

Mansfield Harriers' Chris Clarke was crowned National Champion at last weekend's Aviva England Under -15 Championships. In his first real season of competition, the 14 year old Shot Putter produced a personal best of 14.57m in the last round of the competition.

Adding 68cms to his previous best the youngster, under the guidance of coach, Steve Woolley, has had a fantastic season progressing from a PB of just 12.08m at the start of the year. This national Gold medal is added to the Bronze that he won in July at the English Schools Championships in Sheffield.

At the same event Charlotte Gair made up for her disappointment at last month's English Schools Championships by taking a bronze medal at Bedford. The Discus thrower from Rainworth, who has spent most of this season at the top of the UK Under 17 rankings, produced a best throw of 38.91m.

Danny Barks ran a personal best time of 1:50.88 at the BMC Grand Prix meeting at Stretford. Barks is having an excellent season and if he can stay focused over the winter months looks set to break the 1:50 barrier next season.

Chris Brown and Stuart King also ran in the 800m, Brown running a time of 1:52.72 and King clocking a season's best of 1:57.79 At the same meeting Athens 2004 Olympic representative Ricky Soos made his track comeback with a run of 3:55.56 over 1500m and Natalie Yates ran a season's best of 2:18.07.

Mark Johnson celebrated his return to competitive racing with victory at the final booth Decorators Road Race League fixture at Shipley Park. 38 year old Johnson, formerly one of Nottinghamshire's top road runners, has made a concerted effort to return to training this season and his hard work appears to be paying off.

Johnson clocked a time of 28:02 with Pete Stafford also running a strong race to finish in 3<sup>rd</sup> spot in 29:07. Youngster Ryan Saxton was third Harrier home in 10<sup>th</sup> position in a time of 30:01.

Bryan Harris's 46<sup>th</sup> place finish (33:27) was enough to give him the series title in the VM60 category and Trevor Hiscox squeezed into the top 50 with a 48<sup>th</sup> place finish in a time of 33:32.

Maddy Collinge, 162<sup>nd</sup> in this race in 41:32, took the prize for the first VL55 in the series.

Other Mansfield finishers: 54: Grant Saxton - 33:48, 74: Demi-Jade Jakymelen - 35:03, 78: Miriam Tedder - 35:31, 83: Julian Wood - 35:58, 117: Pete Collinge - 37:44, 133: Carol Hartin - 39:22, 141: Claire Coombes - 39:50, 149: Jane Stafford - 40:20, 155: Carl Lancaster - 40:41, 157: Tina Green - 41:00, 176: Denise Winfield - 43:10, 177: Eva Williams - 43:11.

In rare hot and sunny conditions Pete Stafford was the first Mansfield athlete back in the Newark Half Marathon, finishing 26<sup>th</sup> in 79:15. In a field of 1047 finishers Rob Smith made the top 100, his time of 1:27:45 taking 94<sup>th</sup> spot. Brian Harris crept under 90 minutes with an excellent run of 1:29.39 to take 116<sup>th</sup> spot.

Trevor Hiscox, fresh from his trip last weekend to compete in a Half Marathon in Cornwall, was 181<sup>st</sup> in 1:34:39 with Julian Wood just failing to crack the top 200, coming home in 201<sup>st</sup> in 1:36:05. Ivan Colton returned to racing with a respectable 1:48:01 to take 417<sup>th</sup> with Clare Coombes and Carol Hartin finishing 448<sup>th</sup> and 673<sup>rd</sup> respectively in 1:49:14 and 1:59.28.