

Holme Pierrepont National Water Sports Centre was the venue for the second race in the Notts AAA Road Race League and it proved a popular one for Mansfield Harrier James Mee.

In the first race of the series at Epperstone Mee finished second to Worksop's Andy Ward and this time the 19 year old was out for revenge. After sitting on Ward's shoulder for the majority of the 5 mile course, Mee put in a sprint finish with less than 200 metres to go and pipped Ward to the top spot by just one second with a finishing time of 25:10.

Stuart King ran a lonely race in 3rd spot having Mee and ward in his sights most of the way but not having quite enough to chase them down. King finished with a time of 25:51, 44 seconds ahead of 4th placed Danny Barks, who had an excellent run after being plagued with injuries lately.

Barks withdrew from the first race at Epperstone but has produced some good performances on the track in recent weeks and this run should give him the confidence he needs.

Chris Brown improved 10 places on his last outing in this league to take a top ten spot, his time of 26:57 bringing him home in 9th position and is another athlete who will be hoping this form will convert to the track over the next few months.

Pete Stafford produced another strong run, clocking 27:47 to finish in 15th place. Stafford has run consistently well in this 5 race series over the last few years and will be hoping that his form will continue to keep him in the medal spots in the VM50 category.

Russ Betts returned to racing after a long lay off and should be happy with his 30th position, clocking 28:31. Rob Smith and Darren Hodgkinson battled it out over the last mile back alongside the rowing course into the finish, Smith taking 38th place in 28:53 and Hodgkinson 39th in 28:56.

Mark Johnson is another athlete returning quickly to form and his 41st place finish was a big improvement on his last outing. Clocking 29:09, Johnson joined Mee, King, Barks, Brown and Betts as the counters in a Senior Men's team that took second position on the night, just 9 points behind Redhill.

Faz Fahy just made the top 50 and was inside 30 minutes, his time of 29:39 taking 49th position. Jonny Lowe completed the line up in the veteran's team with his 56th place and time of 30:04. Along with Stafford, Smith and Hodgkinson, Lowe took the team into second spot, again losing out to a strong Redhill team.

Four more runners made the top 100 – Mark Jenkins finishing 83rd in 31:20 just one place and one second ahead of Daniel Ward, who improves each race. Brian Borrill was 97th in 31:53 and Dave Peet just crept under the 100 marker, his 99th position seeing him record 31:57.

Kirsty Huntington was first lady back, her time of 33:40 giving her 13th position. Exactly one minute behind was Helen Scott, 21st in 34:40 with Eva Williams (50th in 37:15) being the third scorer in a team that finished in 8th place.

Denise Winfield was first scorer for the ladies veteran's team finishing in 73rd in a time of 39:31. She was joined by Michelle Peet (100th in 41:50) and Chris Huntington (45:43).

OTHER MANSFIELD FINISHERS – MEN: 102: John Harrison – 31:59, 119: Rick Huntington – 32:36, 122: A. Spicer – 32:41, 123: Trevor Hiscox – 32:44, 142: Phil Shaw – 33:33, 162: Clive Russell – 34:33, 172: Julian Wood – 35:02, 190: Ivan Colton – 35:57, 205: Dave Robertson – 36:41, 243: Dave Ward – 38:42. LADIES: Gina Radford – 42:44.

Mansfield fielded a Men's team in the VM40 category of the British Masters National Road Relays at Birmingham's Sutton Park where they finished in 18th position.

Doug Ross led off for Harriers on the first of 8 three mile legs. Returning an excellent time of 16:12 - exactly the same as the one he ran 12 months ago at this event – Ross brought the team back in 15th spot.

Dave Peet was next out and with a few races under his belt after suffering disappointment when having to withdraw from the London Marathon he produced a solid leg of 18:38 before handing on to Rick Huntington.

Huntington was one of two over 50's in the Mansfield team and ran well to beat Peet's time by one second, clocking 18:37 and bringing Harriers back in 27th.

The 4th and 5th leg runners, Steve Davies and Steve Grainger, had both been missing from the midweek Road Race League fixture with illness. Davies headed out first returning in a time that would produce a close battle with the two preceding runners – clocking 18:39. Grainger took over on the 5th leg running 17:21.

Darren Hodgkinson headed out on the sixth leg and demonstrated that he is returning to the form that we have seen from him in the past – just dipping under the 17 minute barrier with a time of 16:57.

