

# Special Awards - All Nominees

A huge well done to all those nominated for a special reward. Here are some of the reasons behind the nominations.

## Best Newcomer to the Club

### **Archie Davies - WINNER**

Archie joined mid last year, so was only able to compete at two Youth Development Leagues (YDLs) where he went on to win a mixture of throwing, jumping and sprint events. He also competed in Sports Hall in the winning Cheshire side alongside a Gold and two Silvers at the Northern Indoors across shot put, long jump and 60m sprint.

Whilst he only competed later on in last year's outdoor T&F season, he posted some amazing results.

### **Alicia Roberts**

Alicia is a very talented runner, being a Cross Country specialist. She has secured several top 10 positions in the Manchester Area Cross Country League in 2025, putting her in an elite band of Greater Manchester and wider area runners, just below national standard.

She has also thrown herself into Fell and Track, with some great performances at the British Fell Relays and Fell handicap, where she set a course record. She has formed a lovely group of ladies who run brilliantly together and make great teams for various events. :)

### **Annaleigh Harrison**

The only U15 girl who has represented the club in Cross Country this season.

### **Carl Barnard**

Newish to running, Carl is dedicated and achieving great times.

### **Fearne Parker**

Fearne joined the club in April 2025, and it quickly became her happy place. She always turns up to training with a positive attitude and a huge smile on her face. She gives 100% at each session.

As new members continued to join, Fearne took on the role of mentor. Recognising those lacking confidence and reaching out to support and encourage. A couple of parents said she was the reason their child came back to further trial sessions and then went on to become a member themselves.

Harriers is more than just a sports club. It's a community of truly wonderful people - Fearne's attitude and kindness will make her an integral part of that community for a very long time.

### **Jenna Williams**

Jenna has recorded some notable results in fell races in 2025, including an outstanding 3rd place at the Eyam Fell Race in August, 2025, out of 113 females. And that contained a collection of nearly all the best fell racers from clubs across the Peak District.

### **Joseph Osuji**

2nd in 1500m English schools, won Dave Sunderland Cross Country, 1st in Cheshire Champs u/15.

### **Josh Hughes**

Josh turned up to a Thursday session with the club and went straight to the front of 'A' group. He's had some impressive performances in 2025 - 1h 19m 53s at the Cheshire Half Marathon and 34m 51s at the Wilmslow Festive 10K.

### **Simone Breedon**

Simone started trail running in October 2024 and then went on to complete the UTMB Tenerife Ultra 47k and the UTMB Ultra Trail Snowdonia 50k, both with substantial ascent and difficult terrain.

### **Vinny Teale**

Vinny has been a great asset to the club. He is a dedicated athlete and really gives his all to every session. He started competing as soon as he joined and is a great example to others in the group.

Vinny made a fantastic start to his season. His decision to sacrifice his football commitments has already started to pay off, with solid, consistent low 50-second 400m times. We're excited to see what he can achieve in 2026, confident that sub-50 is well within his sights, especially with his positive approach to training.

Joining the sprints group last season, Vinny has been a welcome and capable addition. Soon after joining, he threw himself into track competitions, trying out different distances and relay events with really great results, 11.9 - 100m, 52.8 - 400m

## **Commendation Female**

### **Caroline Gisby - WINNER**

Caroline continues to inspire and be a great role model for the girls because she herself competes in so many different events across the club: T and F, XC, Fell, club social runs, and manages teams. We believe she got a few PBs and even a club record this year, too!

### **Catherine Crossley**

Catharine is active in Fell and Trail. She also keeps the Club Instagram well managed, as well as taking on her own challenges and supporting others.

### **Eliza Duffy**

Eliza has missed very few training sessions over the last 18 months, with a 95% attendance record. Training this consistently, while studying for her A levels alongside a part-time job, is a testament to her determination to improve. She has set her sights on a degree course at Loughborough and is working tirelessly to produce the times she wants to be a part of such an illustrious sporting university. It's a real pleasure to play a part in her athletic pathway and she will be very much missed by all of us in the group when the time eventually comes for her to study for her degree.

