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More Weston runners join the sub three hour 2016 marathon club

It was a good morning's work on Sunday for the seven club members taking on their spring marathons, and for most, the culmination of months of training through the winter. Manchester played host to five of them and Darren Stacey and Guy Bradford both ran strong races to finish in 2.56.14 and 2.59.01 respectively. Simon Lund, having only run Taunton marathon seven days earlier, crossed the line in 3.47.28, taking 12 minutes off his previous week's time. Sara Butcher and Laura Radford stuck together for much of the race, and even though Sara had run Paris marathon the weekend before, she still managed to finish in 4.56.09 followed by Laura in 5.09.53.

Meanwhile, Wilf Huxtable and Adrian Noble travelled a little further for their 26.2 mile effort, and ran the Vienna City Marathon. Both ran exceptionally well to finish in 2.54.14 and 3.01.16.

Closer to home, Thursday evening saw the sixth and final race in the Burnham 5k series which has allowed Weston's runners to test their mettle over a shorter race distance throughout the winter. Despite running on tired legs from Paris marathon at the weekend, Steve Kibblewhite was still first club member to complete the distance, finishing ninth overall in 19.25. Marc Whiting was hot on his tail in 19.32 and Stuart Diamond took third club spot in 20.11. Paul Snelling won his age category, finishing in 22.14.

Meanwhile, the result was even closer for the club's women with Julie Bailiss finishing in 23.48, Geraldine Hope just two seconds later in 23.50 and Jo Coveney in 24.08.

The series results proved most fruitful for the club, taking over half of the awarded prizes. It was a clean sweep for the club's women with Michelle Fryer, Jo Coveney and Julie Bailiss taking first, second and third overall. Stuart Diamond, Marc Whiting, Paul Snelling and Jill Naughton all won their age categories.

Recognition must also go to Debbie Brooks who finished second in her age category at the recent Taunton half marathon with a commendable time of 2.09.53.

The club's next event is the eighth race in the 2015-16 Weston prom run series on Thursday April 14. The junior race starts at 6.45, followed by the main race at 7.30pm. Race HQ for both events is The Bay Cafe on Weston seafront. Runners can enter on the night, or online at www.westonac.co.uk/promrun

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