Brough Park Running Club weekly event. (03/12/2016)

Brough Park Run was back on track with a cluster of new registrations. As some of our regular entrants headed to the Potteries to test themselves on a flatter, park course, a bunch of Stoke Fit runners found their way to Leek and competed over a more testing path.

After being given a brief tour of the route they lined up still a little apprehensive as to the directions around our twisty course. “Just follow that man” they were told, as Nick Hulme toed the line; well they would have to be fit to keep up as he shot off and lapped more than a handful of runners to clock 20.12 - an exact time to a previous event and only twenty seconds off his best effort; even Jack Hancock wasn’t able to keep pace finishing over two minutes in arrears in 22.18, and also twenty seconds off his best.

Isaac Elkington managed to fend off the challenge of Donna Eames, the latter returning one of her even paced times of 23.19 while the former gained third place with a PB of eleven seconds in 23.01.

Karl Birch also gained a PB of four seconds in 25.50, while Tony Williamson recorded a slower solo-run time of 25.33 and was unable to make up the twenty four second gap on Kevin Holroyd, who is edging close to his best effort.

Susie Noble seems to cover the ground effortlessly and without a care in the world, to record 27.23 on this occasion; the Cumberbatch pair of Jonathan and Jacob clocked a slower 28.01, while Bill Mould pushed hard to gain 29.02, a faster time than of late, with Wendy Lee only a dozen seconds behind.

Four new entrants from the Stoke area flowed around together; twenty seconds separated Roger Bennett’s time of 29.54 and Alison Corbett, with Steve Holdcroft and John Beats tucked in between; Claire Williamson’s slower run saw her finish three seconds behind the group.

Jan Percival and another new entrant, Elizabeth Smith, paced each other to a 31.14 finish with Richard Aust thirty three seconds ahead; followed by Amanda Hampson’s 32.40 and Dawn Brown’s 36.12.

All but one of the 2.2K entrants returned slower times than previous: Grace Bond (9) 10.54; James Burgess (6) 12.42; Joshua Eames (5) 17.13; David Hinton 17.55 escorting Laurie (5) – dressed in his caped outfit; one exception being new entrant Mary-Jane Searles’ 19.49.

The 3.6K had Jordan Ash (12) leading the way in 15.55, with Dominic Cumberbatch (9) clipping twenty seconds off his best to record 18.26; Lorna Stoddart eased her way into the distance with a 23.06 time.

The Junior 2.2K run saw Sienna Phillips (10) once again lead from the off to finish in 10.23, with brothers, Edward (7) and William Dodd (4) recording 12.16 and 15.07.

Thanks to Rachel Massey, Kathryn Smith and Chris Dale for officiating, and Richard Dodd for assisting in the makeup.

B. (An ear to the ground and an eye on the times)