96<sup>th</sup> in 3:41:06 and Pete Carvell was 117<sup>th</sup> in 3:48:10. Dave Clark, the third Harrier, was, unfortunately, one of the racers who had to retire before the end.

The club is always keen to welcome new members whether you are a speedy racer or more of a social runner. So, if you are thinking of 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. 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 we are even easier to spot as there are always 5 or 6 of us pacing in our yellow running vests. Speaking of which, this being the first Saturday in April, there will be a cohort of Harriers in their vests in attendance.