

Mansfield Harriers & Athletic Club

Harvey Hadden Stadium in Nottingham was the venue for the 2008 Nottinghamshire County Track and Field Championships. Held again in conjunction with the Derbyshire Championships the hot weather was a complete contrast to last years rain and cold.

The weekend was a special one for Mansfield's talented field eventer Charlotte Gair who was presented with the Ian Jack Memorial Award. This award is made in memory of Ian, a coach and administrator who was heavily involved in the development of many talented young athletes at Notts AC prior to his premature death. Charlotte received the award in recognition of her outstanding achievements over the last 12 months when she became the AAAs Under 15 National Discus Champion and took Silver in the English Schools Championships.

Day one saw early victories for Stefan Wilcockson and Adam Sansom in the Senior Men's and Under 17 Men's 400m Hurdles and this set the scene for a series of medal winning performances by Mansfield athletes.

Sansom, despite struggling with a niggling injury, recorded 60.2 over the hurdles before going on to take silver in both the 200m (23.3 secs) and the Long Jump (5.50m). Meanwhile Wilcockson produced a good time of 56.6s before taking on the higher hurdles over 110 metres where he again came home with gold in a time of 16.7 secs.

Jonathan Newell was second to Wilcockson in both the 110m and 400m Hurdles and Ryan Childs took silver to Sansom in the 400m Hurdles before going on to also take bronze in the 800 metres. Other hurdle medals came for James Hardy with gold in the Under 17 Men event, Jordan Boam with a bronze in the Under 15 boys and Jack Cabourn & Connor McHale (silver and bronze in the Under 15 boys respectively)

In ideal conditions for the sprinters Robyn Foster set a Championship best performance in the Under 13 girls event - her 13.4s 100 metres time taking gold with Rachel Norris coming home in 13.9s to take bronze. Both girls went on to be part of the Mansfield team that took gold at the end of the day in the 4x100m Relay.

Fighting all the way to the line in the Masters Men's 100 metres Martin White finished in the silver spot with a time of 11.7secs. White had earlier taken a qualifying spot in the Senior Men's 200 metres final where he finished 6th behind team-mates Martin Cook (3rd) and Paul Wright (5th).

In the Junior Men's 200 metres Sam Cordin took silver, equalling his personal best with a time of 22.0 secs. Other athletes taking medals in the sprints were Chris Ashmore (3rd in Masters 100m), Laura Bennett (3rd in Junior Ladies 100m) and Will Stone (2nd in Under 15 boys 400 metres).

The day one field events produced no fewer than 16 medals for Mansfield with Chloe Elphick leading the charge with victory in the Under 15 girls High Jump and Shot. Becky Woolley took bronze in the Shot before securing a gold of her own in the Discus with Emily D'Aguiar backing her up with a silver in this event.

The other gold came for Chris Ashmore in the Masters Men's Long Jump with a winning jump of 5.23m. Lee Peters and Charlotte Gair were only beaten into second place spots by athletes who produced Championship Best Performances in

defeating them. Peters continued his return to form with a best throw of 55.03 metres to take silver in the Senior Men's Javelin and Gair threw 33.38m to take silver in the Under 17 girls Discus.

The remaining silver medals came from Connor McHale in the Under 15 boys Pole Vault, Rachel Gair in the Senior Women's Shot, Paul Gair in the Masters Men's Hammer and Beth Farr in the Under 17 Women's Triple Jump. Meanwhile David Wilkinson, Max Branson and Steve Woolley took bronze in the Under 13 boys Long Jump, Under 17 Men Long Jump and Masters Men's Hammer respectively.

Mansfield's domination in the middle distance events continued with a host of medals. In one of the few races to have both heats and finals Harriers took the first 4 spots in the Under 13 girls 800 metres - Kayleigh Ross coming home first, Chevelle Baxter second, Molly Johnson third and Claire Norris in fourth. Rachel Brandham took gold in the Under 15 girls event with Claire Talbot in bronze medal position.

The Under 17 800m was won by Georgia Milton with strong runs from Jess Grieves (4th) and Emma Wilkinson (5th) just missing out on medals but producing good personal best times. Jodie Bestwick won the Junior Women's event.