Eliza was consistent and dedicated to her training in 2025 - she also stepped up to compete in the 400m for the first time.

### **Kirsty Birch**

Kirsty completed the Sur les Traces des Ducs de Savoie (100 miler, part of the UTMB event) - incredibly hard - should be enough for the Endurance Award, usually!

### **Millie Egerton**

Consistent performance in hammer yet again throughout 2025, moving to 4kg. Bronze and silver medalist at the Cheshire Champs. PBs in hammer, 100m and 200m.

## **Commendation Male**

### **Ian Humphreys - WINNER**

For Ian's 100 Marathons and fundraising. He has completed 100 marathons over the past 14 years - an amazing achievement and feat of endurance.

### **Andy Sutton**

Paddy Buckley Round - should be good enough for the Endurance award!

### **Archie Guest**

For Archie's continued commitment to Track and Field, Cross Country and Indoor Sports Hall events - excellent participation and encouraging attitude.

### **Bill McDonald**

Bill joined the Sprints group last year from Buxton Athletics Club, bringing with him a wealth of knowledge as an athlete and coach, thanks to his degree in Strength and Conditioning and his Master's in Sports Physiology. It's been very helpful to use his skill set as a coach. He is a great senior role model for the group and a prolific competitor in Masters competitions - he is already knocking on the door of several club records. Bill rarely misses a session (when he's not coaching the U10s in Buxton) and has become a real asset to the overall improvement and development of the group.

**Chris Melvin**

Christopher set lots of new PBs and speedy times across a range of Track and Field events throughout 2025. 11.5 - 100m, 23.58 - 200m and 54.66 for 400m. He has a great attitude to sport, and it's exciting to see him compete.

**Michael Wood**

For Michael's fantastic attitude to training, racing and the way he looks after everyone in the group.

## Contribution to the Club

**Alison Hartopp - WINNER**

For Alison's dedication to the Endurance Group, which is improving every year. Alison has fostered a fantastic attitude across the group, which is evident when new athletes join. Everyone is made to feel welcome.

**Alison, Bev and John (Endurance)**

All three do such a great job supporting the whole Endurance Squad wherever they go. This nomination is our way of saying thanks for the time and care they give.

**Barbara Murray**

Barbara is the face of Macclesfield Harriers, even though she retired from being Track and Field Manager, she is still up at the track coaching every week and at Startrack.

**Catharine Crossley**

Catharine mentioned on a trail run at the end of 2025 that it was the first run in 2 years of Trail or Fell that she'd joined where she wasn't leading. We'd like to thank Catharine for all her efforts to make Trail and Fell runs possible.

**Charlie Bird and Simon Frith**

For their unwavering support and dedication towards the Sprints Team athletes. Both Charlie and Simon dedicate a huge amount of their time and energy to supporting the young athletes and have, between them, created a fantastically competitive team.

**Dan Hunsley**

Dan does an incredible amount of work pulling all the Track & Field activities together and ensuring the Grand Prix events are so successful. This nomination is for organising the kids, planning training and race schedules, keeping track of results, and all the other behind-the-scenes support.

### **Dave Larkin**

This nomination is for Dave's commitment to the club over the last year, leading the C groups on both Monday & Thursdays. He has a fantastic variety of routes, is friendly, and no one gets left behind! He also took a separate group over the summer from Teggs Nose on Monday nights. This enabled many of the slower runners to enjoy the off-road hilly group runs. We'd like to commend him for his knowledge of the footpaths, his routes and the time taken to organise the runs. Thank you!

Dave is an integral member of the club, being consistently available for over 10 years. The club is richer with him in it. He carries out so much unseen work behind the scenes, in addition to leading on Monday and Thursday nights; for example, taking the time to prepare professional standard e-mail introductions to newcomers' enquiries.

