

Mansfield Harriers & Athletic Club

Mansfield Harriers returned to Sutton Park in Birmingham last weekend for the National Road Relay Championships where the best performance came from the Under 13 Girls.

Chevelle Baxter led off for the Under 13 A team running a solid leg of 15:14, nearly half a minute quicker than her last outing on this course, before handing on to Caelidh Ross who clawed back 4 places to bring Harriers home in 8th place with a strong run of 15:42. Caelidh then handed on to Molly Johnson who produced the Mansfield performance of the day gaining 3 places to come home in 5th place recording an individual leg of 15:04 – a 15 second improvement on her performance at the Midland Championships.

With both Johnson and Ross still having another year in this age group their eyes will be on the medals next year. Mansfield's B team finished in 40th position Elle Saxton leading them off with a run of 16:45 handing on to Tamsin Smith (16:36) and Robyn Foster (18:46). The C team of Abigail D'Aguiar, Holly Smith and Hazel Blount were 45th clocking 17:32, 18:11 and 17:21 respectively.

Disaster hit the Under 15 Girls A team when lead runner Claire Talbot fell at the start cutting her legs and arms. Talbot did fantastically well to pick herself up to make her way through the 80 strong field to bring the team home in 21st spot before going off for first aid. Her individual time of 15:01 was remarkable considering the start and with only 16 seconds splitting 7 places had Talbot ran the same time as she did at the Midlands a top 12 finish would not have been out of the question.

Rachel Brandham improved on her last outing at Sutton Park by 23 seconds making up 9 places and handing over to Demi-Jade Jakymelen in 12th position posting a time of 14:50. Demi-Jade clocked 15:25 and recorded an 18th place finish for Harriers. The B team were anchored home to 45th place by Charlotte Bellingham who ran 15:50 having taken over the baton from Hayley Silver (16:18) and Hannah Hardy (16:39). Jess Smith (17:41) led off for the C team before Alice Mortiboy (17:07) and Emily D'Aguiar (16:52) took over to bring them back in 59th.

Hannah Wragg was first off for the Under 17 A team and tied with Under 15 Rachel Brandham for the fastest Mansfield female time of the day clocking 14:50. Amie Grainger led off for the C team in her first race for 10 weeks after an injury sustained in a horse riding accident and finished strongly to clock 15:20. Dea-Anna Davey led off for the B team finishing in 15:46.

Emma Wilkinson took over from Wragg and clocked 15:14 on the second leg whilst Holly Blount kept the C team in front of the B team with an excellent run of 15:42. Sophie Ward ran 15:57 for the B team before handing on to Kate Raynor who ran exactly the same time and overtook the 3rd leg C team runner Gina Radford who clocked 17:58.

The Under 13 Boys couldn't quite match the performance of the Girls although their 11th place finish was the best Mansfield male performance of the day. Sam Johnson led the A team out returning in 14:22 with David Wilkinson on second leg clocking 15:13 and Bailey Wardle taking over a minute off his Midlands time to return in 14:30.

The B team of Lewis Ashmore, Jake Lancaster and George King came home in 31st recording individual times of 15:36, 15:44 and 16:01 respectively.

Meanwhile the C team managed 40th place through the efforts of James O'Mara (16:07), Jordan Boam (16:30) and Sam Raynor (16:47).

At Under 15 level Ryan Saxton's 13:04 first leg brought the A team back in 13th place with Tom Wragg taking 35 seconds off his previous best on this course to clock 14:06 before Henry Partridge anchored the team home in 33rd place with an individual leg of 14:46. Tom O'Mara led off the B team with a 14:12 leg, Shaun Baguley (15:26) and Ewan Millar (17:33) completing the team that took 63rd place.

Richie Talbot recorded 13:29 in the Under 17 boys race to take the honours as fastest Mansfield male on the day with Daniel Ward (15:20) and Jack Longstaff (15:25) joining him in the team that ended in 58th position.

Over 5.85kms the Mansfield Senior Men's team finished 9 seconds quicker than at the Midlands. Sean Ledger led off and took 24 seconds off his time 4 weeks ago clocking 19:13 and bringing the team back in 61st place. Stuart King gained 14 places and was 5 seconds quicker than his last outing in 18:44. Triathlete Darren Hodgkinson made his return to the roads for Harriers after a lay-off to concentrate on his cycling and was impressive clocking 20:48 despite taking the team back to 61st place.

James Mee gained 20 places on leg 4 and recorded 18:23 despite suffering from a heavy cold before handing on to Doug Ross who clocked 21:10 on leg 5. Chris Brown was anchor man for Harriers coming back in 53rd place with a time of 20:10.

Mansfield's women had two teams at their 4 stage relays. Natalie Yates improved further on her impressive performance at the Midlands bringing Harriers back in 35th place and with a time of 15:42. Liz Lilley took 10 seconds off her Midlands time but still couldn't quite match Yates - Lilley recording 15:54 and returning with the team in 29th position.

Miriam Tedder took over from Lilley and despite being 23 seconds quicker than at the Midlands couldn't hold off the strong opposition and came back in 41st with a time of 18:19. Nikita Pembleton, with a time of 19:10, anchored home the A team to 48th place.

There was less than half a minute between all four runners in the B team - Carly Johnson leading them off and returning with the fastest time of 19:13. Jane Stafford clawed back 6 places on the second leg running 19:41 before Helen Scott and Claire Coombes pulled back another 14 places to bring the team home in 72nd place and recording 19:20 and 19:21 respectively for the 4.3km course.

At the latest Derby Midweek Training Races Steve Davies and Trevor Hiscox both turned out for Mansfield and both doubled up in the two races. Davies, in his final preparations for the New York Marathon, finished 13th in the mile race in 6:04 and 35th in the 5K in 19:04 whilst Hiscox was 19th in the mile in 6:11 and 43rd over 5K in 19:46.