

The Christmas Cracker race organised by the Staffs Moorlands club is usually an eight-mile run over the Roaches but this year the course was deemed too dangerous and so the alternative route around the Tittesworth Reservoir was used instead. 206 runners, many in fancy dress took part with Congleton Harrier, Emma Weston in attendance, who finished 32<sup>nd</sup> overall.



*Emma Weston at Christmas Cracker 17.12.2017*

*photo Bryan Dale*

It was another weekend when many races fell victim to the weather, arguably the biggest casualty was the fourth and final round of the North Staffs. Cross Country league meeting but with icy paths and car parks and a poor forecast on the day the right decision was made. This left the overall standings as they were after three races. The men's team finished sixth in division two from fifteen teams. In the individual standings where all three races had to be run to qualify, Nigel Poole was 10<sup>th</sup> in his age category. In the fiercely competitive Men's 45 category, three Harriers were in the top 11, with Andy Roberts 11<sup>th</sup>, Chris Moss 9<sup>th</sup> and Bryan Lomas 8<sup>th</sup>.

In the Women's results the team finished 4<sup>th</sup> overall in division two from fifteen teams but went one better in the vet's standings, to take third spot from eighteen qualifying teams. Individually, there was success for Jo Moss taking third place in her age category with Lucy Rusbridge 7<sup>th</sup> in the same group and Michelle Stevens finished sixth in her age group.

Whilst this brought an end to cross country for 2017, there are the County, Northern and National fixtures for the club to look forward to in 2018.

Congleton Harriers run three times a week from the leisure centre and take part in races of all lengths across all types of terrain, if you're interested in running and want to know more, visit [congleton-harriers.co.uk](http://congleton-harriers.co.uk)