Hannah Wragg took gold in the Under 17 women's 3000m with Amie Grainger working hard over the last lap to pick up the bronze medal.

Will Stone ran an excellent race in the Under 15 boys 1500m and added a bronze to the silver he had picked up earlier in the 400m. With a massive personal best of 4:34.6 Stone just held off Henry Partridge who put in a last minute challenge to finish 4th in 4:34.7.

Ever improving James Mee was aiming for a sub 4 minute time in the Junior Men's 1500m but the baking weather worked against him in the last lap and he came home just outside the target in 4:02.5 to take gold. Mike Mumford picked up silver with a personal best time of 4:20.2.

Day Two started even hotter than day one but this didn't deter the Gair family from taking triple gold in the Hammer circle. Rachel achieved a best throw of 54.46 metres to take the senior title and meanwhile both younger sister Charlotte and Mum Sandi recorded new Championship Best Performances in winning the Under 17 and Masters respectively. Charlotte threw 32.67 metres to add over 10 metres to the previous best and Sandi put just over a metre on the previous best with a throw of 21.68 metres.

The track action started on the track with the Junior Men's 400 metres, Sam Cordin recording a time of 49.0 secs to take silver. Cordin improved on this placing later in the meeting with victory in the 100m in a time of 11.1 - younger brother Jonathan showing his improving form with a bronze medal in 11.4.

Close finishes were the order of the day for the rest of Mansfield's male 400 metre runners as they recorded 3 one/two finishes. Chris Ashmore and Steve Grainger led the way in the Masters Men's with just half a second separating them - Ashmore taking Gold in 56.6 and Grainger the Silver in 57.1. The gap narrowed to 0.4 of a second in the Under 17 Men's event where Ryan Childs came home first in 52.6 followed by Ollie Fell in 53.0. The pace then picked up as Martin Cook recorded a sub 50 second time to take gold in the Senior Men's event by 0.4 of a second from Paul Wright. Not to be outdone by the men Jodie Bestwick took bronze in the Junior Women's event.

Youngster Robyn Foster produced her second CBP of the weekend in the Under 13 girls 200 metres. Taking 0.3 secs off the existing record in her heat she went one better in the final, her time of 27.9 knocking a huge 0.7 secs off the previous best. In taking silver Rachel Norris recorded a time of 28.4 which on its own would also have beaten the previous CBP.

Becky Woolley picked up her second gold of the championships winning the Under 15 girls Javelin with a throw of 28.63 metres and took her total medal tally for the weekend to 4 with a bronze in the Long Jump.

More gold medals were taken in the Long Jump by Beth Farr and Laura Bennett in the Under 17 and Junior Women respectively with a silver being picked up by Rachel Norris in the Under 13 Girls event. Meanwhile Triple Jump gold went to Tom Bell in the Junior Men and bronze to Connor McHale in the Under 15 Boys event to add to the bronze he had collected earlier in the High Jump.

Adding to the Woolley family medal haul Steve Woolley took gold in the Masters Shot and Matt Woolley took first spot in the Senior Men's event adding to the silver he won earlier in the day in the Discus. Paul Gair did likewise; adding to the Gair family haul over the weekend, with a second place finish in the Masters Men's Shot.

3 other medals were secured in the Girls Javelin event - Claire Norris leading the way with gold in the Under 13 girls Javelin and being backed up by Rachel Brandham with silver in the Under 15's and Beth Farr with bronze in the Under 17's. Ollie Fell with silver in the Under 17 Men's Shot and Rowan Franks with silver in the Under 15 Boys Discus completed the line up of medal winners in the Field.

Back on the track Chevelle Baxter and Molly Johnson took gold and silver in the Under 13 Girls 1500 metres, Baxter producing a good run to record 5:15.5 and Johnson coming home in 5:28.7.

Rachel Brandham made it Double Gold in the Under 15 Girls middle distance events with a strong performance in the 1500 metres taking gold in 5:02.5 with Claire Talbot making it Double Bronze in the same events with a time of 5:15.7.

In the Under 17 Girls 1500 metres Georgia Milton and Hannah Wragg battled it out for the second place spot, Milton hanging on to her lead in the last 50 metres to take silver in 4:55.6 just ahead of Wragg who picked up the bronze in 4:55.9.

