

With fixtures in the Notts AAA Road Race League and the Booth Decorators League again running up against each other it was a testing week for Mansfield Harriers on the roads.

Stuart King was one of the few runners to undertake both races taking 3rd spot in the Notts AAA race at Erewash just 24 hours after victory in the Booth league at Grassmoor Country Park.

The 3rd place finish at Erewash, in a time of 30:07, over a hilly and testing course of around 5.4 miles keeps King in the silver medal spot after 3 of the 5 races.

Chris Dale had another strong run at Erewash finishing in 6th place in 30:33 with Russ Betts, demonstrating that his recent return to training is paying off, finishing 10th in 31:08.

Performance of the evening for Mansfield went to Mark Johnson. For many years Johnson was one of the county's top runners but despite a few attempted comebacks over recent years he hasn't managed to recapture his form. However with 10 solid weeks of training under his belt he proved at Erewash that he still has strength in his legs – finishing in an excellent 12th position in a time of 31:16.

Pete Stafford produced his usual reliable run and his 14th place finish in a time of 31:32 kept him in 2nd spot overall in the VM50 category.

Next home for Mansfield was Craig Kelly who completed the course in 32:24 to take 25th spot with Steve Grainger just over 30 seconds behind him – taking 34th in 32:58. Steve Davies squeezed into the top 40 with a time of 33:37, taking 38th position.

Andy Squire joined King, Dale, Betts, Johnson and Kelly as the final scorer in the Senior Men's team – his 76th place finish in 35:57 ensuring that the team finished in second spot on the night, retaining their silver medal position behind Redhill in the overall series.

Team Manager Steve Davies gambled on counting Pete Stafford in the Veteran's Team rather than the seniors – a gamble that paid off as the team just made it into second spot, beating Southwell by only 2 points. Joining Stafford, Grainger and Davies as the final counter was John Harrison who finished in 82nd in 36:07.

With only 6 ladies turning out for Mansfield they all needed to finish to ensure the club had a senior and veteran's team.

Amie Grainger, making her first outing on the roads this summer, was first home for Harriers in 38:13 taking 15th position also being the first junior lady home. Maddy Collinge (49th in 42:41) and Carol Hartin (52nd in 42:58) were the other two counters for the senior team whilst Tina Green (57th in 43:41), Julie Grainger (67th in 44:47) and Denise Winfield (94th in 48:28) made up the veterans team.

OTHER MANSFIELD FINISHERS: 88 - Trevor Hiscox: 36:34, 119 – Phil Shaw: 38:21, 125 – Daniel Ward: 38:51, 137 – Dave Robertson: 39:44, 190 – Dave Ward: 43:37.

Three other Harriers joined Stuart King in the top 10 at Grassmoor with Doug Ross leading the way to take 4th place in 28:51.

Youngsters Ryan Saxton and Luke Marshall continued their strong form, Saxton finishing 6th in 29:33 and Marshall 10th in 30:01. Grant Saxton made the top 50 with his 46th place finish in a time of 33:12 whilst Brian Harris's 62nd place in 34:09 made him the first home in the VM60 category.

Liz Lilley was first lady home finishing in 26th overall clocking 31:37. Demi-Jade Jakymelen, 70th overall in 34:35 and Holly Blount, 110th in 36:18, joined Lilley as scorers in a Mansfield women's team that finished first on the night and sit in top spot in the series after 3 races.

OTHER MANSFIELD FINISHERS: 83 – Jason Foster: 35:11, 91 – Dave Robertson: 35:34, 102 – Pete Collinge: 35:53, 111 – Alice Mortiboy: 36:19, 112 – Tim Raynor: 36:20, 137 – Dave Rose: 38:53, 138 – Carl Lancaster: 38:55, 147 – Maddy Collinge: 39:50, 153 – Kate Raynor: 40:25, 156 – Tina Green: 40:47, 158 – Sue Bellingham: 41:08, 160 – Keith McQuinn-Roberts: 41:18, 169 – Sue Watkinson: 42:41, 170 – Trevor Hiscox: 42:42, 174 – Daniel Ward: 43:12, 175 – Sharon Armitage: 43:37, 181 – Fay Gardner: 44:56, 191 – Elaine Greaves: 46:39.

A busy week on the roads was followed by a busy weekend of track and field action as several seniors took part in the Midlands Senior and Under 20 Championships in Birmingham and the Young Athletes travelled to Solihull for the 4th fixture of the National Young Athletes League.

Rachel Gair threw 56.87m in the Women's Hammer at Birmingham and, despite this being several metres down on her season's best, was enough to take the Gold medal.

Adam Sansom produced a personal best of 56.24 in the 400m Hurdles to take the silver medal and also ran a PB of 22.65 over 200m. There was also silver for Laura Bennett in the 100m Hurdles with a time of 15.72 and a bronze for Lucy Spray in the 400m Hurdles with a time 70.0.

There was more silver in the 800m - Chris Brown taking second in 1:53.1 with Danny Barks just behind him picking up the bronze in 1:53.3

James Hardy recorded a new PB of 14.40 over the 110m Hurdles, just missing out on the medals in finishing 4th with seasons bests also coming for Ancell Maxwell (23.25 in the 200m) and Martin White (11.68 in the 100m and 23.61 over 200m).

