

National action returned to Berry Hill Park last weekend with the staging of the British Masters Cross Country Relays Championships. Athletes from across the UK completed two laps of the challenging 2000m course and fought for medals across the different categories. With selections for the Home Countries international taking place immediately after this event several athletes were out to record good times.

The short distance over a well prepared course saw some excellent races despite the biting winds. The closest finish came in the M35 category where just two seconds stopped Wolds Vets AC from catching Halesowen. Mansfield's quartet finished fourth, Faz Fahy leading them out and returning in a time of 15.03. John Wood took over from Fahy and recorded 16.41 before Mark Jenkins (16.14) and Carl Emery (15.56) both returned to racing after long lay offs.

The largest field of the day was in the M40 category where a comfortable victory was secured by the team of 6 from Herne Hill Harriers. The race for silver was closer with Sunderland Harriers holding off Tipton Harriers who took bronze.

Mansfield had two teams in the M40 category – the A team finishing in 13<sup>th</sup> position and the B team in 18<sup>th</sup>. First two runners - Doug Ross and Steve Grainger – finished just one second apart from each other, Ross recording 14-37 and Grainger 14-38. John Farquharson clocked 15.16 on the third leg and Rob Smith came back from the fourth leg in 15.38. The last two runners both clocked sub 15 legs with Darren Hodgkinson in 14.56 on fifth and Pete Stafford anchoring the team home in 14.45.

Trevor Hiscox led out the B team bringing them back in 16.19 to be followed out by Julian Wood who clocked 18.04 before handing on to Tim Raynor. Raynor returned in 15.52 and passed the baton to Dave Peet who went one second quicker in 15.51. Steve Davies, on fifth, recorded the fastest B team leg with 15.32 and Richard Massey responded to his late call up with a sub 20 minute last leg in 19.53.

Victory in the M50 category went to Oxford City with Wirral AC in second and Barnet & District taking the bronze medal. Alan Maddocks led the Mansfield quartet out and returned in 17.44 handing over to Geoff Brown who ran 18.52. Terry Ashmore went out third to record 19.03 before John Hall anchored the team home to 11<sup>th</sup> place himself recording the fastest leg in the team with 17.11.

Mansfield's only medal of the day came in the W45 category where Tina Green, Maddy Collinge and Jane Stafford took silver in a race won by local rivals Redhill Road Runners. Tina led the team out recording 19.36 for her leg handing on to Maddy who ran 20.23 and Jane anchored them home with 19.41.

The B team in the W45 category finished in 63.08, with Lynne O'Reilly on first leg (20.18), Michelle Peet (21.15) on second and Sue Bellingham (21.35) on third. Eva Williams led off for the W35 team clocking 19.16 before handing on to Julie Grainger (19.51) and Claire Coombes (19.44).

At the other end of the age scale Mansfield's youngsters were out in force at the first Nottinghamshire Mini League fixture at Retford. The blue and green vests have dominated this league over the last few seasons and this year looks like it could be more of the same.

Harriers made an excellent start with victories in 5 of the 6 races including all 4 top spots in the Under 13 girls. Chevelle Baxter and Molly Johnson battled it out all the way round with Chevelle coming through to take the honours right at the close. Caelidh Ross finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> with Claire Norris in 4<sup>th</sup>.

Four out of the top five positions were secured by the Under 15 Girls – Claire Talbot taking top spot with Demi-Jade Jakymelen in 3<sup>rd</sup>, Hayley Silver in 4<sup>th</sup> and Hannah Hardy taking 5<sup>th</sup>.

Both the Under 13 and Under 15 Boys races saw a first and second for Mansfield – Sam Johnson/Bailey Wardle and Ryan Saxton/Will Stone respectively providing the pairings. Alex Reiley completed the line up of winners taking the Under 11 Boys race with Ben Hardy also securing a top 5 spot with his 4<sup>th</sup> place finish.

Other Mansfield finishers: UNDER 11 BOYS – 9<sup>th</sup>: Harrison Smith, 11<sup>th</sup>: George Partridge, 18<sup>th</sup>: Josh Boam, 21<sup>st</sup> Burt Lewis, 22<sup>nd</sup>: Luke Silver. UNDER 11 GIRLS – 6<sup>th</sup>: Emma Cundy, 12<sup>th</sup>: Maisie Stone. UNDER 13 BOYS - 6<sup>th</sup>: David Wilkinson, 7<sup>th</sup>: Jake Lancaster, 10<sup>th</sup>: Rowan Stone, 12<sup>th</sup>: James Mackintosh, 18<sup>th</sup>: Jordan Boam. UNDER 13 GIRLS - 6<sup>th</sup>: Elle Saxton, 9<sup>th</sup>: Robyn Foster, 10<sup>th</sup>: Tamsin Smith, 11<sup>th</sup>: Ella Shirley, 15<sup>th</sup>: Abigail D'Aguiar, 16<sup>th</sup>: Emma Heath, 18<sup>th</sup>: Rachel Norris, 20<sup>th</sup>: Hazel Blount, 23<sup>rd</sup>: Beth Mortiboy, 24<sup>th</sup>: Holly Smith. UNDER 15 BOYS – 7<sup>th</sup>: Alex Heath. UNDER 15 GIRLS – 8<sup>th</sup>: Alice Mortiboy, 10<sup>th</sup>: Emily D'Aguiar, 11<sup>th</sup>: Keira Abbott, 12<sup>th</sup>: Corrie-Lee Ross, 20<sup>th</sup>: Sarah Dixon.

