

The Mansfield Half Marathon sees two major changes this year. The event, now in its 26<sup>th</sup> year, will move a week from its traditional first Sunday in July to June 28<sup>th</sup> and sees another change of course as the 13.1 mile race makes its way from Berry Hill Park out towards Ravenshead along the A60.

The race, again sponsored by CHAD and Mansfield Building Society along with availablecar.com and Howarth Timber and Building Suppliers, re-located its start and finish to Berry Hill Park in 2007 and this will remain. Leaving Berry Hill the new route will take runners out along the MARR road and then down the A60 past Portland College. Runners will return to Berry Hill Park after running through the quite country lanes leading from Table Top Tree on the A60 just before Larch Farm junction through to the A617 on Southwell Road.

Almost 1000 runners are expected to line up for the start of this year's race with the Family Fun Run attracting almost 2,000 participants. Joining CHAD and Mansfield Building Society as supporting sponsors

Along with entry forms runners can find training programmes on the Half Marathon website at [www.mansfieldhalf.co.uk](http://www.mansfieldhalf.co.uk). Training schedules and tips have been prepared by Mansfield Harriers former international marathon runner Steve Davies with one programme prepared for complete novices and another for those runners who may have already had some background and experience in sport and running.

Mansfield Harriers are staging, with support from Mansfield Building Society, a 5K open road race on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April and this is an ideal opportunity for those considering running the Half Marathon to test how their training is progressing. Entry details for this can be found on the Mansfield Harriers website [www.mansfield-harriers.org](http://www.mansfield-harriers.org) or by telephoning 01623 635991.

16 Mansfield Harriers' youngsters qualified to represent Nottinghamshire at the English Schools Cross-Country Championships held this year at Stanford hall, just north of Loughborough.

On a challenging course, prepared by Mansfield's cross country course designer Pat Carlan, Ryan Saxton was the only Harrier to make the top 100 across the six races. Saxton finished a very respectable 79<sup>th</sup> against the country's best in the Intermediate Boys event.

Chevelle Baxter took the top spot amongst the girls with her 106<sup>th</sup> place finish in the Junior Girls race, which was the biggest field of the day with 335 finishers. Both Saxton and Baxter have another year to go in their respective age groups so will be hoping to improve on these placings next year.

Other Mansfield placings: JUNIOR GIRLS – 198: Ellie Saxton, 231: Hannah Hardy. INTERMEDIATE GIRLS – 109: Hannah Wragg, 207: Claire Talbot, 248: Laura Brown. SENIOR GIRLS – 208: Emma Wilkinson, 236: Daisy Baugh, 259: Kate Raynor, 293: Gina Radford. JUNIOR BOYS – 202: Tom

Wragg. INTERMEDIATE BOYS – 305: Henry Partridge, 307: Tom O'Mara.  
SENIOR BOYS – 142: Chris Dale, 207: Luke Marshall.

With only 5 weeks to go until the London Marathon Colin and Christine Fell took in the Ashby 20 mile race as part of their preparations. Both ran well despite the blustery conditions, Colin clocking 2:38 and Christine 2:53, times which should see them aiming for sub 3:35 and 4:00 respectively.

Trevor Hiscox flew the Mansfield flag at the recent Dronfield 10K where he finished as third VM45 and 37<sup>th</sup> overall in a time of 40:38.

Away from the roads 3 Harriers were in action at the British Universities Indoor Championships at Sheffield. Sam Cordin, representing Leeds University, ran a season's best of 49.23 in his 400m semi-final. Meanwhile James Mee (Birmingham) and Stuart King (Leeds Metropolitan) just missed out on qualification for the final of the 3000m finishing as 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> fastest qualifiers for a 12 man final with times of 8:46 and 8:48 respectively.

Luke Cragg has also been in action indoors, this time in the NACC Div 11 Championships in Houston, Texas. Cragg, currently studying in the USA, finished in 8<sup>th</sup> place in the 5000m clocking 14:29.