### **Emma Lord**

Emma has put so much of her own time and effort into the Cross Country season over the last 12 months, especially. From the massive admin tasks of entering everyone into the races to the many race days when she arrives early, gets the event shelter up, cheers us all on, provides cake and then lugs the muddy, wet event shelter home again. All with a smile on her face. What a woman!

### **James Patmore**

James makes an outstanding contribution to the club through his commitment, initiative, and genuine care for both athletes and the wider club community. He coaches the Under 10s, 12s and Under 14s, as well as leading the throws group, giving his time generously across multiple age groups and disciplines.

His coaching is thoughtful and well-informed, and he continually seeks to improve his practice by travelling to other clubs to observe and learn from fellow throws coaches across the region. Beyond coaching, James consistently goes above and beyond to support the club in practical and meaningful ways. He qualified as both a track judge and a field judge purely so he could help the club at YDL matches, demonstrating his willingness to step in wherever he is needed. If James sees a problem, he does not walk past it – he fixes it. Whether that means building storage solutions for hurdles, creating competition opportunities for athletes, or quietly taking on tasks that need doing, he does so without fuss and without seeking recognition. Above all else, James is an exceptionally kind and approachable person. He is supportive, positive, and respected by athletes, coaches, and officials alike. His attitude and actions embody the very best of what a club volunteer should be, and his contribution has made a lasting and tangible difference to the club.

James always goes out of his way to support athletes and solve problems - he coaches different levels of athletes; he supports athletes on competition days (especially the juniors and the indoor sportshall). He is always looking for different ways to advocate for athletics and encourage more people into the sport - and always with a smile on his face.

### **Julian Brown**

Such an amazing inspiration. He's done so many endurance events. There's nothing he's not done. Most importantly, he gives so much to the club and not only inspires but also single-handedly helps people to achieve things. He sacrifices his own race to help people get around ultra events. So humble, shows true humility and gives so much to the club. Thank you, Julian!

### **Kelly Buckley**

For all her efforts with the Trail Group.

### **Mark Godden**

As treasurer, Mark contributes an incredible amount of time and effort behind the scenes. Managing the club finances, membership renewal reminders, submitting membership, helping manage Facebook groups, paying bills, and answering queries. In addition, he contributes hugely as a member with his running with the groups and in races. Without his efforts, the club could not operate. He has done all this quietly for several years which should be recognised.

### **Neil Gunn**

Neil does so much work behind the scenes to make sure the club website is accurate and in good condition. He helps all the section leads and responds to/actions tasks very quickly!

### **Tom Whittington**

Tom has done a fabulous job running the Fell group for a number of years and deserves a huge thank you! Weds night runs/fell weekends away/relays/individual rounds/first aid courses, etc. The list is long!

## **Female Endurance**

### **Rebecca Till - WINNER**

Rebecca completed several endurance races: the Spine Challenger South in June 2025, with a build-up of races including The Hebden, Howarth Hobble and The Fellsman; "the real show of endurance was that she went at my pace and took far longer than her normal age-grade podium position pace! She was sparkling company throughout, and I'm grateful she chose to hang out with me for the duration of these events!"

### **Angela Gittins**

Angela completed the Winter Spine Challenger (South) in horrendous conditions, demonstrating tremendous strength of character and raising much-needed funds for the Search and Rescue Dogs Charity. The winter event was in horrendous conditions, but she made it look easy!

### **Fiona Blagg**

For her stunning win and overall 7th place in the 2025 Gritstone Grind. "I believe it was the second fastest female time ever, 5:52:15, and I think that the fastest time may have been on a shorter course/line, which made the difference."

**Phoebe Adam- Mercer**

Phoebe has been dedicated to her endurance training and ran races in both XC and T&F - notably as the only U14G to run a longer distance in the Northern Outdoor Championships.

