

It has been a testing nine days for Mansfield Harriers youngsters with action in three different leagues, all on home soil at Berry Hill Park - Alex Rieley and Ellie Saxton shining through, recording two victories each.

Both crossed the line first in the Notts Mini league and in the Notts Schools league fixtures, Rieley in the U13 Boys and Y7 Boys races respectively and Saxton in the U15 Girls and Y8/9 Girls. With tougher competition at the North Midlands League fixture Rieley did well against older competition to finish in fifth spot with Saxton taking eighth.

Hannah Hardy was another to place well in all three races, finishing with the same time as Saxton at the North Mids fixture to take ninth position and then taking third in the schools fixture and second in the mini league.

With just one match remaining in the North Midlands League Harriers sit with comfortable leads in Gold medal spot in the U13B and U15G categories. The Veteran Men and Women are both in second spot, the men only 13 points behind Redhill and the women just 18 behind Holme Pierrepont.

Callum Cullen was the first Mansfield athlete back in the Senior Men's race, a well controlled run giving him 12th place ahead of Stuart King and new signing J Quentin, both also taking top twenty spots with 16th and 19th respectively.

Mark Johnson was just outside the top twenty in 21st spot and with Chris Dale in 31st these five gave the senior team third place finish on the day behind Notts AC and Derby AC. With the team strengthening as each match goes by another strong performance in the final fixture at Wollaton should move them from fourth spot into the bronze medal position.

Doug Ross was just one second and one place behind Chris Dale and with Steve Davies and Tim Raynor finishing in 56th and 63rd the veteran men closed the overall gap on Redhill. These three are all in medal spots in the individual rankings going into the last match, Ross leading the VM45 with Raynor in third whilst Davies is in second place in the VM50 category.

Miriam Tedder, shortly to leave Mansfield to take up a new job in Kent, was the first Harrier back in the senior ladies race, finishing in 22nd with Eva Williams, in 33rd, retaining her silver medal spot position in the series. Williams could be in for two medals as she was a member of the trio, along with Clare Coombes (50th) and Carol Hartin (53rd) that kept the Vet women's team in second overall.

Sam Johnson was Mansfield's highest placed finisher of the day, placing second in the U13 Boys race. With Lewis Ashmore in fourth and Alex Rieley in fifth this trio opened up a 35 point lead on nearest rivals Peterborough in the overall series. Johnson and Ashmore are both in with strong chances of individual medals too - both sitting on nine series points just one behind Alex Hampson of Nene Valley.

Sam's twin sister Molly was highest placed female of the day with her third place finish in the U13 Girls race. Chevelle Baxter was fourth in the U15 Girls and Rachel Brandham fifth at U17 level.

OTHER MANSFIELD FINISHERS: U13B – 6: George King, 11: Bailey Wardle, 19: Ben Hardy. U15B – 10: Tom Wragg, 11: Jake Lancaster, 23: David Wilkinson, 31: Sam Dobb, 36: Jordan Boam, 37: Jonny Brown. U17M – 13: Ryan Saxton, 15: Richie Talbot, 17: Ewan Millar. SM - 73: Pete Stafford, 84: Chris Brown, 99: Rob Smith, 103: Graeme

Wilkinson, 104: Alan Crewe, 105: John Harrison, 118: Matt Brennan, 131: Jonathan Mitchell, 139: Jason Foster, 153: Julian Wood, 172: Carl Lancaster, 193: J Hardy, 195: I Dobb. U15G – 20: Charlotte Bellingham, 21: Amelia Mitchell, 23: A Winning, 29: A Keogh, 30: L Wade. SL – 57: Amanda Hardy, 59: Kate Raynor, 61: Ann Brown, 63: S Armitage, 64: Clare O'Mara, 68: Gina Radford, 69: Denise Winfield. U11 - 20: Maddison Wardle

The third Nottinghamshire Mini League fixture saw victories for Mansfield in three out of the six races, Caelidh Ross taking the U13G with Emma Heath (2nd) and Claire Norris (3rd) making it a straight 123 for Harriers.

Hayley Silver (5th) backed up Ellie Saxton and Hannah Hardy to ensure victory for the U15G team whilst James O'Mara and Bailey Wardle were third and sixth respectively behind Alex Rieley in the U13 Boys event.

Jake Lancaster was the first Mansfield vest home in the U15B race, am Dobb (7th) and Sam Raynor (9th) making up the scoring trio. Roby Codd and Archie Raynor led the way home at U11 level both finishing third. Codd was backed up by Ellie White (4th) and Jessica Tomlinson (6th) whilst Alistair Flynn (9th) and George Partridge (11th) did likewise in the Boys.

OTHER MANSFIELD FINISHERS: U11G – 10: Laura Herrod, 17: Maddison Wardle, 23: Megan Purchase, 24: Chloe Fisher, 26: Elisabeth Rieley, 29: Katie Lancaster. U13G – 6: Rachel Norris, 12: Sophie Beckingham, 13: Abbie Winfield. U15G – 9: Alice Mortiboy, 10: Harriet Codd, 15: Robyn Foster. U11B – 18: Josh Boam, 22: Daniel Winfield, 24: Burt Lewis. U13B – 9: Ben Hardy, 12: Andrew Frettingham, 16: Jack Foster. U15B – 12: Jordan Boam.

Mansfield Harriers members took placed first in four of the eight races in the final Notts Schools League fixture, Archie Raynor (Year 5/6 Boys) and Nicole Goulding (Year 7 Girls) joining Ellie Saxton and Alex Rieley on the victory podium.

Claire Norris and Sam Johnson both ran well in the Y8/9 races to finish second. Lewis Ashmore, George King, Sam Dobb and David Wilkinson packed well behind Johnson to occupy positions three to six with Emma Heath, Harriet Codd and Amelia Mitchell taking fourth, fifth and sixth behind Norris.

Along with Hannah Hardy (Y10/11 Girls), Ewan Millar and Emma Cundy recorded third place finishes in the Y10/11 Boys and Y7 Girls respectively.

OTHER MANSFIELD TOP TEN FINISHERS: Y5/6 Boys – 6: Harrison Smith. Y7 BOYS – 4: Ben Hardy, 5: George Pidding, 8: Tom Longstaff. Y8/9 Boys – 9: James O'Mara. Y10/11 Boys – 7: Tom Wragg, 9: Tom O'Mara. Y5/6 Girls – 4: Ruby Codd, 10: Laura Herrod. Y8/9 Girls – 8: Tamsin Smith, 10: Rachel Norris. Y10/11 Girls – 5: Eleanor Winning, 6: Hayley Silver.