Will Stone made it 3 individual medals for the weekend picking up bronze in the Under 15 Boys 1500 metres and James Mee added a Gold and a bronze to his collection with a win in the 2K Steeplechase and the 800 metres.

Sprinters Ben Leivers-Riley and James Mackintosh picked up medals in the 100 metres with Leivers-Riley taking Silver in the Under 15 event with a time of 12.1 and Mackintosh taking Bronze in the Under 13 event in 14.4.

The Female Hurdlers picked up a Gold and 3 Bronzes with Laura Bennett leading the way with victory in the Junior Women's event. Meanwhile the Bronzes went to Beth Farr in the Under 17s, Chloe Elphick in the Under 15s and Hayley Grainger in the Under 13s.

Mansfield athletes were also in action in the Derbyshire Championships. Here Greg Murrow secured Gold in the Masters Men's Pole Vault with a clearance of

3.30 metres. Other Golds went to Demi-Jade Jakymelen in the Under 13 Girls 1500 metres and Sam Raynor in the Under 13 Boys High Jump.

Jake Lancaster picked up Silver in the Under 13 Boys 1500 metres along with Bronze in the 800 metres and Sam Raynor added a Bronze to his earlier Gold in the Under 13 Boys Javelin.

In the Lincolnshire Championships Dea-Anna Davey took gold in the Under 17 girls 800m in a time of 2:19.7.

Mansfield hosted the first fixture in this season's Midland Masters Track and Field League and, on a pleasant evening at Berry Hill, fielded one of their biggest teams in this league.

Harriers finished 3rd on the night losing out on second spot by just one point to Harborough AC.

The evening started well with good performances from Martin White, Chris Ashmore and Laurie Dunn in the 100 metres. White took second place spot in the M35 category with a rapid time of 11.2, Ashmore doing likewise in the M40 category in 12.1 and Dunn rounding off the series with a third place spot in the M60 category in 14.0.

White went one better in the 400m when his strength over the first 300 metres gave him the edge to take victory in the M35 event despite having to hold off a late challenge from Paul Tasker of Tamworth. Meanwhile Paul Ttereve marked his Mansfield debut with a second in the M40 category.

Steve Grainger and Doug Ross led for most of the way in the 1500m. However a late burst from Matt Hargreaves of Tamworth meant Grainger was beaten to the line by just 0.3 of a second taking second place in 4:32.2. Ross finished in 4th in 4:36.4.

On the field Lee Peters was on form in the Javelin taking victory with a throw of 55.70 metres which takes him into the top 3 UK rankings. Paul Gair recorded a best throw of 36.81 metres in the Hammer to take first place whilst Chris Ashmore's Triple Jump of 10.38m took second place.

Lying one point behind leaders Nuneaton on the men's scoring table Mansfield had to beat them in the final track event – the 4x200m relay - to ensure the top spot. The quartet of Paul Ttereve, Chris Ashmore, Steve Grainger and Martin White didn't disappoint and with a 3 second victory and Nuneaton back in 5th place the number one spot was secured.

A bigger than normal ladies squad turned out for Mansfield ensuring good points were scored and many of the ladies competing for the first time in this league.

Best finish on the night went to Pam Garvey with a second place in the High Jump. Strong support from the squad of Eva Williams, Michelle Peet, Angela Davies, Jane Stafford, Tina Green, Julie Grainger, Lynne O'Reilly and Linda Wilkinson ensured a 4th place spot in the final ladies scoring table.

Away from the track Harriers have been in action at the Southwell 5K trail race and the Tewkesbury Half Marathon.

At Southwell, on Bank Holiday Monday, Henry Partridge was first Harrier home in 17:55 followed by Tom Wragg in 19:17 and Trevor Hiscox in 19:36. First Mansfield female back was Hannah Wragg in 20:00.

It was very hot in Tewkesbury for the Half Marathon which sapped the energy of the 3 Mansfield athletes and their training partner from Sutton-in-Ashfield Harriers. Trevor Hiscox was first Mansfield athlete home in 91 mins followed by Sutton Harrier Alison Whittingham in 1-49, Maz Lee-Cerrino in 1-51 and Dave Ward in 1-54.