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Weston runners get their skates on

Weston Athletic Club's members might have been tempted to swap their trainers for ice skates at their two most recent races, as plunging temperatures made for interesting conditions.

The final Burnham 5k race of the year was so icy that organisers treated it as a time trial instead of a race and parts of the course were so icy that a number of runners decided to withdraw to avoid the risk of injury. The Weston runners who did take part were rewarded for their bravery though, with the top five finishers all being club members. Chris McMillan was the first to complete the course in 16.43, followed by Kieron Summers in 17.29 and Ian Connock 12 seconds later in 17.41.

Niki Fulstow was the club's first female in 22.50 and second female finisher overall. Helen Diamond and Jill Naughton followed in 26.14 and 27.03.

Niki and Helen repeated their positions on Sunday when along with seven other club runners they travelled to Stoke Sub Hamdon to take on the Full Monty Cute - an off-road race of about 10.5 miles featuring ten hills and over 1,250 feet of climb. The conditions underfoot were surprisingly firm given the freezing temperatures.

Niki, despite still recovering from recent injury, ran a strong race to finish in 1.38.36. Helen took the club's second spot in 1.57.44 and Vanessa Andrews followed in 2.01.13.

Matt Wheeler was the club's first man to complete the hilly course in a time quicker than he was expecting of 1.22.23. Stuart Diamond followed in 1.27.45 and Paul Snelling in 1.43.41.

The next races in the 2016-17 Weston prom run series take place on Thursday December 22. The main five mile race starts on the seafront near the Tropicana at 7.30pm and is preceded by the one mile junior race at 6.45pm. Runners can enter on the night or online at www.westonac.co.uk/promrun.

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