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Weston Athletic Club goes further

With spring marathon training still in their legs, it was a great opportunity for Weston Athletic Club members to push their limits a little further at the weekend, with road and off-road ultra marathons available.

On Saturday three members opted for the Dartmoor Discovery - the UK's longest single lap road ultra marathon. At 32 miles and with ascents up some of Dartmoor's most challenging hills, the event is serious running territory with a six-and-a-half hour cut-off time. 180 runners finished the race, but only 156 did so inside the time.

Having had unfinished business from last year when he finished second, Kieron Summers returned to the event to see if he could better his performance. And, despite the temperature reaching the mid-twenties, that he did. Kieron won the race in 3.57.02, almost half a minute ahead of the second-placed runner. Josh Harris ran a strong race to finish in 4.56.55 and Teresa King came second in her category in 5.36.56.

Sunday's ultra-offering was the off-road Mendip Challenge organised by Weston Hospicecare. Mainly a walking event, it always attracts a number of Weston AC's members keen to try their hand at a more relaxed ultra-distance event. This year, in celebration of the hospice's 30th anniversary, the club was keen to field at least 30 runners to run the 30 mile route from Wells to Uphill. At least that many assembled in their yellow tops at Weston Cricket Club at 6.30am ready for the trip to Wells.

But for two of the club's members, running once along the Mendips was not enough, so Emma Lane and Lee Francis decided to set off just after midnight from Uphill, running through the night to Wells, where they met up with their club mates just before 8am to begin the run back to Weston. They each completed a colossal 61 miles running and over 9,000 feet of climb in under 15 hours.

There are no official results from the day, but an estimated 80 club members took part in either the 30, 20 or 10 mile options, raising vital funds for the hospice and with many running their longest distances ever.

Entries are now open for the club's next off-road race - the five mile Beacon Batch fell race which takes place on Tuesday 18 June at 7.30pm. More information at www.westonac.co.uk/beaconbatch.

ENDS

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