

## **A note from Club Chairman, Steve Davies**

The fixtures calendar for 2009 is already filling up quickly and I thought it would be useful to remind everyone about the leagues we'll be competing in this summer. Although 2008 was a great year for Mansfield Harriers we have even higher hopes for 2009.

On the track and in the field we are hoping for success in the **Midland Track and Field League in Division One**. Both our Men's and Women's teams have the National League qualifying matches as their targets – wouldn't it be great if Mansfield could boast a national league team?! Athletes may be selected for this team from under 17 (year 10 at school) upwards.

Our **National Junior League** team narrowly missed out on the National Finals last year and will be hoping to put this right in 2009. There are 4 fixtures in this league with Under 17 and under 20 athletes eligible to compete (from year 10 upwards to those who are still under 20 as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009).

League competition outside of the county starts from year 6 upwards as athletes compete at Under 13, Under 15 and under 17 age groups in the **National Young Athletes League where we are in the Midland Premier Division**.

**The 3 leagues above are our focus track and field competitions and I ask you to make sure these dates are in your calendars and to make yourself available for selection wherever possible. I also ask our younger athletes to think about the wide range of events on offer in these leagues – if you are interested in trying a different event (e.g. sprints or throws) have a word with one of the coaches.**

In addition to these we also compete in the Midland Veterans League (Men and Women over 35) and in the Nottinghamshire Mini League. The Mini League is an excellent competition for Under 11's (years 4&5 – minimum age 9), Under 13's (years 6 & 7) and Under 15's (years 8 & 9) and is a great opportunity to try out events that aren't your normal events.

**On the road our main focus is the Notts AAA Road Race League.** With a race every month from April to August this is open to all athletes **aged 16 and over** on the day of the race. Whilst there is some top class competition at the front end of the race it's an ideal event for anyone wanting a midweek run out. Our aim here, as well as winning some prizes, is to get as many blue and green vests out at each race as possible.

We also compete in the Booth Decorators Road Race League. This again is free to enter, the distances are shorter than the Notts Road Race League and you must be at least **14 years of age** on the day of the race.

If you want any further information on any of the above leagues please don't hesitate to ask one of the coaches or team managers.

The year has started well with victory for our Senior Men's team in the County Cross-Country Championships, taking the trophy from Notts AC for the first time in 42 years. **Let's make sure we do the club proud this summer!!**