

Mansfield Harriers attracted a record entry for the 5th running of their 5K Road Race. Sponsored by Mansfield Building Society and supported by Ridgeway Textiles and SDC Trailers the two lap race around the roads of Berry Hill was enjoyed by 225 finishers.

With a finish on the track in Berry Hill Park the closing stages were dramatic as Bruce Raeside of Notts AC and James Mee from the home club battled it out. Raeside got a better line as they turned on to the track and used this to his advantage to hold off Mee – Raeside clocking 15:12 with Mee just 2 seconds behind in 15:14.

Tim Hartley of Notts AC was third in 15:40 and took the prize for first VM40 home whilst Daniel Jepson from City of Sheffield was first Under 17 man back in 17:48.

Jane Potter of Charnwood was the first lady back, returning in a time of 17:06 with Jenni Musson of Shepshed taking the VL35 prize in a time of 18:49. Lizzie Mellor of Charnwood made it a clean sweep for Leicestershire by taking the honours in the Under 17 Ladies category in a time of 20:01.

Harriers had another 7 finishers in the top 20 with some good battles along the way. Stuart King, Danny Barkes, Chris Dale and Danny Heathcote all finished within 13 seconds of each other to take 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th respectively with Mark Johnson not too far behind, taking 12th place in 16:28. Chris Brown and Luke Marshall completed the top twenty listing.

Kahli Johnson was first of the Harriers ladies back, finishing as 13th lady in 21:27 with Helen Scott, 3 places behind her in 21:44.

The introduction of 2 new prize categories – for the first local business and first local health club to each finish 3 competitors – were won by West Notts College and Bannatynes respectively. Gordon Fay, Matt Fisher and Junior Glave were the winning West Notts trio whilst Bannatynes were represented by Andy Jane, David Robertson and Claire Bale.

Mansfield were also well represented at the Newstead Abbey Dash 3 mile race with Mark Johnson finishing in an excellent second place overall in a time of 15:37. Danny Heathcote was third in 15:49 and Richie Talbot made it 3 in the top 10 for Harriers with his time of 16:52 taking 9th spot.

Kahli Johnson was first Mansfield lady back, taking the VL35 prize with her 54th place overall in a time of 20:23. Laura Massey took the honours in the U20 Ladies category with a good run placing her 75th overall in a time of 21:44.

OTHER MANSFIELD FINISHERS: 22: Graeme Wilkinson – 18:19, 23: Alan Crewe – 18:24, 29: Daniel Ward – 18:47, 39: Trevor Hiscox – 19:25, 48: David Robertson – 20:02, 63: Clare Coombes – 20:46, 74: Wanda Curley – 21:32, 85: Maddy Collinge – 22:35, 88: Tina Green – 23:10, 90: Denise Winfield –

23:16, 93; Faye Gardener – 23:28, 102; Clare O'Mara – 24:06, 118; Lisa Crewe – 25:58, 127; Linda Wilkinson – 26:43.

Pete Collinge finished 9th in the Sutton Harriers centenary 5 mile race recording a time of 34:54 and was joined in the race by Tina Green (17th in 38:14), Maddy Collinge (18th in 38:22) and Carol Hartin (29th in 50:37).

Highlight of the Mansfield Harriers promoted Open Track and Field Meeting was the appearance of some of the UK's leading throwers.

Mark Dry from Woodford Green produced one (if not the) longest ever Hammer throw at the Berry Hill stadium unleashing it 70.11m, just 70cms short of his own personal best. Dry is currently ranked number 1 in the UK and led the way in an excellent Hammer competition that also saw Chris Shorthouse of Notts set a new PB of 64.56m to move into 11th in the UK rankings.

The UK's leading Under 15 Ashley Gilder of Notts threw 65.19m in the Hammer and local athlete Rachel Gair yet again threw close to 60 metres with a best throw of 59.52m.

The Javelin competition saw entries from two of the UK's leading 4 athletes in Rose Semenytsh of Windsor, Slough and Eton Harriers (ranked 4th) and Laura Whittingham of Sale Harriers (ranked 2nd). On the day it was Semenytsh that proved the stronger, throwing a new PB of 51.81m.

Mansfield's best performances came from Joseph Sassi in the Under 15 Boys 200m and 400m where he clocked 25.3 and 54.5 respectively, Beth Mortiboy in the Under 13 girls Long Jump, whose new PB of 4.31m moved her into 6th spot in the East Midlands rankings and Chris Clarke who threw within 7cms of his PB in the Under 15 Boys Shot.

There was the usual end of season battle over 800m from some of Mansfield's senior sprinters – Martin Cook and Paul Wright both producing impressive sub 2 minute efforts to clock 1:58.8 and 1:59.6 respectively.

Adam Sansom took two Golds and one Silver at the Bank Holiday Monday Open meeting staged in Birmingham by Birchfield Harriers. A win in the 400m Hurdles in 56.60 was followed by an excellent battle over 400m with Birchfield's Ese Okoro. Sansom seized the Gold by 2/100ths of a second recording 50.01. A leap of 5.85m in the Long Jump was rewarded with silver to complete a successful day.

Elsewhere at the Birchfield meet Martin Cook and Martin White clocked 11.48 and 11.90 respectively and Ella Shirley ran 2:44.71 to take the bronze medal in the Under 13 Girls 800m.

James Mee set a new PB competing for the Midlands in Antwerp recording a time of 14:45 over 5000m. At the same meeting there was a return to representative action for Olympic representative from Athens in 2004 Ricky Soos who lined up in the same 800m race with Chris Brown and Danny Barks. Brown finished 6th in 1:53.02, Soos 8th in 1:53.47 and Barks 10th in 1:54.52.

Brown went on to win a 1500m race in 4:02.97 whilst Sam Cordin was 5th in the 400m in 50.38 and Stuart King 7th in his 1500m race in 3:59.05.

David Lagerberg was Mansfield's only representative in this years UK School Games staged in South Wales. Competing for the East Midlands the Joseph Whitaker School athlete from Rainworth ran 23.36 in his heat of the 200m.

Mansfield's men aim for National League status when they go to Abingdon on September 19th having qualified to take part in the British Athletics League Qualifying match. With a strong team on paper Harriers will be hoping to stay injury free over the next 2 weeks to test their strength against some much bigger clubs. With competition from City of Norwich, City of Glasgow, Edinburgh AC, Nene Valley AC, Hercules Wimbledon, Reading AC, and Victoria Park this event will give Harriers a great feel for where they stack up against some of the country's much bigger clubs.