Harriers pitted their wits against Cannock & Staffs, Carmarthen and host club Solihull in the Midland Premier Division of the Young Athletes League finishing in 3rd place overall.

Charlotte Gair took maximum points with three victories in the Under 17 Girls Shot, Discus and Hammer with a new PB of 8.68m in the Shot. Gair now looks forward to next weekend when she competes in the

Under 20 National Championships at Bedford. Laura Massey made it a double victory in the Hammer winning the B string and also taking the B string Pole Vault.

Becky Woolley scored good points, throwing a Grade 1 standard of 33.23m to win the Under 15 Girls Javelin as well as winning the B string Discus and taking second in the A string Shot. Lucy Banner made sure of maximum points in the B string Javelin with a throw of 23.62m and Lucy Harrison was the winner of the Under 17 event with a best throw of 24.48m.

Greg Millar continued the points scoring in the Under 17 Boys Javelin taking victory with a best throw of 50.19m, also taking second in the A string Discus and 1st in the B string Pole Vault.

Beth Mortiboy scored a double victory for the Under 13 Girls, taking the Long Jump with a best leap of 4.23 metres and then went on to win the Shot with a leading throw of 6.45m. Older sister Alice was also a winner, clearing 1.73m to take the B string Under 15 Girls Pole Vault, Tamsin Smith finishing 2nd in the B string with a height of 2.03m.

Chloe Elphick and Beth Farr made it maximum points from the Under 17 Girls Triple Jump – Elphick winning the A string with a jump of 9.92m and Farr the B string with 9.09. Elphick was also second in the A string Pole Vault and the B string 80m Hurdles whilst Farr took second in the A string 80m Hurdles and won the B string 300m Hurdles in 52.8.

Other A string victories on the field came for Chris Clarke (12.92m in the Under 15 Boys Shot) and Ewan Millar (17.49m in the Under 17 Boys Discus) with B string wins for Mark Ellis (Under 15 Boys Pole Vault), Ewan Millar (Under 17 Boys Discus) and Richie Talbot (under 17 Boys High Jump).

On the track Mansfield's usual middle distance domination shone through with double wins in both the Under 13 Boys and Under 15 Girls 1500m races.

Lewis Ashmore and Alex Rieley both posted big PBs to win the A and B string respectively – the pair just falling either side of 5 minutes – Ashmore running 4:59.7 and Rieley 5:00.3.

Demi-Jade Jakymelen ran her second 1500m in two days after representing Derbyshire in the Mason Trophy the day before and cruised to a comfortable victory in 5:06.3 with Alice Mortiboy taking the B string in 5:29.9.

Over 3000m Claire Talbot and Rachel Brandham took maximum points in the Under 17 Girls event, running 11:40.8 and 11:54.2 respectively. Both had represented Nottinghamshire the day before in the Mason Trophy – Talbot over 1500m and Brandham over 3K.

Jess Grieves was another athlete to have represented Notts at the Mason Trophy but she still managed a double victory in the 300m Hurdles and 300m along with a second spot in the High Jump, running 47.2 over the Hurdles, 43.3 over the flat and clearing 1.55m, a new PB, in the High Jump. Ryan Childs followed up his performance at the Mason Trophy over 400m with victory in the 1500m in 4:26.4.

Claire Norris led the Under 13 Girls 800m for most of the 2 laps and despite just being pipped over the last 5 metres still managed to run a 6 second PB, running a grade 1 performance of 2:31.9 and was awarded the Mansfield female athlete of the match for her efforts. Abigail D'Aguiar won the B string in a new PB of 2:42.0.

Sam Johnson and James O'Mara both also ran personal best's PB of 2:26.6 and 2:40.1 in the Under 13 Boys 800m – Johnson taking second in the A string and O'Mara first in the B.

Other B string victories over 800m came for Chevelle Baxter in the Under 15 Girls, Rachel Brandham in the Under 17 Girls and Ewan Millar in the Under 17 Boys. Shannon Boardman was second in the Under 17 A string with a PB of 2:25.4.

Caelidh Ross and Molly Johnson completed the middle distance line up with maximum points from the Under 13 Girls 1200m, clocking 3:59.1 and 4:06.1 respectively.

Points weren't as easy to come by in the sprints for Mansfield with Under 13 Rachel Norris producing the best of the days performances with victory over 75m in 11.3 and 2nd spot in the 150m in 21.3 before also being part of the quartet that took victory in the 4x100m Relay.

Scott Rose won the B string Under 17 Boys 200m in 25.1 with Alex Lloyd 3rd in the A string recording a time of 24.9.

A week earlier Ancell Maxwell took Gold over 100m and Silver over 400m in the Midland Masters Championships, recording 11.6 and 52.6 in the VM40 category.

There was also Gold for Lee Peters in the VM40 Javelin with a best throw of 51.94m and for Pam Garvey in the VL55 High Jump.

Steve Woolley took silver in the VM50 Discus and Hammer with best performances of 34.43m and 23.25m and added a bronze in the Shot to these with a best throw of 10.69m.

In the VM35 category Martin White took 3 silvers – clocking 11.8 in the 100m, 24.1 in the 200m and 56.0 in the 400m. Chris Ashmore completed the medal haul with a bronze in the VM45 200m and a silver in the long jump.

