



## NORTH MIDS XC LEAGUE

### **Harriers take to the Country.**

The first run out of the cross country season for Mansfield's senior teams ended with mixed fortunes last weekend at Wicksteed Park, Kettering. On a course that was new for the majority of the athletes and on a weekend where many athletes were missing due to University and work commitments the Senior Men's, Veteran Men's and Veteran Ladies teams all managed to fight for second place finishing positions with the Senior Ladies in 11th place after this first fixture.

James Mee returned from Birmingham University with his broken arm in plaster and demonstrated his growing ability to run with senior athletes to take an excellent early season 8th place overall and was the first Junior home. New signing Gareth Deacon, running his first cross country race in a Mansfield vest, was the next Harrier home in 21st place just ahead of Danny Heathcote who managed leave from the army for the weekend to finish in 25th. Steve Davies, fresh from running the Marathon in the recent world masters games in Riccione, Italy, was next home in 34th place with John Farquharson, just returning from illness, hoping to repeat his great form last season over the country finishing in 47th place and taking the 3rd spot on the day in the Vets team. Steve Grainger in 55th place, Mark Jenkins in 62nd and John Wood, another athlete making his cross country debut in a Harriers vest and finishing in 71st made up the counters in the Senior Men's team.

The Ladies were led home by Maddy Collinge finishing 41st overall and 2nd in the V50 category followed closely by Carol Hartin in 44th and Denise Winfield in 49th – these three making up the Veteran ladies team which, on the day, finished in second place overall.

In the youngsters races Mansfield dominated the Under 15 girls event. Fresh from their recent gold medal winning performance at the Midland Young Athletes Road Relays Rachel Brandham and Hannah Wragg finished 1st and 3rd respectively with new girl Dee-Ann Davey splitting them on the day to take second place. Claire Talbot ran a strong race to finish in 6th place and Laura Brown demonstrated that she is on the way back to form with an 11th place finish. The Under 13 girls race saw a strong run from Chevelle Baxter to finish 4th and with team mates Demi Jakymelen finishing 10th and Hayley Silver 14th the team secured a second place overall. At Under 17 level Georgia Milton was the first Mansfield athlete home in 8th place whilst in the Under 15 boys Ryan Saxton was first home for Mansfield in 9th place. The Under 13 boys lead the league table after this first event by just 4 points after a battle between the first two athletes home – Tom Wragg and Jake Lancaster. Battling all the way to the line Tom took 8th place from Jake in 9th by just one second – Jonny Brown in 14th making up the team scorers.

The next fixture in this League takes place at Markeaton Park in Derby on November 10th but a week before this Mansfield's athletes can be seen competing with the best athletes in the country as Berry Hill Park again plays host to the National Cross Country Relays.

Full Results online at [www.northmidsexcleague.co.uk](http://www.northmidsexcleague.co.uk)