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Weston Athletic Club members' marathon effort

The weekend saw the spring marathon season get well under way with Weston Athletic Club taking on 26.2 miles at the big city Manchester marathon event as well as the decidedly lower key Taunton marathon.

Six members travelled north to Manchester and all ran strong races to achieve excellent times. Ian Connock was first to finish for the club in 2.52.04, followed by Toby Andrews in 3.15.08. Sheryl Selway put all her hard work in training to the test and finished in a superb 3.46.40, earning herself a 'good for age' place at next year's London marathon.

Stephen Burton and Natalia Casey both finished inside four hours, Stephen in 3.58.52 and Natalia in 3.59.08 which was a great achievement at her first marathon. Maddie Cook could not have come closer to finishing in under the four hours thirty mark with her 4.29.59 time.

Only Simon Lund and Gareth Weaver from the club were brave enough to tackle the full marathon distance at Taunton which covers two laps of the undulating half marathon route, and can be a very lonely place in the second half of the race. Credit to Simon and Gareth for finishing in 3.42.47 and 3.57.56 respectively.

Meanwhile eleven club members opted for the half marathon event which saw James Bertenshaw cross the line in 1.25.17 followed just over a minute later by Allan Fuller in 1.26.32. Paul Hudson took third club spot in 1.34.53.

Michelle Fryer was the club's fastest female and finished in 1.39.49, followed just seconds later by Katie Gormley in 1.40.02. Emma Lane secured third club spot in 1.52.06. Mention must also go to Adrian Marshall who ran the race for the 31st year in a row and was rewarded with second place in his age category with his excellent time of 1.56.57.

Last week also featured the final race in the Burnham 5k series. Weston's runners finished the series in fine form with the club's first three men all achieving new personal bests. Will Fuller finished second overall with a blistering time of 16.25. Matt Wheeler and Richard Taylor couldn't have been much closer for second and third club spots with Matt crossing the line in 18.04 with Richard just a second behind him.

Michelle Fryer was the race's female winner in 20.21 followed by Helen Diamond in 23.09 and Sam Buzza just six seconds later in 23.15.

Matt and Michelle were rewarded for their consistent efforts over the series along with Richard Brent and all walked away with series category wins.

The next races in the Weston prom run series take place on Thursday 25 April. The main five mile race at 7.30pm is preceded by the junior one mile race at 6.45pm. Runners can enter online at www.westonac.co.uk/promrun or in person at the Bay Cafe at the Tropicana.

ENDS

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