

Mansfield Harriers were well represented at both of last weekend's televised athletics fixtures.

Danny Barkes, Rachel Gair, Steve Lisgo and Chris Brown all qualified to compete in the Aviva World Trials and UK Championships at Birmingham, Lisgo choosing to rest in preparation for next weekend's European Under 23 Championships in Lithuania where he gains his first GB vest.

Barkes and Brown both contested the 800m heats on Friday evening finishing 6th and 7th respectively. Barkes ran an excellent race to come within 0.26 of a second of making the semi-final running 1:52.04 in a race won by Beijing Olympics runner Michael Rimmer. Brown ran 1:54.45 in his heat.

Rachel Gair finished 5th in the Women's Hammer with a best throw of 58.12m. Gair is still in search of a 60 metre throw but continues to hold her own against the best throwers in the UK and was happy with this performance after a difficult few weeks.

Meanwhile 13 athletes were under the eyes of Sky TV as they competed in the Aviva English Schools Championships at Sheffield. Having to achieve a qualifying standard to take part in this event, the weekend was a first real taste of top competition for many of the youngsters.

Chris Clarke took top spot for Harriers returning with a Bronze medal from the Junior Boys Shot. Adding another 51cms to his personal best with a throw of 13.89m Clarke has had an incredible first season in the sport.

There was disappointment for the two other medal prospects, Charlotte Gair and Becky Woolley both unable to capture the sort of performances they have been producing all season in the Inter Girls Discus and Junior Girls Javelin respectively. Gair finished 5th with a throw of 36.90m and Woolley was 7th with 34.30m.

David Lagerberg set a new PB of 50.34 in his heat of the Intermediate Boys 400m to progress to the semi final. Demi-Jade Jakymelen also set a new PB of 4:48.18 in the Junior Girls 1500m, just missing out on a spot in the final by 0.4 seconds.

Adam Sansom was 4th in his 400m Hurdles heat clocking 56.45 whilst Ryan and Christie Childs also both went out at the heats stage of the 800m. Second claim member Lara Thomas, competing for Lincolnshire, set a new PB in the 1500m Steeplechase and finished 6th but there was disappointment in this event for Amie Grainger, who found the early pace too quick and withdrew with 500m to go.

Greg Millar and Danny Martin failed to capture early season form in the Intermediate and senior Boys Javelin competitions whilst Chloe Elphick did likewise in the Triple Jump, finishing with a best leap of 10.19m.

Mansfield men came out top in both the Senior and Veterans categories in the 4th fixture of this season's Notts AAA Road Race League.

Taking place over 5 miles in the scenic setting of Worksop College and Clumber Park, the race produced the now familiar battle between Worksop's Andy Ward and Mansfield's James Mee. It was Ward who came out on top this time, Mee finishing second in 24:43.

Luke Cragg was racing in Mansfield colours for the first time this summer, having returned from the USA, and finished 3rd in 25:38 with Stuart King just 3 seconds behind in 4th spot.

Chris Brown was the 4th Harrier home in 8th place running 27:01 and Mark Johnson continued his excellent return to form in 11th place in a time of 27:15. Pete Stafford retained his spot as second V50 overall with a 14th place finish, clocking a time of 27:48 in 14th position.

Luke Marshall and Steve Grainger battled it out all the way around the course and despite Grainger breaking away half a mile from the finish Marshall regained supremacy again 200 metres from the finish taking 19th position in 27:09. This gave Marshall the 6th spot in the senior team and along with Mee, Cragg, King, Brown and Johnson made it Mansfield's first victory over Redhill Road Runners this season.

Grainger took 20th place in 28:02 and along with Pete Stafford, Steve Davies (30th in 28:45) and Rob Smith (33rd in 28:54) secured victory, again over Redhill, in the Veterans category.

Miriam Tedder led the women home in 15th spot and a time of 33:21 and along with Kahli Johnson (40th in 36:41) and Carol Hartin (42nd in 36:50) made up a women's team that finished 7th on the night.

Eva Williams was first scorer for the Veterans team finishing 47th in 37:01, Jane Stafford (53rd) and Maddy Collinge (56th) not far behind with times of 37:37 and 37:45.

OTHER MANSFIELD FINISHERS: MEN - 67: John Harrison – 31:09, 77: Trevor Hiscox – 31:32, 88: Alan Crewe – 32:04, 91: Graeme Wilkinson – 32:10, 93: Daniel Ward – 32:17, 97: Terry Ashmore – 32:34, 101: Phil Shaw – 32:45, 107: Dave Robertson – 33:09, 123: Julian Wood – 34:21, 145: Dave Rose – 35:47, 161: Dave Ward – 36:45. WOMEN – 60: Tina Green – 38:14, 61: Julie Grainger – 38:15, 68: Sue Watkinson – 39:51, 75: Faye Gardener – 41:00, 86: Denise Winfield – 42:33.