

MANSFIELD HARRIERS AC: RACE REPORTS WEEK COMMENCING 12th May

Holme Pierrepont National Water Sports Centre provide a fast accurately measured 5 mile course for the second fixture in the 2008 Notts AAA Road Race League.

With many of the youngsters that Mansfield harriers relied on last season away at university this fixture was always going to be a tough one. However the blue and green vests that turned out on the night amongst the 403 runners yet again did the club proud.

Craig Kelly was the first Harrier home in 13th position in a time of 28:04 – a performance that takes him into the top 10 after 2 events in the 5 race series. Kelly was pushed all the way by Pete Stafford who is returning to form after a hip injury. Stafford finished only 4 seconds behind Kelly in 15th position which pushed him into bronze medal position in the V45 category overall.

Another battle pursued behind these 2 athletes with Carl Emery and Steve Grainger battling it out over the last half mile. Fast improving Emery had pushed on over the first 3 miles and soon kicked back to regain the lead when Grainger took him at 3.5 miles. However Carl's endurance couldn't quite hold him off when Steve pushed again in the run in to the finish – Grainger finishing in 23rd with a time of 28:32 just 5 seconds ahead of 26th placed Emery.

Another athlete coming back to form was next in as Mark Johnson finished in 37th place in 39:17 – if he can continue his training a top 25 position looks likely before the end of the season.

Rob Smith in 52nd and Steve Davies in 70th joined Stafford and Grainger in counting as scorers for the Vets team which finished 2nd on the night and Trevor Hiscox (83rd), Mark Jenkins (87th) and Alan Crewe (89th) completed the line up of scorers for the Senior Men.

In the Ladies event Kirsty Huntingdon finished first for Mansfield with an excellent 8th placed spot in 32:23. Miriam Tedder was 18th in 34:21 to take 12th place spot in the rankings after 2 races.

Amie Grainger made her debut in the Road race league with an excellent 23rd place finish to come home as first junior in 34:57.

Eva Williams finished in 26th with the next two finishers both securing medal placings in the overall rankings – Vanda Curley in 36th to take 3rd spot in the V45 category and Maddy Collinge taking the lead in the V55 Rankings with a 40th place finish.

Other Mansfield finishers: MEN – 109: Marcus McCarthy, 116: Dave Peet, 125: Les Chambers, 129: Clive Russell, 141: Pete Collinge, 145: Alan Maddocks, 190: Ivan Colton, 193: Daniel Ward, 228: Dave Ward, 239: D. Robertson. WOMEN: 45: Tina Green, 52: Jane Stafford, 56: Julie Grainger, 64: Lyn O'Reilly, 67: Denise Winfield, 104: Michelle Peet, 111: Chris Huntingdon.

3 days after the Road race league Mansfield's Masters men went on to Birmingham's Sutton Park to compete in the British Masters Road Relays Championships.

A mix up over start times meant that Harriers V50 team missed the start – some choosing to take a training run around the park instead and others electing to compete in the M35 or M40 category.

The M35 team and M40 team set off together with all runners completing a 3 mile lap of the park grounds.

Doug Ross was first out for the M40 team coming home in 26th place in a time of 16:12. Doug handed on to Rick Huntingdon who ran a very respectable 18:21 before handing on to Dave Peet who came back in 19:30.

Next out was Dougie Flett for his first race in almost 8 months after a knee operation. Dougie demonstrated that his return to training is paying off with an excellent time of 17:33.

Steve Grainger took on the baton from Dougie Flett and finished with a personal best over this course, finishing inside the top 10 fastest times for the leg – coming home in 16:43.

Next out was Pete Stafford who became the 3rd runner to dip under 17 minutes with a time of 16:55 before handing on to Steve Davies who finished in 18:12 before passing to Trevor Hiscox to complete the team effort with a time of 20:03.

The M35 team were led out by Bob Scott who just managed to dip under 19 mins with a time of 18:59. Scott handed on to Les Chambers who recorded 19:50 before passing on to Ivan Colton who returned home in 20:38.

Elsewhere on the roads it has been a busy week for Harriers with athletes taking part in the Caythorpe Duathlon, Eyam Half Marathon and Larwood 10K.

Jeremy Kirk led the way home for Harriers at Caythorpe in 63:57 finishing 12th. Pete Collinge was next back in 17th position in 66:18 with Les Chambers less than 2 minutes behind in 23rd place in 68:17.

First Mansfield lady back was 41st placed Helen Scott in 72:25 with Maddy Collinge in 76:10 finishing in 47th and Tina Green 56th in 79:32.

Meanwhile at the Larwood 10K Julian Wood returned home for Mansfield in 61st place in a time of 45:36. John O'Reilly was just 9 seconds, and 3 places, behind in 45:45 and first lady in was Eva Williams in 98th place with a time of 48:17.

Maddy Collinge was fast on Eva's heels finishing in 99th in 48:23 with Lynne O'Reilly (137th in 51:27) and Elaine Greaves (255th in 61:01) making up the Mansfield contingent.

