

The final cross country fixture of the North Staffs league was held at the weekend at Stafford common, with course conditions some of the driest in recent memory. 22 Congleton Harriers proudly wore the yellow vest and gave everything for the clubs cause. Long gone are the days of worrying if the club would be able to field a team, concerns now are if everyone will fit within the club tent. In the women's race held over 5k, Jo Moss was the first back in 24<sup>th</sup> place 23:37, Emma Weston was twelve places back in 24:23, Sarah Poole 57<sup>th</sup> in 25:47, Mel Worthington 64<sup>th</sup> in 26:15 just a couple of places ahead of Vicii Kirkpatrick in 26:24 with Beth Cliff in 153<sup>rd</sup> with a time of 32:55 this gave the club the best score of the three rounds with 181 points and placed the club third on the day from 16 clubs in their division.



*Mel Worthington at Stafford Common 17.12.2016*

*Photo Bryan Dale*

With sixteen male Harriers in the 265 strong field for the men's race a good team performance was on the cards, and so it proved with a points tally of 209 a 45-point improvement on their previous outing at Parkhall and their best of the season. Helped in no small part to James Briscoe who finished the 8km course in 30:24 and was 35<sup>th</sup> overall, Anthony Allan was 51<sup>st</sup> in 31:01 with Bryan Lomas 55<sup>th</sup> in 31:08 the fourth scoring position fell to Chris Moss in 32:09 for 68<sup>th</sup> spot. The other 12 places and times as follows; Mikko Kuronen 82<sup>nd</sup> 32:24, Stuart Rider 125<sup>th</sup> 34:10, Dave Clark 137<sup>th</sup> 34:57, Nick Budd 208<sup>th</sup> 39:11, Paul Crean 210<sup>th</sup> 39:16, Nigel Poole 225<sup>th</sup> 40:14, Mike Stanley 230<sup>th</sup> 40:44, Rob Soames 245<sup>th</sup> 42:42, Martin Rous 246<sup>th</sup> 42:55, Harry Stubbs 252<sup>nd</sup> 43:54, Dave Taylor 256<sup>th</sup> 45:14 and Steve Pullen 259<sup>th</sup> 46:57.



*Steve Pullen at Stafford Common 17.12.2016*

*Photo Bryan Dale*

After the race the presentations for the season were awarded in the nearby school, there was club and individual success for the Harriers. The men's V40 team came third, Steve Pullen was 3<sup>rd</sup> in the M60 age category and Bryan Lomas took 3<sup>rd</sup> in the M45 and successfully defending his V55 title from last year was Mikko Kuronen.

Then it was time to swap spikes for stilettos, as the club had their Christmas night out, a fitting way to celebrate another successful year as the club continues to go from strength to strength.

Congleton Harriers run three times a week from the leisure centre as well as organising many away runs and social events, to find out more on the benefits of running for a club visit [congleton-harriers.co.uk](http://congleton-harriers.co.uk) for more details.