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### **Weston AC in pursuit of glory**

The ongoing heatwave has continued to make for challenging conditions for Weston Athletic Club's racing members with two off-road championship races to contend with in the past week.

Thursday saw the second of the Town and Country Harriers summer series events - the Purdown Pursuit - a six mile, undulating off-road route around the Stoke Park Estate in Bristol.

With last year's race winner Chris McMillan resting ahead of Saturday's race, the competition to be the club's fastest male opened-up. With both Rob Furlong and Matt Wheeler taking part, and both running at the top of their form, all bets were off as to who would cross the line first. In the end, it was Rob who took the spoils with a 21 second advantage over Matt, finishing in 43.09. Matt did however win his age category. Bill Green took third club spot in 47.48 enabling the men to take the race team prize as well.

With only three women taking part from the club, the prospect of points was in the bag before the start, but it was anyone's guess who would finish first. The results couldn't have been closer for first and second club spot with Julie Bailiss finishing in 58.11 and Helen Diamond just a second behind. Carol O'Leary's 59.10 time earned her first place in her age category.

Saturday saw many of the same runners back in action at Charmouth, but with Chris McMillan and Susan Duncan running for the club, there were no prizes for guessing who would finish first. Although, due to the heat, he couldn't match last year's time, Chris still managed to retain his race-winning crown for the third consecutive year with his 53.32 finish. Matt Wheeler showed no signs of Thursday night's performance slowing him down, and was the club's next finisher in 1.04.18, with Bill Green finishing third again in 1.09.36.

Susan completed the tough eight mile course in 1.10.37 taking third place overall and leaving the competition open for second and third club places. In the end it was Nia Davies who finished first in 1.15.21 followed soon after by Michelle Fryer in 1.16.06.

Entry is now open for the 2018/19 Weston prom race series - nine races along Weston's seafront following a completely flat five mile course. As well as the five mile option there is also a monthly one mile option for junior runners. For more information visit [www.westonac.co.uk/promrun](http://www.westonac.co.uk/promrun).

ENDS

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