

Mansfield Harriers fielded 17 teams in last weekends Midland Road Relay Championships at Birmingham's Sutton Park with the adults competing on Saturday and the youngsters on Sunday.

106 teams started the Men's event with each of the six runners taking on one lap of the 5.85km course. The first 25 teams to finish were guaranteed qualification for the National Championships which take place at the same venue in a months' time.

Stuart King was one of the 106 to leave the start line together on the first leg coming back in 13th place with a time of 18:49. Chris Brown was next out and, despite slipping 6 places, ran well under 20 minutes to clock 19:45. James Mee, after an excellent summer season, showed good early winter form with a blistering third leg recording 18:21 and taking 9 runners in the process.

New recruit Sean Ledger ran well to hang on to ninth position on the 4th leg running a very useful time of 19:37. With the average age of the first four athletes standing at 19.5 this more than doubled on the last two legs to 43.5 as Steve Grainger and Doug Ross took on the pressure of retaining a top 20 finishing position. Steve recorded 21:09 for the fifth leg slipping two positions to 11th before Doug ran 21:02 to bring the team back in 14th place with an overall time of 1:58.43.

With several athletes missing this event due to injury the team will be hoping for some quick recoveries over the next few weeks as they look to improve on their 40th place finish in last year's National Championships.

Natalie Yates returned to the Women's team with style after a 2 year lay off. Going out on the first leg she brought the team back in 11th place recording 15:46 to take the honours for the fastest Mansfield time of the day. Taking over for the second leg of the 4.3km women's course Liz Lilley proceeded to pick off athlete after athlete coming home in 16:04 and handing on to Miriam Tedder with the team in a fantastic 4th position. Up against some strong athletes she returned in 12th clocking 18:42 before setting Nikita Pembleton off on the last leg. Nikita just made sure of a top 20 finish for the team coming back in 18:39 to post an overall team time of 1:09.11.

The Women's "B" team of Katina Green (19:30), Eva Williams (19:26), Jane Stafford (20:08) and Maddy Collinge (19:55) finished in 44th position with an overall time of 1:18.59.

Rob Wilbraham had a three and a half hour journey to Sutton Park from his new base in London arriving just 30 minutes before he led out the Mens "B" team who finished in 61st position. Wilbraham ran 23:29 before handing on to Dave Peet who returned in 22:31. Graeme Wilkinson and Tim Raynor were third and fourth out clocking 24:16 and 22:58 respectively. The youngest and oldest team members finished up for the "B" team with youngster Luke Marshall running 21:52 and Pete Stafford recording the fastest time in this team with 21:04.

The biggest field in the junior races was in the Under 15 girls where 33 teams completed the 3 lap course. Claire Talbot led out the Mansfield "A" team and recorded the third fastest performance of the 107 girls at this age group. Talbot brought Mansfield back in second place recording 14:45 for the 3.86km lap. Demi-Jade Jakymelen was second out

for Harriers coming back in 4th place in a time of 15:26 before handing over to Rachel Brandham who ran 15:13 to retain 4th place.

It was left to the Under 13 girls to pick up the only medals of the day for Mansfield – Elle Saxton, Molly Johnson and Chevelle Baxter coming home with bronze. Saxton ran 16:09 on the first leg to put the team in 8th place, Johnson then picked up 4 places whilst running the 5th fastest leg of the day in 15:19 before Baxter picked off one more runner with a time of 15:43 to ensure a medal spot.

Molly's twin brother Sam couldn't match her on the medals front as his Under 13 Boys team finished 4th however he did record the second fastest leg of the day after leading the field home over the first leg. David Wilkinson had the unenviable task of leading out the second leg runners and did well to hang on to 3rd place with a highly respectable time of 15:27. Lewis Ashmore was last out and despite running 15:21 couldn't hold off the opposition as the team just slipped out of a medal slot.

The Under 17 Women became the third Mansfield team to just miss out on the medals with their fourth place finish. Hannah Wragg brought the team back from the first leg in 3rd place clocking 15:08 however the two athletes finishing ahead of her were both solo runners so Dea-Anna Davey took Harriers out for the second leg in the lead. Running 16:03 to bring Harriers back in second place Davey then handed on to Emma Wilkinson who, despite a good run in 15:40, couldn't quite hold off the girls from Royal Sutton Coldfield and Leicester Coritanian who came through into the medal positions.

The Under 15 Boys team finished in 8th position with Ryan Saxton's first leg of 12:59 being the 6th fastest time of the day in the second biggest field. Will Stone recorded 14:24 over the second leg and Tom O'Mara 14:10 over the third.

Daniel Winter (13:08), Daniel Ward (15:17) and Richie Talbot (14:09) took 17th place in the Under 17 Mens event to round off a day of good performances for the juniors.

Other Mansfield Teams: Under 13 Girls "B" team - 7th place – Tamsin Smith (16:30), Caelidh Ross (16:04), Claire Norris (17:15). Under 13 Girls "C" team - 19th place – Abigail D'Aguiar (17:50), Holly Smith (18:21), Hazel Blount (18:20). Under 15 Girls "B" team - 22nd place – Hannah Hardy (16:31), Alice Mortiboy (17:48), Charlotte Bellingham (16:31). Under 15 Girls "C" team – 30th – Jessica Smith (18:37), Emily D'Aguiar (20:30), Hayley Silver (17:05). Under 17 Women "B" team – 9th place – Laura Brown (15:49), Holly Blount (16:45), Sophie Ward (16:01). Under 17 Women "C" team – Kate Raynor (16:10), Gina Radford (18:11). Under 13 Boys "B" team – 13th – George King (16:08), James O'Mara (16:11), Bailey Wardle (15:34). Under 13 Boys "C" team – 19th – Jordan Boam (16:40), Sam Raynor (16:55), Josh Boam (20:00). Under 15 Boys – "B" team – Tom Wragg (14:41). Under 17 Boys "B" Team – James Bellingham (15:57)

Elsewhere on the road Miriam Tedder posted a new personal best in the Leeds half marathon finishing 255th in a time of 1:35:38 and Trevor Hiscox was 18th in the Mablethorpe Half Marathon in 1:27:17.

At the Derby Midweek Training Races Trevor Hiscox doubled up in the mile where he clocked 6:07 and the 5k which he completed in 19:02. He was joined in the 5K by Daniel Ward and Alan Maddocks who recorded 19:43 and 21:16 respectively.