At Eyam Pete Collinge was first back in 90th position in 1:39:07 ahead of Trevor Hiscox, 108th in 1:41:16 and newcomer Jonathan Mitchell, 110th in 1:41:59.

Maddy Collinge took the V55 Ladies prize with an time of 1:52:47 and Carol Hartin made up the Mansfield team on the day with 402nd spot in 2:15:54.

Meanwhile back on the track Berry Hill Park hosted the second match in the Midland Premier League of the National Young Athletes League. The visitors were City of Stoke, Halesowen and Charnwood and Mansfield finished second to City of Stoke by just 25 points.

The Under 13 girls scored significant points for Mansfield with a host of double victories. Robyn Foster continued her outstanding season with a AAA grade 1 performance in the 75m, winning the A string in 10.4 whilst Rachel Norris was close behind winning the B string in 10.7. Robyn made it 2 victories when she took the B string Shot in 5.02m and Rachel took two further first place spots in the A string Long Jump and B string 150 metres.

Kayleigh Ross and Claire Norris made it a double in the 800m, Kayleigh taking the A string in 2:41.1 and Claire the B in 2:45.6. Further victories for Molly Johnson in the B string 1200m, Tamsin Smith in the High Jump and Chevelle Baxter in the Shot backed up by seconds for Baxter in the 1200m A string, Foster in the A string 150 metres and a third for Hayley Grainger in the A string 70m Hurdles made it a good day for this age group.

Not to be outdone the Under 15 and under 17 girls teams also produced several double victories. At Under 15 level Becky Woolley recorded 3 wins in the A string Discus and Javelin and B string Shot with Arlayna Davey winning the B string javelin and Chloe Elphick the A string Shot.

Elphick added to this win with a second in the 75m Hurdles and in the High Jump whilst Rachel Brandham and Demi-Jade Jakymelen scored a double first in the Under 15 girls 1500m.

Middle distance domination continued at Under 17 level with Georgia Milton and Christie Childs taking first spots in the 800m and Hannah Wragg and Amie Grainger doing likewise in the 1500m.

A triple first for Charlotte Gair in the A string Hammer and Discus and B string Shot along with victories for Emily Reeve in the B string 300m, Amie Grainger in the B string 300m Hurdles, Laura Brown in the B string Discus and Javelin and Jess Grieves/Emma Wilkinson in the A/B string High Jump meant good points for Harriers.

Ben Leivers-Riley produced an excellent performance in the Under 15 Boys 100m to take victory in a grade one performance of 11.8 followed up by a 3rd place spot in a highly competitive 200m, Ben finishing with a grade 2 performance of 24.8, and a second in the A string Shot.

Connor McHale took two seconds in the A string Javelin and B string 80m Hurdles while Tom Wallett took maximum points in the B string 200m and finished second in the 100m. Jack Cabourn and Ewan Millar also recorded first place spots – Millar in the B string javelin and Cabourn in the B string Long Jump. Meanwhile Cabourn also took second in the A string High Jump and Millar took second in the B string Shot.

Will Stone ran 2:18.0 to take second in the A string 800m and Ryan Saxton completed the line up of 2nd place finishes in the Under 15 Boys Discus.

At Under 13 level there were no victories for Mansfield but team spirit shone though and useful points were picked up. Sam Johnson and Jake Lancaster took two 2nd place spots in the 1500m with David Wilkinson taking second in the B string Long Jump and Jack Foster likewise in the B string 100m.

Competition was tough for the Under 17s however Ryan Childs and Adam Sansom again came away with good points. Sansom took first in the A string 400m Hurdles and B string 100m Hurdles along with second in the A string Triple Jump whilst Childs was first in B string 400m Hurdles and second in A string 400m and 1500m Steeplechase.

James Hardy returned to the team with maximum points with victory in the A string 100m Hurdles and was second in the A string 200m and A string High Jump. Meanwhile Max Branson took first in the B string Long Jump and Ollie Fell took the points with victory in the B string 400m.

The last event of the day was the Javelin and it was worth the wait for Mansfield – Danny Martin and Greg Millar taking two firsts – Martin throwing 47.34m to take the A string and Millar 42.12m to take the B string.

Three Mansfield athletes made the trip to Watford on Saturday evening for the British Milers Club meeting. Dee-Anna Davey recorded a personal best finishing second in her 1500m race in 4:49.42. Meanwhile Rachel Brandham, Sophie Ward and Jodie Bestwick took part in the 800m races. Brandham finished in 2:23.62 with Ward in 2:32.39 and Bestwick in 2:27.23.

Harriers achieved international recognition again when Richard Woolley and Steve Lisgo both received selection for the Loughborough international meeting – Woolley parading in GB tracksuit and Lisgo in a Scotland vest. Further details of their performances to follow next week but the whole club offers congratulations to these two athletes.