

Harriers Report number 12

The Staffordshire Moorlands Summer Series continued on Thursday 10th July with a new venue in Ipstones. The five or so mile course proved to be quite challenging requiring some nifty footwork to negotiate the tussocky fields and narrow woodland paths. Bryan Lomas was the first Congleton Harrier to cross the finish line. He was 9th in a time of 38:19. Second was Craig Hewitt in 25th place (42:56). Charmaine Wood was the first female Harrier in 46:21. The rest of the results are as follows: Matt Belford, 47:22; Jo Moss, 48:10; Dave Taylor, 49:39; Michelle Matthews, 49:40; Debbie Hill, 50:10; Jude Newham, 52:50; Paul Crean, 53:03; Lisa Byrne, 53:46; Helen Jeffry, 56:43; Jackie Moss, 56:59; and Lucy Rusbridge, 57:26.

The following Thursday, the Summer Series venue was Biddulph. This is a 3 lap course up through the woods at Biddulph Grange Country Park and back down round the small lake. The Harriers had another good turn out with the now familiar finishing order of Lomas in 14th place (30:46), Craig Hewitt in 33:57, Charmaine Wood in 35:56, Matt Belford in 36:15 and Jo Moss in 36:22. The remaining results were: Michelle Matthews, 38:42; Debbie Hill, 39:30; Paul Crean, 39:37; Dave Taylor, 40:22 and Jackie Moss, 44:51.

The ninth and final Summer Series event was held at Rudyard and consisted of one large lap down the railway side of the lake and back round through fields and between the houses. Thirteen Harriers turned out for the event where the final placings and prizes were decided. Lomas was the first Harrier home in 32:43, with Craig Hewitt second in 34:08. Charmaine Wood was first female again in 36:03 and Matt Belford was hot on her heels in 36:54. The rest of the results are as follows: Michelle Matthews, 38:59;; Debbie Hill, 39:54; Dave Taylor, 40:08; Paul Crean, 40:38, Heather Jackson, 41:05; Jude Newham, 41:09; Lisa Byrne, 41:42; Jackie Moss, 44:04 and Ella Lyman, 40:40.

Congleton Harriers had a good competition. Charmaine was overall 4th lady. Jo Moss came in 6th place gaining her the 1st LV40 prize. Michelle Matthews was 9th lady and Debbie Hill was 10th with the 1st LV50 prize. Bryan Lomas was 10th overall in the men's competition and 4th MV40 in a very strong and competitive field. Paul Crean was 4th MV 55. The ladies, Wood, Moss and Matthews took the overall team prize.

Lomas has had a busy time of it. On 12th July it was the Buxton Carnival 4 mile road race starting at the Spring Gardens and finishing in the market place. The race route was different from and slightly shorter than previous years but the good weather ensured excellent crowd support along the route. Lomas came 15th in 24:08. Jo Moss was the only other fellow club member there. She ran well and finished in 29:06.

The 16th July was the Forest 5 charity race organised by Macclesfield Harriers. This event incorporates an inter-club challenge but requires a team of 10 runners to qualify. Unfortunately significant car trouble for one member meant that the Harriers were one short of the requirement. Runners can be lulled into a false sense of security with the name, thinking that this is a gently 5 mile run around Macclesfield Forest. In actual fact this is a challenging race with some steep ascents. This year's event was not without incident. Some runners ran slightly further than the planned route due to one of the signs having been moved. A lorry and hole digging in the middle of the course gave the marshals a headache as they helped runners round the obstacles. The usual onslaught of man biting flies was added to by stinging wasps. Lomas was the first Harrier to finish what was by his own admission a stiff race. He was in 10th place in 38:47. Chris Moss was the second Harrier in 14th place, (40:05). The remaining seven were: Pete Newham, 42:45; Dave Clark, 42:53; Chris Hewitson, 43:05; Craig Hewitt, 43:13; Dave Taylor, 50:46; Michelle Matthews, 51:26 and Marie Jenson, 59:26.

Sunday 20th July was the Great Hucklow Fell Race. Lomas was the only Harrier to venture across to the Peak District. The 6 mile race had over 1000 feet of climb taking in Hucklow, Bretton and Abney. Lomas was pleased to finish in 8th place after running for 50minutes and 46 seconds.

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