

Congleton Harriers Race Reports.

Over recent weeks club members have tackled a variety of races over a variety of terrains. During the summer months local athletes are able to enjoy midweek races and these are proving to be very popular. The Clayton 10k has been organised for a number of years and is run over an undulating course. This race was run on Wednesday 2nd May and three Harriers competed. The in-form Steve Bacon was first Harrier to complete the course with a time of 36min.11sec and was placed 10th in a field of 230 runners. Rich Benson was next to finish in 44.20 (85th) followed by Harold Pinkney in 50.20 (167). Also run in mid-week are a series of races around the parks in the Potteries and the 1st of the series of four was run in Longton Park over 5k. These shorter distances allow runners to concentrate on their speed instead of stamina, which is required for the longer races. Again Steve Bacon led the Harriers home in a time of 17.15 followed by Harold Pinkney 23.04 and Clare Holdcroft 26.06.

Three of the clubs fell-runners travelled up to the Lake District to take part in the Buttermere Sailback Horseshoe Fell race. This is graded as a “tough” race and is run over 9 miles with 4650 feet of ascent. Bryan Carr finished in 1hr.56m followed by Pete Newham, a relative novice at this type of event, in a time of 2.04. John Amies was just two minutes behind Newham and had the satisfaction of finishing 1st V65 in the race.

In another midweek race twin sisters, Anna & Liz Reeves, travelled over to the Goyt Valley to take part in Shady Oak Tough 10k. As its name implied this is not an event for the faint-hearted especially as the weather was particularly bad on the night. Nonetheless the girls were pleased with their efforts with Anna just managed to hold off sister Liz with a time of 58.00 with Liz close behind in 59.03 (92). There were 120 finishers.

Last weekend was a busy time with the club represented at four races. South Cheshire Harriers stage a 20-mile race and Dave Taylor ran in the heat to record a time of 2.57.37, which pleased him greatly. He had trained assiduously with Malcolm Jackson for this event but Jackson had to pull out the day before the race due to a problem with his back. No doubt he will use his hard training for a similar event in the near future.

Two half marathons were held last Sunday at Chester and Sheffield. The very popular Chester half starts at the Old River Dee Bridge and finishes on the racecourse. And takes in a scenic route around the country lanes. Rich Benson led the four competing Harriers home with a time of 1.36.12 (238) followed by Val Fussell 1.50.51 (781), Dave Campbell 1.55.10 (945) and Andrew Bell 2.15.02 (1547). There were 1856 finishers.

Meanwhile over in Yorkshire the Sheffield half-marathon was run over an undulating course and Pete Doyle ran a steady race to finish in 1.39.43 (729). His wife, Felicity, had trained very hard over recent weeks for this event, and despite spraining her ankle only two weeks before ran a superb race to finish in 1.47.14, her best for some years. She finished in 1327th position but, more importantly finished 12th in her age group. Jason Jones also made to journey over the Pennines and recorded a time of 1.50.50 (1609). There were 3687 finishers.

Manchester hosted the Great North West 10k race, which was televised, and it attracted a field of over 27,000 runners. Caroline Partner was the club's only representative and she achieved yet another personal best with a time of 58.29 (9829)

Forthcoming events

The Staffordshire Moorlands Summer Series gets underway on Thursday 7th June with the traditional curtain raiser, at Tittesworth. This is a series of 10 races over the coming weeks with the final race to be held on 16th August. This is a very popular series of races and Congleton Harriers usually has the highest number of entrants of any club in the area. Highly recommended. See web site for further details. Recommended that transport be shared, as parking is limited at some of the venues.

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