Away from the track Michael Reid was the only Mansfield athlete in action at the first fixture of the Nottinghamshire Sportshall League competing in both the 1 lap and 3 lap Under 11 boys race. Michael ran well to finish second in both events clocking 14.1 and 43.4 respectively.

Several Harriers made the trip north to compete in the world's biggest half marathon – the Great North Run. Rob Wilbraham returned to his University city and was first Mansfield runner back in 1:31.07. Clive Russell was next back in 1:34.01 followed by Dave Ward recording 1:48.50 with Michael Collins and Katy Morrison breaking the 2 hour barrier running 1:54.16 and 1:54.51 respectively. Gillian Leccia in 2:06.18 and Catherine Morrison (2:22.55) were Mansfield's other representatives.

Daniel and Bronwyn Ward also travelled north to compete in the Junior Great North Run. Running alongside Newcastle's quayside Daniel finished 78<sup>th</sup> in 14:19 and Bronwyn 254<sup>th</sup> in 21:17.

Mansfield's Paralympic silver medallist Chris Martin was guest of honour at the Mansfield Harriers annual presentation evening held at Rainworth Miners Welfare. Chris talked to club members about his experience in Beijing, had photos taken with the club's youngsters whilst proudly showing off his silver medal and handed out trophies to the award winners.



Rachel Gair, Chris Brown and Steve Lisgo took the trophies for senior athletes of the year and were also rewarded with club bursaries for reaching the Olympic trials. Lee Peters was awarded the Veteran track and field athlete of the year for his performances in the Javelin which included a GB veteran call up for the Interland match.

Consistency awards went to James Mee and Richard Woolley and to Laura Bennett and Miriam Tedder whilst the Chris Constable Trophy for female road running was awarded to Vanda Curley.

Veteran of over 200 road races in the last year Trevor Hiscox was rewarded with the overall male veteran of the year whilst the female award went to Maddy Collinge, winner of many age group races in the last year.

The veteran cross country trophies were awarded to Doug Ross and Carol Hartin whilst the road awards went to winner of lots of over 60 races Brian Harris and to Chris Huntington for her all round commitment.

Laura Bennett, James Mee and Sam Cordin were recognised as the outstanding Under 20 athletes – Bennett for her all round performance, Mee as the junior performer having competed in every distance from 400m Hurdles to Half Marathon and Cordin for his continued improvement on the track.

At Under 17 level hurdlers James Hardy and Adam Sansom took the performer and improver awards respectively whilst Daniel Ward was team player. On the girls side Discus thrower Charlotte Gair took the performer award on the back of her 3<sup>rd</sup> place at the UK School games and 4<sup>th</sup> place at the English Schools Championships with Amie Grainger, setting new PBs in 4 events aswell as making a promising debut on the road, being rewarded with the Improver award. Emily Reeve took the team player.

Newcomer Will Stone was recognised as Performer of the year for his efforts over 400m, 800m and 1500m whilst Tom O'Mara and Tom Wallet took the Improver and Team player awards. Another newcomer was recognised when Chloe Elphick took the girls Team Player award with Rachel Brandham's achievements as double county champion on the track and winner of all 4 North Midlands cross country races being recognised with the Improver award. Becky Woolley, ranked 8<sup>th</sup> in the UK at Javelin, was awarded the Performer in this age group.

Sam Johnson's performances on the track and over cross country won him the Under 13 Performer award with Jack Foster's improvements over 100m and 200m recognised with the Improver Award. David Wilkinson was Team Player for his all round efforts in the Young Athletes and Mini League. In the girls category Tamsin Smith was Team Player, Chevelle Baxter Improver and Robyn Foster, winner of the cross country mini league and double county champion on the track, taking the Performer award.

Lewis Ashmore was the Under 11 Boys Improver whilst Alex Reiley was rewarded for breaking 2 mini league records with the Performer award. On the girls side Molly Johnson's continued progress won her the Improver award whilst Claire Norris took the Performer award for her cross country mini league achievements.

The achievements of Charlotte Gair and Becky Woolley couldn't be split and they were jointly awarded the Young Field Eventer of the year trophy whilst the Bill Morris Trophy was also jointly awarded to Linda and Graeme Wilkinson for their support to many aspects of the club.

The Chairman's Shield went to Mark Jenkins for his tireless work on the club's website and the Chairman's Trophy went to Steve Grainger. Keeping with club tradition winner of last years "useless lump" award made the decision on the worthy recipient this year in a presentation that saw Dave Peet hand it on to Richard Massey.