

A 5.8 mile route starting and finishing on the Teversal Trail was the venue for the last race of a series of five in this summer's Notts AAA Road Race League.

No fewer than 70 members of Mansfield Harriers have turned out in at least one race but with just 6 completing the whole series – Stuart King, Pete Stafford, Phil Shaw, Trevor Hiscox and Daniel Ward for the men and Denise Winfield the sole female representative.

35 Blue and Green Vests lined up at Teversal with Stuart King coming home first in second position overall in a time of 31:42, beaten only by Andy Ward of Worksop who became series champion.

This is the first time King has completed the full series and put together a good string of performances – his 2nd place at Teversal being the best and backed up with two third place spots at Holme Pierrepont in May & Erewash in June with fourth place spots at Epperstone in April & Worksop in July.

The future looks bright for Harriers with two 18 year olds finishing next to both take top ten spots. Chris Dale had an excellent run to finish in his highest ever position in this league, recording a time of 32:35 to take 4th spot and Luke Marshall finishing 9th in 33:52.

Pete Stafford just missed out on a top ten spot finishing 13th in 34:15. This still represented a strong run from Stafford considering he had run a sub 80 minute at Newark just 3 days earlier and secured his Silver medal overall in the series in the VM50 category.

Steve Grainger was next Harrier home recording his highest ever finish in this league, 17th in a time of 34:29 and became the second counter to Stafford in the Vets team.

Mark Jenkins returned to racing after a series of injuries with an impressive run that bodes well for a strong winter, clocking 36:09 to take 35th position. Tim Raynor was just 6 seconds and one position behind Jenkins to become the 3rd scorer in the Vets team, finishing 36th in 36:15.

Danny Heathcote and James Mee had an easy run out over the trails but still managed to take the final counter spots in the senior team, joining King, Dale, Marshall and Jenkins. Heathcote finished 64th in 38:35 and Mee 65th in the same time.

Trevor Hiscox, one of the 6 male athletes to complete all 5 races, took the final spot in the Vets team on the night with his 68th finish in 38:48.

Amie Grainger was the first Mansfield female home in her second outing of the season on the roads, the 17 year old finishing in 10th place in a time of 39:47.

Helen Scott (17th in 41:22) and Holly Blount (22nd in 42:15) joined Grainger as scorers in a Senior ladies team that produced their best result of the series. With two 17 year olds in the team this again shows potential for the future.

The Vet Ladies team was made up with 3 athletes that finished just 21 seconds apart. Clare Coombes was the first of the three, clocking 44:13 for 41st position with Carol Hartin (44:33) and Vanda Curley (44:34) in 43rd and 44th.

Silver team medals for the series went to both Mansfield's Senior Men and Veteran Men's teams, both finishing behind the ever strong teams from Redhill Road runners. Based on the numbers of times they scored for the teams medals went to Stuart King, James Mee, Chris Dale, Chris Brown, Mark Johnson and Luke Marshall in the Senior category and to Pete Stafford, Rob Smith, Steve Grainger and Steve Davies in the Vets.

OTHER MANSFIELD FINISHERS: MEN - 69: Dave Peet, 73: Graeme Wilkinson, 77: Phil Shaw, 78: Daniel Ward, 82: Brian Harris, 92: Terry Ashmore, 105: Julian Wood, 113: Colin Fell, 121: Keith Mellor. LADIES – 46: Sue Day, 52: Jane Stafford, 56: Maddy Collinge, 58: Tina Green, 60: Julie Grainger, 64: Kate Raynor, 66: Denise Winfield, 75: Faye Gardener, 82: Clare O'Mara, 83: Sue Watkinson.

Away from Nottinghamshire and North of the border Doug Ross and daughter Caelidh took in some racing as part of their holiday. Competing in a Highland Games event Doug won the 1500m with Caelidh doing likewise over 800m. Doug also won the Nethy Bridge Cairngorm 10 mile race in a time of 60:23.

Competing in the Mc Cain's UKA Challenge at Cardiff on Saturday Mansfield's Rachel Gair finished a very creditable 5th with a throw of 59m 32 in the women's hammer event.

This fixture was the final competition in the McCain's series which brought together the top 10 athletes in the uk for an invitation only event. This result follows on from her recent personal best throw of over 60m and Rachel can now begin to work towards preparing for next years Commonwealth Games, to be held in India, where she is in contention to represent England.

At the same meeting Mansfield's former olympic 800m runner Ricky Soos continued his comeback after injury when he finished 3rd in a supporting 1500m race in a seasons best time of 3 minutes and 52 seconds