

Mansfield Harriers & Athletic Club

Mansfield Harriers hosted their traditional end of season Open Graded meeting at Berry Hill Park last weekend where several strong performances and personal bests were witnessed.

A highly competitive Javelin event with 21 competitors saw Sheffield AC athlete Luke Peters, who trains at Mansfield, throw just 7cms short of his personal best to reach 61.31 metres. His younger brother Tom threw a new PB of 48.16 metres retaining his number 2 UK ranking at Under 13 level but moving within 1 metre of the UK's leading thrower.

The quality competition inspired others and Mansfield's father and daughter pairing Steve and Becky Woolley both threw new personal bests. Becky's new distance of 35.75m moves her up to 5th place in the national rankings at under 15 level and Steve's 38.73 moves him into 8th spot in the VM45 national rankings. Chris Ashmore also recorded a new PB with a throw of 36.33m.

Mansfield's top three 400m runners decided to move up a distance and test their legs over two laps and were led round by the club's leading 800m runner Chris Brown. Brown came home in 1:56.7 and dragged the trio on to all record sub 2 minute times. Sam Cordin's time of 1:57.0 ranked him as second fastest Under 20 in the East Midlands this year whilst Paul Wright and Martin Cook both recorded PB's of 1:57.1 and 1:59.3 respectively.

Brown moved on to the 400m next winning in 50.0 and in the process spurring on Adam Sansom to a new PB of 52.2. These two then moved on to race again over 200m where, despite slipping in his blocks at the start, Sansom took revenge winning in 23.7 with Brown just a tenth of a second behind.

Matt Woolley was fastest athlete home in the 100m, winning in 11.6 seconds, and became the first recipient of the John Tomlinson Trophy. This new trophy was presented to recognise the 80th birthday of the Mansfield official and coach who has given over 60 years service to Mansfield Harriers. John himself came down from the judges stand to present the trophy.

Stuart King ran a season's best of 9:08.0 in the 3000m and this encouraged 3 other Mansfield athletes on to best performances – Luke Marshall clocking 10:10.3, Tom O'Mara 10:54.2 and Daniel Ward 11:09.8.

Elsewhere there were good end of season performances from Rachel Gair in the Hammer, her best throw of 59:04 just 78cms behind her personal best and from Christie Childs, recording 60.5 in the 400m and 2:20.4 in the 800m. Under 13 Sam Johnson clocked a new PB of 2:33.0 in the 800m and Under 15 David Lagerberg ran strongly in the 400m to record a time of 54.3 secs.

Meanwhile as the Olympic action kicked off in Beijing, Mansfield Harriers Senior League team made the trip to Stoke for the last fixture in this season's Division One fixture.

With a weakened team due to injuries and holidays Harriers did well to finish 4th on the day retaining their 3rd place spot in the overall league table.

As the GB team in Beijing came in for criticism for their performances in the throwing events Mansfield made up for this with double wins in both the Men's and Women's Hammer. Chris Berry made a welcome return to competition after a long lay off to win the A string Men's event with a throw of 46.82m and Paul Gair took the B string with 41.21m.

Gair sisters Rachel and Charlotte took the double in the Women's Hammer throwing 56.21m and 27.29m respectively. Charlotte followed this up with a 3rd place spot in the A string Discus and B string Shot and Rachel took 3rd in the A string Shot and 3rd in the B string 100m. The fourth member of the Gair family to take a top 3 spot was Hannah, competing for the first time this season, taking three 3rd place spots in the A string Javelin, B string Shot and B string 100m Hurdles.

The Woolley family continued the family theme with Matt and Steve taking 3rd place spots in the A and B string Shot and Discus respectively and Richard securing second in the Javelin. Matt followed this up with a second in the B string 110m Hurdles.

Mansfield's third double victory of the day came courtesy of Lucy Spray and Jess Grieves in the 400m Hurdles. Lucy recorded 67.8 for first spot in the A string and Jess came home first in the B string clocking 71.9.

Steve Lisgo made sure of victory in his last race on British soil for a while with a comfortable win in the 3K Steeplechase. Lisgo is now studying and training at University in the USA where he'll be hoping to improve yet further on his encouraging form of the last 2 seasons.

Sam Cordin clocked 50.0 to win the 400m and was second in the 200m with a time of 22.6 whilst younger brother Jonathan was 3rd in the 100m in 11.5. Mansfield victories also went to Chris Brown in the 800m and Tom Bell in the B string Triple Jump whilst top 3 spots were gained elsewhere by Martin Cook (2nd in B 400m and A Triple Jump), Stefan Wilcockson (3rd in 400m H and 110m H) and Lee Peters (2nd in B string Javelin).

4 Mansfield athletes competed in the England Athletics National Under 15 and Under 17 Championships at Birmingham's Alexander Stadium.

