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Plenty of prizes at Purdown

Weston Athletic Club pocketed plenty of prizes at the Purdown Pursuit last week. The 10k multi-terrain race starts off in Stapleton before following an undulating course around parkland and woodland including the distinctive yellow backdrop of the Dower House at Stoke Park.

Chris McMillan won the race in 36.38, taking over two and a half minutes off his winning time from last year. He also finished over a minute and a half in front of his closest rival. Kieron Summers was fourth to complete the race, and also won his age category, finishing in 40.11. Darren Stacey followed in seventh place overall with an impressive time of 41.22 and with Josh Harris finishing soon afterwards, the club also bagged the evening's team prize.

Sian Roberts was the club's first female to complete the course in 51.39, placing her third in her category. There wasn't much distance between second and third for the club, with Sarah Harris finishing in 1.00.54 and Maddie Cook in 1.01.12.

Sunday saw the club head down the Somerset coast to Exmoor to take on Minehead Running Club's Seaview 17. The race name is something of a misnomer, with the former race director admitting that he'd originally estimated the route length at 17 miles, when in fact it's nearer 21. The name stuck, and many an unsuspecting runner has found themselves on the top of Exmoor with four miles still to go until the finish.

This year's race saw about 130 runners tackle the off-road route along the South West coast path from Countisbury back to Minehead, with over 3,000 feet of climb along the way. They experienced plenty of sunshine, wind, rain and a little hail along the way.

Josh Harris had barely had time to recover from his Purdown effort but still managed to complete the distance in a very fast 2.54.18. Adrian Noble followed in 3.12.10 and Andy Chadburn in 3.18.42. Sarah Styles ran her personal best for the course to finish in 3.46.18. Vanessa Andrews also ran her fastest time for the event, finishing in 4.29.22, followed by Shaleen Summers in 4.46.03.

Entry is now open for the club's Christmas Cracker 10k which takes place on Sunday December 17. This year is the race's 30th anniversary and anyone wanting to sign-up can enter online at www.westonac.co.uk/christmascracker.

ENDS

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