

Racing this week kicked off with the 2nd SMAC summer series race on Thursday - a 5.9 mile/840' ascent of the Roaches. Charmaine Wood was the first Harrier home - 53rd out of the 222 runners in a time of 45:33. Alice Nimmo was the next Harrier finishing 96th in a time of 49:15 followed by Poly Kennerley - 117th in 51:24, Nigel Poole - 127th in 52:57, Debbie Hill - 151st in 55:41, Rob Soames - 154th in 55:53 and, crossing the line together, Ali and Jack McNinch 196th/197th in 60:43. In the junior race Archie Rusbridge finished 21st out of the 39 runners in 10:32.



Harriers at the SMAC summer series



Harriers at Bosley Fete

On Saturday there were 5 runners at the Bosley Fete Fell race: a 4.6 mile run with 820' of ascent. Chris Moss finished 35th out of the 90 runners in 38:16 followed by Charmaine Wood (completing her second hill race in two days and picking up the 3rd lady prize) finishing 43rd in 39:18, Helen Jeffery was 71st in 45:36, Harry Stubbs was 82nd in 48:43 and Dave Taylor was 88th in 53:52. In the Peak district Polly Kennerley and Suzanne Roebuck took part in the Baslow Boot Bash – a 26 mile long distance walking event. They belted along at a fair pace finishing 38th equal in a time of 6 hours out of 160 runners/walkers.

The Harriers were back in action at three different events races on Sunday. Michelle Stevens travelling the furthest - a 168 mile trip to Hampshire to run with Caroline Partner in the Hampshire Hoppit Trail Half Marathon. Michelle (returning to the half marathon distance with little preparation and training) finished 198th in an extremely credible time of 2:09:19. Caroline, acting as race sweeper finished 444th in 3:41:08.



Michelle Stevens at the Hampshire Hoppit

Slightly closer to home 8 Harriers travelled to Hayfield in the Peak District to take part in the Dark Peak Trail race (a 15.6m run with 2027' of ascent). Nick Budd and Phil Dawson led the Harriers home finishing in 38th and 39th position within one second of each other in 2:31:45 / 2:31:46 respectively. Helen Jeffery finished 82nd in 2:54:13, Debbie Hill 88th in 2:56:44, Alice Nimmo 91st in 2:57:19, Martin Rous 129th in 3:32:07, Ali McNinch 130th in 3:32:09 and Poly Kennerley 131st in 3:32:27. Special mention must go to Helen and Poly who both completed gruelling races the day before.

Finally, very close to home was the Colshaw 10k road race which always attracts a good number of Harriers. This year Sarah Rhodes, in her first runout in the yellow Harriers vest, was accompanied by John Carbutt, James Yates, Nick Wilkins, Sarah Higgins and Tom Simper. Out of the 1026 runners John was first back in 45th place in 38:49, James was 145th in 44:35, Nick was 348th in 51:14, Sarah was 560th in 56:59 and Tom was 720th in 61:15.

It wasn't all running this weekend; up on Cloud Louise Poole, Will Roberts, Nige Poole, Craig Hewitt, Anthony Allan, Grant Silk, Nick Wilkins were the Congleton Harrier volunteers doing a day's work for the National Trust to help maintain the pathways on the Cloud.



Harriers Cloud working party

Congleton Harriers run three times a week from the leisure centre on Monday, Tuesdays and Thursdays and always welcomes new members. Full details are on the Congleton Harriers website: Congleton-harriers.co.uk.