

Mansfield Harriers fielded three men's and one women's teams at the Ed Prickett Memorial Relays held last weekend.

Staged in memory of the Nottingham University student killed in a road accident whilst cooling down after the British Universities Championships in 2004 this annual event takes place over a sharp 2.05 mile course.

With 4 legs in the Men's event Mark Johnson led off for Harriers A team on a leg that was won by Ben Norris, Under 20 bronze medallist at last weekend's National Cross country Championships.

Johnson is training well at present and will be one to watch for a medal at the Notts AAA Summer Road Race League. At Nottingham he ran strongly to come back in 15th spot clocking 10:27.

Doug Ross, in training for the London Marathon, took over from Johnson, returning in 18th place and recording 11:09 for his leg before handing on to triathlete Chris Dale.

Dale ran the fastest Mansfield leg of the day picking off five other athletes to return in 13th place in a time of 10:24 – and this after a heavy training session on the bike in the morning.

James Mee quickly switched his Birmingham University vest for a blue and green one, having already run the first and third legs for his student team, anchoring Mansfield home in 16th spot with an individual time of 11:09, having earlier clocked 10:33 and 10:35.

Steve Grainger led off for the B team running hard to clock 10:58, Harriers third fastest leg of the day. Alan Crewe again showed that he is returning to form running 11:53 on the second leg before handing on to Tim Raynor.

Raynor ran 12:00 and handed on to Doug Ross, running his second leg of the day, this time bringing the team home with an individual performance of 11:33.

Another London Marathon aspirant Graeme Wilkinson led off for the C team, returning in 12:07 to hand over to Colin Fell who clocked 14:07.

Dave Robertson ran 14:02 on the third leg with Trevor Hiscox anchoring the quartet home in 13:55.

Georgia Milton led off for the ladies, coming back in 16th spot in a time of 13:53. Kate Raynor took over on second leg running 14:42 before Ellie Saxton produced the best leg of the day for Harriers running 12:55.

Caelidh Ross also ran an excellent 13:20 on a solo first leg with second claim athlete Lara Thomas, running for Birmingham University, clocking the fifth fastest overall leg of the day with 11:48.

As part of their London marathon preparation Richard Massey and Graeme Wilkinson, along with Jackie Massey and Trevor Hiscox, took to the roads at the Norton 9 mile race.

Wilkinson's goal was to break the 60 minute barrier which he did – clocking 57:52. Jackie Massey also broke the one hour mark, coming back in 58:58 with Trevor Hiscox returning in 63:48.

Arguably though, pride of place went to Richard Massey, Mansfield Harriers third longest serving member. Not having raced competitively for over 25 years Massey, who now coaches many of Harriers promising young athletes, decided to run the London Marathon in April this year. From a zero start 4 months ago he has gone on to run 70:02 for 9 miles at Norton and must surely now be looking for a sub 4 Marathon on April 25th.