**Sarah Booth**

Sarah for her outstanding performance in the Howgill's Trail Marathon in 2025. In addition to the 1400m of climb, Sarah had to contend with brutal winds to record 6:35:32 and a well-placed finishing position. She makes the most of her ability and her enthusiasm and keenness are a shining example to everyone.

## Male Endurance

**Rob Gittins - WINNER**

Among other races, Rob achieved the first round of the Ethels. A great achievement and stunning performance over 6 days - Fastest Known Time. In fact, one person who nominated Rob just filled the entire box with the word Ethel - and Smile! Other people renamed The Ethels Round as The Gittins Round. From the hours spent planning the route, to the many hours spent running 300 miles, mostly solo, Rob's Ethel link-up is truly one of the great endurance performances of club history.

**Fin Pettie**

Fin (U20) tried his hand at the Gritstone Grind this year, quite possibly for the time. He finished 29th overall but first in his age category in a time of 6:45.

**Gary Rogerson**

For completing the Spine Challenger South.

**Gus Fisher**

Outstanding performance in the North Staffs Cross Country League and Cheshire Championships.

**Ian Humphreys**

Ian has joined the 100 Marathon club. "My dad, whom the Endurance award is named, was an avid road marathon runner and would have been tremendously impressed by Ian's achievement of concerted endurance."

Ian ran his 100th marathon in November. He consistently runs multiple marathons a year. His 100th marathon was the culmination of multiple years of consistently pushing himself to complete a distance which many of us consider the ultimate distance in road running!

**James Barlow**

James completed the full winter Spine in horrendous conditions ... an amazing achievement.

**Matt Johnson**

Matt completed the Ultra-Trail Snowdonia (UTS) 100K after a long break from running due to family commitments. He went on to complete it in an incredible time and also win his age category.

**Toby Wallis**

For his Bob Graham completion.

## Most Improved Athlete

**Jake Rowley - WINNER**

Jake has worked consistently for a number of years to improve his 800m pace, and it has paid off. His new PB achieved in August 2025 of 1:54.90 is a great improvement and a club record, it is believed.

**Chris Melvin**

Nominated for the massive improvement seen this year at competitions.

**Eryn Mitchell**

Eryn has improved in hurdles particularly with many PBs.

**Gabby le Geyt**

Gabby has had a brilliant year, with excellent performances, notably at Fell relays, Bollington 3 peaks and various summer races. She has become so much quicker and has put it down to losing some of the fear of pushing herself in racing.

**Joe Pickard**

Prior to 2025, Mark Burley used to beat him! Joe was already outstanding, but he has reached another level in 2025. For example, he finished in a stunning 3rd place at the Wasdale Fell Race in July 2025, close to an international standard performance.

**Lewis Furness**

Great Cross Country race results despite being one of the youngest.

**Oscar Furness**

Oscar (U14) was incredibly dedicated to his endurance training last year and posted some amazing results in long-distance races.

**Simone Breedon**

Completed Ultra Trail Snowdonia (UTS) 50 shortly after starting running.

### **Tom Shirley**

Tom continues to go from strength to strength. He seems to get a PB at almost every race he participates in, ranging from 5Ks to marathons.

## **Most Promising Athlete**

### **Ben Hunsley - WINNER**

Ben is a fantastic all-round athlete and a true multi-eventer. This is proven by him finishing in the top 100 on Power of 10 for four events, including High Jump (27th), Long Jump (37th), 75m Hurdles (50th) and 60m Hurdles (79th). Alongside this, he is also ranked in the top 250 for 75m Hurdles, Javelin and Shot. He competed in several track, sportshall and indoor events throughout the year, which is great to see.

Ben has gone from strength to strength over the last year. He's so incredibly committed to athletics and always gives 100% effort. In the Cheshire Championships, he won: Gold - 75m Hurdles, Gold - High Jump, Gold - Long Jump, Silver - 200m and Bronze - Discus. He has achieved PB awards level 8 in 75m Hurdles and High Jump, and level 7 in Long Jump.

