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### **Harris hurries at Hestercombe Humdinger**

Weston Athletic Club runners swapped the glitz and glamour of their annual awards dinner on Friday for mud, hills and sweat over the weekend as they took on a variety of club championship challenges.

The Hestercombe Humdinger half marathon follows a largely rural route around hilly lanes on the outskirts of Taunton. With over 1,000 feet of climb, runners are also rewarded with some fast downhill sections. First to complete the course for the club's men was Josh Harris in 1.33.07. Tobias Hinchliffe followed five minutes later in 1.38.03, while Michael Reep took third club spot in 1.43.44.

Niki Fulstow was the club's only female runner taking on the full distance race, and finished in 1.46.27.

The club was also represented in the shorter 4.5 mile Hurtle race which partially follows the same route as the Humdinger. Paul Baker was the club's first finisher, in 32.51, followed by Noel Flynn in 34.19.

Janet Riddiford completed the course in a respectable 46.25. She was followed by Ellen Flynn and Nicky Baker, just seconds apart in 49.13 and 49.18.

Meanwhile, just seven club runners braved the mud and hills of the Dursley Dozen, which, following the recent rain, proved even more challenging than usual. Stuart Diamond took first club spot in 1.50.13. Jim Hayward showed no signs of fatigue from participating in the Gwent League cross country on Saturday, and finished next in 2.01.49. Barry Hall followed in 2.07.31.

Helen Diamond ran a strong race, despite the increasingly cloying mud, and finished in 2.16.33, followed by Caroline Holt in 2.41.50.

The club's next races are the Weston prom runs on Thursday 18 February. The junior one mile race starts at 6.45pm and the main five mile race follows at 7.30pm.

More information on these events, the club's other races, and becoming a member can be found at [www.westonac.co.uk](http://www.westonac.co.uk).

**ENDS**