

Mansfield Harriers & Athletic Club

A total of 96 Mansfield Harriers completed the first race of the North Midlands Cross Country league and this resulted in 26 Mansfield teams being on the results sheets at Derby's Markeaton Park.

The Senior Men's race provided the biggest field of the day with over 250 athletes setting out on the 3 lap 9.7Km course. Derby AC athletes took the first 3 places with Mansfield based Billy Farquharson, running for Notts AC, in 4th.

Danny Barkes made his return to cross country running with a well paced run to return home as Mansfield's first athlete back in 37th place clocking 33-50. Pete Stafford was only 3 places and 4 seconds behind in his first cross country season in the VM50 category.

The third blue and green vest back was Doug Ross – finishing 55th in 34-40 with youngster Luke Marshall 3 places behind him – in 34-57. Marshall was well up the field over the first two laps and just found the pace too much on the third lap as the distance began to bite. With a bit more endurance work he will be one to watch for the rest of the season.

Next for Mansfield followed a battle between Steve Grainger, Darren Hodgkinson and Faz Fahy. A strong last lap from Hodgkinson and a very speedy last 400m from Fahy resulted in the 3 runners taking 66th, 67th and 68th positions with just 5 seconds separating them – Hodgkinson in 35-31, Fahy in 35-35 and Grainger in 35-36.

Chris Brown and Tim Raynor were the other harriers to record top 100 finishes with Brown 72nd in 35-42 and Raynor 85th in 36-10. A solid cross country season for Brown should see the track specialist improve his endurance ready for the next summer season over 800m and 1500m.

Stafford, Ross and Hodgkinson became the scorers for a Veterans Team which finished second on the day to Redhill Road Runners. Meanwhile Barkes, Marshall, Fahy, Grainger, Brown along with 110th placed Mark Jenkins secured 7th place for a senior team.

Disaster struck Steve Davies who is preparing for the New York Marathon in 3 weeks time when a particularly tight start area resulted in him falling just 100 metres into the race. Davies was lucky to avoid being trampled and a potential major injury however the recovery affected his position – finishing just outside the top 100 in 103rd place.

The ladies race saw Liz Lilley return to cross country in fine form. Lilley took an excellent 6th place and showed that there is much potential to come from her over the winter and into next summer's road season. In a time of 24-20 she was nearly 5 minutes clear of the second blue and green vest – that of Helen Scott who celebrated her birthday with a 43rd position in a time of 29-09.

Scott was followed home closely by A.Harding (44th in 29-10) and Eva Williams (45th in 29-14) – these two joined by Vanda Curley (51st in 29-38) to secure 3rd place overall in the Veteran ladies race.

Claire Coombes, Tina Green and L.Harrison came back within 41 seconds of each other to take 54th, 57th and 60th places respectively and in so doing secured the 4th place team spot.

With 3 runners in the top 10 Mansfield took the lead in the team event in both Under 13 Boys and Girls races. Chevelle Baxter stormed to victory in the girls race

in a time of 10-37 with Molly Johnson (4th in 10-59) and Ellie Saxton (10th in 11-22) backing her up with valuable points.

Sam Johnson, still with another year in this age group, yet again demonstrated his potential fighting all the way to the end of the Under 13 boys race – finishing 4th in 11-46. Bailey Wardle and David Wilkinson were 6th and 10th respectively in times of 11-59 and 12-18 to secure the lead in this age group in the league.

Another victory came in the Under 15 girl's race where ever improving Claire Talbot took first in a time of 11-56. Demi-Jade Jakymelen was 4th in 12-37 and Hayley Silver 6th in 12-44 with this trio making sure of the lead in the league after this first event.

In the Under 15 Boys Ryan Saxton took victory in 13-53 – 42 seconds clear of his nearest rival. In fifth place was Ewan Millar in 14-59 with 10th placed Tom Wragg (15-19) making up another victorious Harriers team.

The Under 17 Girls made it 5 team wins for Harriers with Hannah Wragg showing the way with a second place spot in 16-10. Dea-Anna Davey and Emma Wilkinson battled it out most of the way round the course with Wilkinson in the lead most of the way. A strong finish from Davey reversed the placings – Davey in 4th in 16-36 and Wilkinson 5th in 16-40.

Daniel Winter was first back for the Under 17 men – returning in 9th place and clocking 22-12. Ryan Childs (14th in 23-10) and Richie Talbot (16th in 23-41) completed a team that finished in 3rd spot.

OTHER MANSFIELD FINISHERS - Senior/Veteran Men – 111: Trevor Hiscox (37-42), 120: Graeme Wilkinson (37-48), 131: Dave Peet (38-54), 134: Terry Ashmore (39-14), 147: Clive Russell (39-59), 151: Steve Childs (40-13), 161: Grant Saxton (40-53), 169: Les Chambers (41-37), 170: Julian wood (41-45), 177: Jason Foster (42-12), 191: Keith Mellor (43-00), 212: Steve Wragg (44-20), 223: Dave Rose (45-43), 226: Lewis Cotton (45-56), 233: Adie Bellingham (47-05), 244: Trevor Palmer (55-08). Under 17 Men – 26: Jack Longstaff (25-30), 29: Daniel Ward (26-46), 32: Greg Millar (26-49). Under 15 Boys – 18: Henry Partridge (15-38), 24: Tom O'Mara (16-04), 29: James Morel (17-24), 30: Alex Heath (17-26). Under 13 Boys – 12: Jake Lancaster (12-23), 13: Lewis Ashmore (12-24), 23: Sam Raynor (12-47), 25: James O'Mara (12-54), 26: Jack Foster (12-59), 27: Jordan Boam (13-03). Senior/Veteran Ladies – 62: Carol Hartin (30-48), 64: Maddy Collinge (30-54), 65: Daisy Bough (31-00), 66: Sue Bellingham (31-05), 71: Lynne O'Reilly (31-38), 73: Michelle Peet (32-15), 89: Elaine Greaves (35-00), 90: S. Smith (35-27), 91: Tracey Lancaster (35-47), 93: Linda Wilkinson (35-59), 99: S. Armitage (36-33), 101: R. Foster (36-44), 103: S. Baxter (38-16). Under 17 Ladies – 7: Georgia Milton (17-00), 8: Laura Brown (17-04), 13: Sophie Ward (17-35), 18: Kate Raynor (19-01), 20: Christie Childs (19-25). Under 15 Girls – 7: Rachel Brandham (12-46), 8: Charlotte Bellingham (12-47), 16: Hannah Hardy (13-07), 29: Jess Smith (13-59), 35: Emily D'Aguiar (15-05). Under 13 Girls – 13: Claire Norris (11-34), 20: Abigail D'Aguiar (12-14), 23: Hazel Blount (12-21), 25: Harriet Codd (12-24), 26: Rachel Norris (12-29), 32: Holly Smith (12-43), 38: Laura Wade (13-27).

5 Harriers braved the miserable weather to take part in the multi terrain Goose Fair Gallop 10K last week. Natalie Yates continued her return to racing with an excellent second place finish in the senior ladies category with a promising time of 40-27. Trevor Hiscox was next back in 44-02 taking 5th place in the VM45 category two category places ahead of Julian Wood who clocked 46-55. Wayne Turner was 29th Senior Man in 50-13 and Eva Williams took the prize for first VL40 with a time of 51-07.