He also competed in the Trafford Pentathlon in Sept 2025 and achieved a Club Record of 1565 points - an improvement of 500 points on the previous year.

He competed in all 4 Cheshire Grand Prix's, winning overall for the U13 boys and gaining 112 points. This was the highest number of points by any athlete across all categories. Ben's committed attitude also extends to the Youth Development League (YDL) events, where he competed in 3 out of the 4 matches, gaining valuable points for the club.

### **Alicia Roberts**

Alicia is very fast in the hills/fells and this year took the female Handicap Record. She's brilliant!

### **Archie Davies**

Excellent performances in Track and Field and Indoor Athletics.

### **Eliza Duffy**

Eliza has improved her times this season and is most consistent in training throughout the year.

### **Gus Fisher (see Athlete of the Year below)**

Gus has just had a great year. Definitely one to watch for the future.

### **Jake Ireland**

Jake has worked extremely hard in 2025 and has had some amazing achievements this season. He has trained relentlessly and been successful (as an individual and as part of a team) in Fell and XC and was even chosen to run for England. He is a rising star who deserves the success that he works so hard for.

### **Joseph Osuji**

Joseph has been a great addition to the endurance group, fully prepared to challenge the speediest U17 and U20 in the group. He has had success in the 1500m in competitions but is also having a good blast at the school XC competition too.

## **Notable Individual Performance**

### **Fiona Blagg - WINNER**

Fiona is primarily a triathlete. She runs at track with Macc Harriers and occasionally on the trails but is limited by weak ankles. Her first ultra was in 2014. Gritstone Grind 2025 was just her second one (having had 2 children in-between).

In the race, she swapped the lead a number of times with another lady who overtook by running through the feed stations while Fiona stopped to refuel. The strategy worked and she took the lead for good over the fields to Langley. After White Nancy, the heavens opened turning competitors into drowned rats, but undeterred she stayed strong right to the end, finishing in 5h52, 23 minutes ahead of 2nd lady and 7th overall. Also the 2nd fastest ladies time in the race's history.

### **Alicia Roberts**

For smashing the ladies' record in the Fell Handicap.

### **Ben Hunsley**

For a brilliant performance in the Cheshire Champs and Grand Prix.

### **Fareeda Yumna Mutahara**

Nominated in recognition of her determination, resilience, and positive attitude. Fareeda sometimes finds running challenging, but she always gives her best effort and never gives up. Her perseverance and willingness to keep trying, even when things are difficult, truly demonstrate her strong character.

### **Joe Pickard**

For every race/challenge he does. He's 'grassroots brilliant' and takes on challenges with utmost respect for the terrain/conditions, training brilliantly. He's also incredibly understated and humble.

### **Thomas Wood**

For representing England U17 at the Junior Home International.

Team of the Year (a team that entered a competition representing the club)

**Cheshire Road Grand Prix/Ladies Road Team - WINNER**

Not only did our ladies win the Cheshire Road Grand Prix, but they also completed a 1-2-3 in the individual standings as well! At all eight of the Grand Prix races, our ladies finished at or near the front. There was even one race, Pie and Peas 5, in which the first four female finishers were all Harriers!

**U17 Boys Team at Northern XC**

3rd team at Northern XC - Jake, Thomas, George and Jared.

## Athlete of the Year

**Gus Fisher - WINNER**

Gus keeps getting better & better in training and racing. Great attitude. Amazing U13 performances across different disciplines. Plus he is a fantastic XC competitor.

Gus has continued to build on his 2024 success with some fantastic performances in middle distance on Track, Road Relay and XC. He finished the track season 19th for his age group on Power of 10 for the 1200 and 39th for the 1500. At the National Road Relays, he ran the 4th fastest leg and also finished first in a 5k with a PB of 16:52. He recently won the Northern XC Championship, winning by over 20 seconds.