

Tandle Hill, Oldham was the venue for more cross country action, this time in the South East Lancashire league, 3 muddy and hilly laps made up the challenging 10k course, attracting 133 runners in the men's race. Bryan Lomas who always enjoys the experience of a new course even though he felt he could have run better, finished 33rd and 3rd in his age group in a time of 47:31. In 105th place was Nick Budd who crossed the line on his birthday in 59:11.



Bryan Lomas and Nick Budd SELCC Tandle Hill 10.12.2016

The following day, Lomas was back in action and this time he had five club mates for company at the Litton Christmas Cracker event, a race that at one stage looked likely to drop off the fell racing calendar until Buxton AC stepped in and delivered a great race to the 206 that took part. Set in the Peak District over 7.2 miles and 1,181 ft of ascent with mulled wine and mince pies to look forward to at the finish. Leading his club mates home, Lomas was 25th in 1:01:11, Paul Crean was next to finish in 1:17:08 for 116th place, Debbie Hill was exactly one minute behind and 122nd, Dave Taylor was 165th 1:26:30. Finishing in joint 176th place in 1:29:42 was Suzanne Roebuck who had felt unwell during the run and was supported and motivated to carry on by Polly Kennerley.



Debbie Hill at Litton Christmas Cracker Fell Race 11.12.2016 pic courtesy of Frank Golden

Another race with cracker in the title was the Moorlands Christmas Cracker, 8 miles of multi terrain with a trip over the Roaches between miles 2 and 4, the website suggests to runners if they don't expect to finish in less than 1hr 45mins then maybe this isn't the race to enter, no such time worries for lone Congleton Harrier Anthony Allan who could have nearly ran it twice as he stormed to fifth place in 57:45.



Anthony Allan at Staff Moorlands Christmas Cracker 11.12.20 pic Bryan Dale

More seasonal themed running for the 586 finishers at the Tatton Park Yule Yomp, a 10k race set within the grounds of the park, near Knutsford with all the proceeds going to three Cheshire based charities. Ali McNinch was the only Harrier present and crossed the line in 399th place in 58:09.



Ali McNinch at Tatton Yule Yomp 11.12.2016 pic courtesy of Epic Action Imagery

On the streets of Bolsover, there was a beast of a performance by Mikko Kuronen, tearing up the 10k course in 38:37 for 36th place overall from a huge field of 795 runners and first place in his age category.



Mikko Kuronen at Bolsover 10k 11.12.2016

pic courtesy of Rob Scriven

Congleton Harriers started their preparations for their first hosted race of 2017. Entries opened for what will be the 30th running of the Cloud 9 hill race on March 5th. With limited places available and 20% selling out on day one, runners are advised to enter as soon as possible full entry details can be found at congleton-harriers.co.uk