Adam Sansom finished 3rd in his heat to qualify for the final of the Under 17 Men's 400m Hurdles where he ran a new personal best of 56.72 to finish 6th.

Charlotte Gair was 6th in the Under 17 women's Discus recording a best throw of 32.90 metres whilst Becky Woolley threw 30.81 metres in the Under 15 Girls Javelin to take 7th place.

James Hardy qualified for the final of the Under 17 Men's Hurdles but unfortunately

failed to finish.

Gair and Sansom have both been selected to represent the East Midlands in the UK School Games taking place in Bath and Bristol from 28-31 August. Joining 1600 competitors from 9 sports they will experience their first multi-sport event in an environment designed to replicate a major sporting event. With an Athletes Village and Opening and Closing ceremonies the 4 day event is designed to give young athletes a taste of what action is like at a major event such as the Olympic Games.

Away from the track Mansfield's athletes have been turning out in force at local road races over the last few weeks.

41 Harriers took part in the last fixture of the Notts AAA Road Race League held at Teversal Grange where their performances secured top 3 finishes in the final league table for the Veteran Men, Veteran Women and Senior Women.

James Mee, having run a new personal best of 1:57.98 over 800m the night before at the Trafford Grand Prix, unsurprisingly found the going tough but still managed to come home as first Mansfield runner in 8th position.

Stuart King was next Harrier home in 10th position with Pete Stafford less than a minute behind him in 12th. Stafford's performance took him into the top 10 in the overall league table and he took the honours as second in the VM40 category.

Chris Brown finished 16th and Dougie Flett had another strong run to finish 30th. Steve Davies came back in 36th position and it was great to see Darren Hodgkinson, on his return to racing, managing a top 50 placing in 49th.

The first three Mansfield women back were all competing in their first fixture this season. Liz Lilley returned to racing in style with victory in the Ladies race having opened up a gap of over 30 seconds on her nearest rival. Natalie Yates returned in similar style with a strong seventh place spot and Jackie Massey, after a long lay off from racing due to injury, showed that her form is returning finishing in 12th.

Miriam Tedder in 15th and Nikita Pembleton in 21st completed a strong line up for Mansfield's women who should be looking to capitalise on this over the winter. With Lisa Farquharson, Kirsty Huntington and Amie Grainger all missing from this fixture and all having recorded top 6 spots in earlier races this team should be well capable of taking back the League title that they won for the first time last season.

Miriam Tedder and Vanda Curley took individual awards – Tedder finishing 6th overall and 2nd in the Senior ladies category and Curley securing 3rd place spot in the VL45 category.

OTHER MANSFIELD FINISHERS: MEN – 56: Dave Peet, 66: Andy Squire, 67: Brian Harris, 68; Rob Wilbraham, 70: Trevor Hiscox, 89: Marcus McCarthy, 90: Josh Takoaka, 97; Steve Hargrave, 106; Hedley Cardwell, 107; Pete Collinge, 110: John O'Reilly, 131:

Bob Scott, 133; Keith Mellor, 138; Colin Fell, 140; Julian Wood, 159; Chris Lowe, 161; D. Robertson, 163; Dave Ward, 185; Dave Rose. WOMEN – 33: Susan Day, 36: Eva Williams, 43; Tina Green, 49; Vanda Curley, 52; Carol Hartin, 58; Jane Stafford, 70; Denise Winfield, 76; Chris Fell, 79; Angela Davies, 83; Michelle Peet.

At the Newark Half Marathon Stuart King finished in 14th position recording 77:20 and winning the award for the first local runner home.

Dougie Flett was 47th in 1:24.22 and Trevor Hiscox made the top 100 finishing in a time of 1:28.08 taking 91st place. Miriam Tedder was the first Mansfield lady home with a time of 1:38:49 followed just a minute later by the trio of Julian Wood, Colin Fell and Steve Taylor.

Dave Ward was 443rd in a time of 1:49.47 with Tina Green, 506th in 1:53.07 and Michael Collins, 597th in 1:58.19 making up the Mansfield contingent.

Following his success at Newark, Stuart King made it a local double with a win over the much shorter distance of 5km at the Newstead Abbey Dash. In a time of 15:54 King came home over 20 seconds clear of his nearest rivals who battled it out for second place spot.

Pete Stafford celebrated his first race competing as a VM50 with 4th place overall and winning his age category. Youngster Richie Talbot just made the top 10, finishing in 9th place in 17:25 with Steve Davies, Trevor Hiscox and Bob Scott also making the top 20.

OTHER MANSFIELD FINISHERS: 23: Daniel Ward, 29: Claire Talbot, 31: Pete Collinge, 34: Graeme Wilkinson, 40: David Hall, 46: Kate Raynor, 49: Julian Wood, 52: Eva Williams, 64: Vanda Curley, 65: Maddy Collinge, 69: Helen Scott, 111: Elaine Wells.