

Congleton Harriers were out in force again on 25th October as Race 2 of North Staffordshire Cross Country League (NSCCL) took place on Stafford Common hosted by the Stafford Harriers. In past years this has been a very wet and muddy course, but recent mild weather and above average temperatures made for good conditions and 15 men competed over the 10K course starting at 2pm. Bryan Lomas delivered a captains performance as first Harrier back in 61st place, Chris Moss was 69th and Andy Roberts 89th. The other twelve men were ranked as follows; Pete Newham 103rd, Dave Clark 115th, Craig Hewitt 116th, Graeme Burns 149th, James Pearce 152nd, Chris Hewitson 164th, Jack Sargeant 200th, Paul Bevan 201st, Bill Boynton 203rd, Dave Taylor 218th, Chris Thomas 233rd and Steve Pullen 282nd. This gave the men 553 points and placed them 7th (from 10) overall.

The women's race was held a half hour earlier over 5K and 6 yellow vested Harriers competed, with Charmaine Wood finishing a creditable 31st place out of the 184 strong field, Polly Kennerley was 55th and third Harrier home was Debbie Hill in 92nd, the other placings were as follows, Jayne Winstanley 99th, Polly Wilding 105th and Emily Heptonstall 142nd. This gave the women 277 points and place them 4th (from 12) overall.

On November 1st the Macclesfield Harriers held the Langley 7 event, a challenging course that rewards competitors with scenic views over Cheshire as they make their way up the one hill which comprises half the course! 6 Harriers rose to the challenge; Bryan Lomas again performed well finishing 24th overall and 6th in his category. The other men finished in 160th David Taylor, 177th Malcolm Jackson, and 258th Robert Soames. There was even better performances by the two women taking part with Sandre Jackson finishing 222nd and Elizabeth Smart 263rd which were 2nd and 9th respectively in their age category.

Meanwhile 32 miles away in Delamere Forest six slightly crazier Harriers were taking part in 'Hell Up North' the event a multi terrain 10-12 mile course taking in the delightfully named "Bog of Doom". Fortunately the unseasonably warm start to November meant there were no cases of hypothermia reported and there was a genuine team spirit on display with Jayne Winstanley finishing in 2hr 51min, Debbie Hill, Craig Hewitt, Michelle Matthews, Heather Jackson and Sara Stead came over the line together in a blanket finish in 3hr 2min and there was plenty of talk of a 2015 return.

The Congleton parkrun continues to be a popular draw with the Harriers held over a 5k distance at Astbury Mere every Saturday morning notable performance on 1st November was by Maria Jensen finishing 3rd woman overall in 24:18.

For more information about Congleton Harriers visit www.congleton-harriers.co.uk