Tim Raynor and Pete Stafford were the last two runners out, Raynor returning in 17:34 and Stafford, showing no signs of tiredness from his excellent Road Race league outing earlier in the week, brought the team back in 18th place with a personal time of 18:52.

Mansfield Harrier Lucy Spray competed in the annual Oxford vs Cambridge Varsity match returning with no fewer than 5 Gold medals.

Spray is in her final year at Cambridge and gained her third Cambridge Blue this year after her 65.01 400m Hurdles performance at the British Universities Championships.

Competing on home ground in the Varsity match she kicked off her campaign with victory in the 400m Hurdles, easing down after the last hurdle to conserve her energy for the remaining 4 events but still clocking a respectable 66.92.

The 100 metres was next and after a blanket finish, with only 7 hundredths of a second separating the first three, Spray was given the verdict and took her second gold with a PB of 12.56, a time which would have been a new Harriers club record had it not been for the +2.1m/s wind reading.

After her third individual medal in the 200 metres, which was won in 26.53, a highly successful day was ended by anchoring the 4x100m and 4x400m relay teams to victory.

Mansfield played host to the second match of the series of 5 in the National Young Athletes League with the visitors coming from Swansea, Yate and Coventry.

Harriers took full advantage of being on home territory and ran to a comfortable victory, finishing the day with 407.5 points ahead of Swansea (358), Coventry Godiva (329) and Yate & District (297.5).

Several athletes posted Grade 1 performances with Greg Miller throwing the Javelin 50.76m and also winning the B string Pole Vault clearing 2.30m and taking second in the Discus with a best throw of 21.28m.

There were also Grade 1 performances on the field from Charlotte Gair and Becky Woolley, Gair winning the Under 17 Women's Discus in 33.83m and Woolley taking the Under 15 Girls Javelin with a best throw of 36.95m. Woolley also gained valuable points with two second place finishes in the Shot and Discus whilst Gair also won the Hammer and took second in the Shot at Under 17 level.

David Lagerberg and Ryan Childs staged a good battle in the Under 17 Men's 400m, Lagerberg coming out on top to clock a Grade 1 performance of 52.0 with Childs winning the B string in 52.5. Lagerberg also took second in the 200m with a time of 22.9 whilst Childs ran to victory in the 800m in 2:03.9.

Sam Johnson's victory in the Under 13 Boys 1500m saw him produce a new personal best time, running a Grade 1 time of 4:54.3, Lewis Ashmore also running strongly to take the B string in 5:07.1.

Caelidh Ross produced the 3rd track Grade 1 performance of the day with her time of 2:29.0 in the Under 13 Girls 800m. Ella Shirley took the B string in the same race running 2:47.4.

There were many other victories for Mansfield, including their usual domination of the female middle distance events. Christie Childs and Claire Talbot took first in the A and B string of the Under 17 Women's 800m with times of 2:22.4 and 2:35.9 respectively. Hannah Wragg and Rachel Brandham did likewise over 3K with times of 11:37.8 and 11:37.9 respectively.

Demi-Jade Jakymelen and Alice Mortiboy took a clean sweep of the Under 15 Girls 1500m clocking 5:06.6 and 5:45.2 whilst Molly Johnson and Claire Norris also took maximum points in the Under 13 Girls 1200m, Johnson recording 4:04.5 and Norris 4:14.7.

Ryan Saxton recorded a big personal best of 9:36.3 in the Under 17 Men's 3000m before going on to also win the 1500m in 4:38.7, Henry Partridge and Richie Talbot winning the B strings of these two events. Will Stone made sure of maximum points for Mansfield winning the B string 800m in 2:19.1.

Harriers took useful points in the Hurdles events, Jess Grieves and Rachel Brandham opening the account with maximum points from the Under 17 Women's 300m Hurdles, Grieves taking the A string in 48.6 and Brandham the B in 62.0. Beth Farr was just pipped in the Under 17W 80m Hurdles, taking second in 13.5 whilst Amy Porter won the B string in 15.9.

Eleanor Dean, making her debut, won the Under 13 Girls 70m Hurdles in 12.7 whilst Andrew Frettingham and Jordan Boam both won the B strings of their respective Under 15 and Under 13 events.

