

With Sunday's heavy snow causing the cancellation of the cross country fixtures in the Booth league and mini league it was left to one track and field athlete to provide the weekend's athletics action.

Martin Cook followed up on his appearance at last weekend's Aviva World Trials with a double outing at the Birmingham Indoor Open over both 200m and 400. Clocking 49.41 to post another sub 50 second performance over the longer distance Cook then went on to run 22.50 over 200m, just four hundredths of a second outside of his personal best.

With less than two months until the start of the outdoor track and field season Mansfield Harriers are now busy preparing for a summer of action – and travel!

After a series of open meetings, league action licks off in the National Junior League where Harriers compete in the Midland Premier Division. An opening fixture at Loughborough on April 25th is followed by the long trip to Swansea on 23rd May and then Stafford on June 25th. The four match series ends on home soil on July 25th when Notts AC host the meeting at Mansfield.

Having gained promotion to the British Athletic League for the first time in the club's history the men face an opening fixture at Ashford in Kent on Saturday June 5th. Action moves on to Bedford on 3rd July before two gruelling trips – to Glasgow on 31st July and then to Guernsey on 21st August.

Retaining their slot in Midland League Division One will be a priority for the seniors this season despite a number of clashes with the British League dates, meaning that Harriers will be unable to call on some of their male athletes. The first fixture in the combined male/female league is at Loughborough on May 1st before heading west to Birmingham on June 6th. Stoke is the venue for the third fixture on July 3rd with action winding up on 1st August at Nottingham.

The structure of the National Young Athletes League has changed this season and Mansfield's youngsters will have their eye set on qualification for the newly introduced Midland Finals. To achieve this will require them to finish in the top four in the Midland Premier North Division after a four round league competition. 2nd May at Stoke is their first test before moving on to Derby on 16th May, Nottingham on 20th June and Stafford on 18th July.

With rising travel costs and a commitment to placing Mansfield well and truly on the athletics map Mansfield Harriers are seeking to build relationships with any local companies or individuals who may be interested in sponsoring the club. Anyone interested please contact Steve Grainger on 01623 455526/07710 459747