

Sunday 2nd March was the day of the Cloud 9 hill race. This event was the first of the Congleton Race Series events organized by the Congleton Harriers. The other two races are the Passing Clouds Fell race from Tittesworth Reservoir coming up in June and the Congleton Half and Quarter Marathons in October.

The Cloud 9 has always been a popular event as it caters for fell runners of all abilities. This was a record year for entries which had been *on line only* for the first time. 517 runners entered the race and 435 started at 11 am from Brunswick Wharf. The weather was almost perfect for the event albeit a bit on the cloudy side, but the rain stayed largely away and the wind was not troublesome.

The winner was Damien Nichols from Wilmslow Running Club in 55:58 closely followed by local runner Carl Moulton from Boalloy in 56:29. Julian Goodwin, also from Boalloy took third place in 57:19. First lady was Mercia Fell Runners' Emma Gould in 23rd place in 1:06:37, with Wilmslow's Diane McVey second lady in 26th place; 1:07:06. Sarah Harris from Macclesfield Harriers was third lady in 53rd place; 1:10:57.

A number of Congleton Harriers took part in the race but the vast majority of Harriers and family were busy ensuring that the event was a successful, crisis free and safe one. The race complied with new Fell Runners Association guidance; a random kit check was conducted before the race and all runners were accounted for at both the beginning and the end. The marshals were, yet again, praised for their friendly and encouraging demeanor. All runners were provided with a cup of soup from Top Nosh and a bread bun. The now legendary cake stall was groaning under the weight of the home made goodies which had been home baked by Club members and family. These were enjoyed by runners and their supporters alike. All proceeds from the cake stall went to local charities.

The results for the Congleton Harriers taking part are as follows:

Place	Name	Time
195	Mick Byrne	1:22:10
221	Dave Geary	1:24:30
227	Heather Jackson	1:24:57
245	Sara Stead	1:26:46
349	Ali McNinch	1:37:48
358	Lucy Rusbridge	1:39:31

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