In contrast to the middle distance events Mansfield victories in the sprints were few and far between. What success there was all came at under 17 level with Christie Childs and Jess Grieves winning the A and B string of the Under 17 Women's 300m clocking 43.6 and 43.9, Childs going on to also take the B string 200m and Amy Porter victorious in the B string 100m.

There was further success in the throwing events where Chris Clarke produced a double victory in the Under 15 Boys Shot and Discus with best throws of 11.95 and 29.23 respectively. Jamie Hardy won the B string Discus with a throw of 25.18m.

Lucy Banner took maximum B string points in the Under 15 Girls Discus and Javelin with throws of 16.07 and 19.65 whilst Laura Massey won the B string Hammer and Beth Farr took the Under 17 Girls Javelin B string with a throw of 20.62m.

Farr also took good points in winning the B string Triple Jump in 9.06m. Beth Mortiboy and Holly Shaw took maximum points in the Under 13 Girls Long Jump, Mortiboy jumping 4.04m to win the A string and Shaw 3.60m to win the B.

Good points were also gained in the Pole Vault, Tamsin Smith winning the Under 15 Girls with 1.70m, Laura Massey the Under 17 Women with 1.90m, Conor McHale the Under 17 Mens clearing 2.30m and David Wilkinson the Under 15 Boys with 1.70m.

OTHER MANSFIELD PERFORMANCES: UNDER 17 MEN: 100m – Will Stone 12.9, 200m – Will Stone 27.5, 400m H – Conor McHale 75.8, James Hicks 76.6, 100m H – Conor McHale 19.8, Ewan Miller 19.8, Shot – Ewan Miller 6.95, High Jump – Ryan Saxton 1.45, Richie Talbot 1.40, Long Jump – James Hicks 4.86, Richie Talbot 4.04, Triple Jump – Ryan Childs 10.23, James Hicks 9.26. UNDER 15 BOYS: 100m – Jamie Hardy 13.4, Jordan Boam 16.2, 200m – Jamie Hardy 32.9, Jordan Boam 32.9, 400m – Jake Lancaster 71.6, Sam Raynor 72.5, 800m – Sam Raynor 2:40.7, David Wilkinson 2:53.3, 1500m – Jake Lancaster 5:18.3, Jonny Brown 5:45.0, 80m H – Jack Cabourn 14.8, Hammer – Sam Raynor 5.86, Jake Lancaster 5.38, Shot – Mark Ellis 5.46, Javelin – Chris Clarke 31.60, David Wilkinson 21.75, Long Jump – Jonny Brown 4.03, Jack Cabourn 3.81, High Jump – Jack Cabourn 1.45, Jonny Brown 1.25. UNDER 13 BOYS: 100m – Ben Hardy 14.9, Jack Foster 15.0, 200m – Jack Foster 29.7, Jordan Barnes 30.5, 800m – George King 2:43.8, James O'Mara 2:47.6, 75m H – Jordan Barnes 15.8, Shot – George King 5.11, Michael Read 3.59, Long Jump – James O'Mara 3.37, Michael Read 3.34, High Jump – Sam Johnson 1.20, James O'Mara 1.15. UNDER 17 WOMEN: 100m – Megan Roche 14.4, 200m – Amy Porter 28.7, 1500m – Claire Talbot 5:16.4, Laura Brown 5:24.9, Discus – Lucy Harrison 14.19, Shot – Lucy Harrison 5.74, Javelin – Lucy Harrison 24.58, Long Jump – Laura Brown 3.95, Rachel Brandham 3.58, Triple Jump – Laura Brown 9.42,

High Jump – Jess Grieves 1.40. UNDER 15 GIRLS: 100m – Robyn Foster 14.4, Jennifer Stowell 14.5, 200m – Robyn Foster 28.2, Elsie Glover 29.6, 800m – Hannah Hardy 2:33.3, Jess Smith 2:52.8, Long Jump – Hannah Hardy 3.71, Holly Smith 3.04, High Jump – Demi-Jade Jakymelen 1.25, Corrie-Lee Ross 1.20, Shot – Robyn Foster 5.94. UNDER 13 GIRLS: 75m – Holly Shaw 11.7, Eleanor Dean 11.9, 150m – Beth Mortiboy – 21.5, Holly Shaw – 22.3, High Jump – Eleanor Dean 1.15, Shot – Beth Mortiboy 6.16, Claire Norris – 4.93.