

Roundhay Park in Leeds was the venue for the 2010 National Cross Country Championships and Mansfield Harriers had a good turn out of athletes on the muddy and hilly course.

The Berry Hill Park based club have consistently performed well at these championships in the junior age groups and continue to demonstrate their ability to compete alongside some of the country's best clubs.

Pride of place went to the U13 Boys team who missed out on a team medal by the narrowest of margins.

The trio of Lewis Ashmore, Sam Johnson and Alex Rieley have been battling it out for supremacy over much of the winter season. At Leeds it was Rieley, who still has another year to go in this age group, who came out on top finishing 39<sup>th</sup> out of a field of 374 finishers, posting a time of 12:22 for the 3km course.

Ashmore was only one second and two places behind Rieley with Johnson, in 53<sup>rd</sup>, clocking 12:30. George King completed the team scorers with a top 100 finish, coming in 93<sup>rd</sup> in 12:52. With a team score of 226 Harriers were just 12 points behind bronze medallists Charnwood AC and 13 points behind second placed Chiltern Harriers.

The U13 Girls couldn't match their 2009 performance, when they finished in fifth spot at London's Parliament Hill. In a field of 417 finishers, the largest outside of the senior races, Molly Johnson was first Harrier back, completing the 3km loop in 13:40 to take 92<sup>nd</sup> spot.

There was a promising return to form from Caelidh Ross, who has spent most of the winter struggling with illness. Ross was just 14 seconds behind Johnson, taking 114<sup>th</sup> position in 13:54 with Claire Norris and Emma Heath finishing 142<sup>nd</sup> and 149<sup>th</sup> respectively to secure 20<sup>th</sup> place in the team event.

Chevelle Baxter had her best run of the winter in the U15 Girls 4km race, finishing in 92<sup>nd</sup> with a time of 16:03, leading home the team to 15<sup>th</sup> place.

Only seven seconds and ten places then separated the other three Mansfield counters – Ellie Saxton taking 121<sup>st</sup> in 16:28, Charlotte Bellingham 128<sup>th</sup> in 16:34 and Hannah Hardy finishing 131<sup>st</sup> in 16:35.

Hannah Wragg was the only Mansfield vest in the U17W race, finishing in 61<sup>st</sup> in 21:06 whilst younger brother Tom was the first Harrier home in the U15 Boys race, placing 158<sup>th</sup> in 16:05. Ryan Saxton led home the U17 Men, finishing in 120<sup>th</sup> place and recording a time of 22:42 for the 6km event.

The smallest field of the day was in the U20 Women's 6km race. With just 91 finishers, second claim member Lara Thomas running for home club Lincoln Wellington finished 24<sup>th</sup> in 24:31.

Luke Marshall was the sole representative in the U20 Men's race. Marshall has shown massive improvement over the last six months since moving to study at Birmingham University and showed further demonstration of this, running strongly in a talented field to finish 54<sup>th</sup> clocking an impressive 36:31 for the 10km course.

Fellow Birmingham University student James Mee led home Mansfield's senior men in the biggest event of the day – 1428 athletes completing the 12km course. Mee finished in 172<sup>nd</sup> with a time of 43:58.

Illness and injury led to a severely depleted Harriers entry at senior level but Doug Ross made the most of his London Marathon training to record an impressive 47:21 to take 381<sup>st</sup> position on a course that was now badly cut up from the eleven preceding races.

Tim Raynor was third Mansfield counter, taking 590<sup>th</sup> in 50:10 with the three remaining slots going to John Harrison (732<sup>nd</sup> in 52:09), Graeme Wilkinson (800<sup>th</sup> in 53:04) and Terry Ashmore (893<sup>rd</sup> in 54:29).

Claire Coombes was first Mansfield lady home, completing the 8km course in 39:53 to take 363<sup>rd</sup> place.

**OTHER MANSFIELD FINISHERS: U13 Boys** – 253: Finny Quilty. **U13 Girls** – 215: Ella Shirley, 327: Rachel Norris, 354: Philippa Mitchell, 362: Sophie Beckingham, 397: Abigail D'Aguiar. **U15 Boys** – 203: Sam Dobb, 206: Jake Lancaster, 325: David Wilkinson, 358: Jonny Brown, 359: Jordan Boam. **U15 Girls** – 186: Alice Mortiboy, 239: Demi-Jade Jakymelen, 268: Amelia Mitchell, 276: Harriet Codd, 296: Alice Keogh, 326: Robyn Foster, 343: Hazel Blount, 348: Emily D'Aguiar, 355: Jess Raynor. **U17 Men** – 214: Richie Talbot, 304: Alex Heath, 307: George Moodie. **U20 Women** – 75: Georgia Milton, 83: Kate Raynor, 91: Gina Radford. **Senior Women**: 390: Amanda Hardy, 413: Ann Brown, 462: Sharon Armitage, 466: Sue Bellingham. **Senior Men** – 1087: Jon Hardy, 1178: Jason Foster, 1239: Carl Lancaster, 1276: Grant Saxton 1325: Ian Dobb, 1333: Adey Bellingham, 1367: Steve Wragg

Following the cancellation of the last Booth Decorators Cross Country League due to snow final standings have now been calculated based on the part series. Mansfield Harriers finished the series with four individual gold medals and one silver.

The Collinge household fared well with Peter taking Gold in the VM55 and Maddy likewise in the VL55 category. Tina Green came out on top in the VL45 category with Eva Williams sharing the number one spot at VL40 level. Dougie Flett completed the line up of medallists with a silver spot in the VM45 grouping.

Ellie Maddocks, who has been studying at Lancaster University, switched from the track to the roads as she made her road running debut at the Great

North West Half Marathon in Blackpool. Maddocks, a former heptathlete, ran an impressive 1:43:07 to finish the race in 344<sup>th</sup> overall and 45<sup>th</sup> female.

Harriers have also been in action abroad where Luke Cragg and Steve Lisgo have continued their winter preparations whilst studying in the USA.

Lisgo has been trying out his speed, running 800m indoors over the last two weekends. He followed up a 1:56.56 at Charleston, Illinois with a slightly slower 1:57.24 during a Horizon League meet at the University of Michigan.

Cragg meanwhile had outings over both 3k and 5K at the RMAC Championships. Unable to produce the great form of two weeks ago when he set a new club record over 5000m, Cragg clocked 8:45.05 and 15:08.02 respectively.