

Mansfield Harriers & Athletic Club

Mansfield Harriers have been picking up the rewards again at both local and national level as the cross country season enters its last month.

The final **Nottinghamshire mini-league fixture** took place at Berry Hill Park and Harriers came away with a clean sweep of the team event in all six categories re-enforcing their dominance over the country this winter.

There was Gold in the individual series for Claire Norris in the Under 11 Girls, Sam Johnson in the Under 11 Boys and Robyn Foster in the Under 13 Girls. Overall silvers went to Molly Johnson (Under 11 Girls), Alex Riely (Under 11 Boys), Demi-Jade Jakymelen (Under 13 Girls), Jonny Brown (Under 13 Boys) and Claire Talbot (Under 15 Girls). Taking the overall Mansfield medal tally to 13 (out of an available 18) were bronze medal winners Abigail D'Aguiar, Hannah Hardy, Sam Raynor, Ryan Saxton and Laura Brown.

On the day the Mansfield youngsters dominated in every age group with 2 brother/sister partnerships leading the way. Molly Johnson and Sam Johnson took the Under 11 Girls and Boys respectively with Hannah and Tom Wragg doing likewise in the Under 15 Girls and Under 13 Boys. Ryan Saxton (Under 15 Boys) and Demi-Jade Jakymelen (Under 13 Girls) completed the Mansfield line up of winners.

Other Mansfield placings: UNDER 11 GIRLS – 2: Claire Norris 3: Rachel Norris 4: Ella Shirley 8: Beth Mortiboy 9: Emma Heath 10: Abigail D'Aguiar. UNDER 11 BOYS – 2: Alex Riely 3: Lewis Ashmore 4: George King 5: James O'Mara 6: Bailey Wardle 10: Ben Hardy 16: Jack Foster 19: Joseph Ashmore 22: George Partridge 26: Harrison Smith 30: Josh Boam. UNDER 13 GIRLS – 2: Hannah Hardy 4: Robyn Foster 5: Hayley Silver 6: Charlotte Bellingham 7: Tamsin Smith 8: Chevelle Baxter 10: Kiera Abbott 14: Emily D'Aguiar 15: Verity Turner 24: Holly Smith 28: Hazel Blount. UNDER 13 BOYS – 3: Jonny Brown 5: Jake Lancaster 7: Sam Raynor 9: David Wilkinson 14: Jordan Boam. UNDER 15 GIRLS – 3: Laura Brown 4: Claire Talbot. UNDER 15 BOYS – 2; Henry Partridge 6: Richie Talbot 11: Tom O'Mara 14: Alex North

SILVER FOR DANNY IN ARMY CHAMPS

Mansfield Harrier Danny Heathcote took the silver for the second year running in the Junior Men's event in the Army cross country championships. Recently back from an army training camp in South Africa he will be hoping that his form over the country will be followed up on the track as he seeks to replicate his form over recent years in the Steeplechase.

NATIONAL GLORY AGAIN FOR UNDER 15s

This years Saucony English Cross Country Championships took place against the backdrop of the Alton Towers theme park in Staffordshire. With one hill steeper than most of the rides in the theme park the course was a testing one.

Mansfield's best performance again came from the Under 15 girls who, as reigning Midland champions, went into the event hoping for a team medal. They didn't disappoint and came away with the bronze – repeating the performance from two years ago, when as Under 13's, they finished third at London's Parliament Hill.

Rachel Brandham and Hannah Wragg produced the sort of performances that has come to be expected – both running strongly and judging the conditions well to finish 26th and 27th respectively. Next home was Claire Talbot who produced one of the best runs of the day from a blue and green vest to finish in 41st only 16 seconds behind her two team-mates. Dee-Anna Davey completed the medal winning quartet in 59th.

The Under 13 girls again provided the biggest turn out for Mansfield and were rewarded with a 9th place team finish in the biggest junior field of the day – Harriers provided 13 of the 367 finishers. Charlotte Bellingham showed the sort of form she is capable of coming home first for Mansfield in 71st position.

The Under 17 women were led home by Emma Wilkinson who, with a 98th position, secured her first ever top 100 finish in a national event.

Tom Wragg was first back for the Under 13 boys in 77th position and Ryan Saxton showed his form with a 45th place finish in the Under 15 boys.

James Mee continued to impress with a strong run in the Junior Men's race to finish 55th in a very strong field and will be hoping that the endurance work he has done over the winter will pay dividends as he hits the summer road season. Danny Heathcote, fresh from his success at the Army Championships, demonstrated his returning form finishing in 91st.

Steve Davies and Doug Ross led the way home for Mansfield's seniors who had a disappointingly low turnout. Steve was 443rd and Doug 491st in a field of close to 1250 finishers. Ann Brown was first Mansfield lady home in 353rd.

Other Mansfield placings: SENIOR MEN – 674: Tim Raynor 776: Trevor Hiscox 779: Clive Russell 879: Les Chambers 1110: Mark Partridge 1175: Adie Bellingham 1222: Steve Wragg. JUNIOR MEN – 196: Chris Brown. UNDER 17 MEN – 279: Alec George. UNDER 15 BOYS – 158: Henry Partridge 229: Jonny Brown 230: Richie Talbot. UNDER 13 BOYS – 160: Sam Johnson 204: Jake Lancaster 279: David Wilkinson. SENIOR WOMEN - 378: Sue Bellingham 381: Louise Harrison. UNDER 17 WOMEN - 146: Holly Blount 153: Gina Radford 160: Kate Raynor. UNDER 15 GIRLS – 99: Siobhan Harrison 119: Laura Brown 162: Sophie Ward 170: Hannah Harrison 228: Megan Roche. UNDER 13 GIRLS – 84: Chevelle Baxter 91: Demi-Jade Jakymelen 109: Molly Johnson 136: Hayley Silver 173: Hannah Hardy 191: Tamsin Smith 234: Emily D'Aguiar 296: Jessica Smith 320: Holly Smith 338: Jess Raynor 347: Hazel Blount

ENGLAND VEST FOR LUKE

The hard work put in over the winter for Mansfield Harriers Luke Cragg has been rewarded with a call up to the England Under 23 team for a home country event to be stage as part of the Welsh 5K Championships on March 2nd. His recent form has been headlined with strong runs in the Sale 5 mile race over the Christmas period and then over 10K at Telford and Dewsbury.

Cragg was an important part of Mansfield's road race revival last season and this call up by the selectors is a great boost before the upcoming Midland and National Road Relays where the club are hoping for one of their best ever placings.

CHILDS TWINS PB AGAIN

Ryan and Christie Childs both produced excellent performances at the National Under 17 Indoor Championships at Birmingham's National Indoor Arena.

Running at the bottom end of the Under 17 age group Ryan recorded two personal best performances with a 51.96 secs 400 metres and a 2:04.39 run over 800 metres. Meanwhile sister Christie finished 4th in the 800 metres with anew PB of 2:17.9.

5K RACE FROM BERRY HILL PARK

Mansfield Harriers are promoting an open 5K Road Race on April 11th. The race, sponsored by Mansfield Building Society, starts and finishes in Berry Hill Park.

Leaving the park after starting on the athletics track the route goes along Lichfield Lane turning left down North Park and then left again up Blackscotch Lane returning into the park just before the school. It then goes straight along the top of the park before leaving it again onto Lichfield Lane to complete a second lap.

The race entry fee of £5 for members of athletics clubs and £7 for others includes food afterwards and entries (detailing name, date of birth, gender and club) should be sent (with cheque payable to Mansfield Harriers to Open 5K, 6 Santon Road, Forest Town, Mansfield NG19 0PR.