

Harriers Many Notts AAA's Successes

A wet and cold Moorways stadium in Derby, welcomed all the athletes from both Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire to the 2007 local AAA's track and field championships. Many who first witnessed the weather could have been mistaken for thinking they had arrived at the cross country champs rather than the summer jamboree.

Mansfield Harriers athletes across all the age groups from youngsters through to veterans picked up medals and a number of county titles. Saturday's proceedings got under way in the seniors with Stefan Wilcockson winning the 400mH in a new club record of 57.0 seconds. Stef also picked up the 110mH title in a time of 17.2 seconds with team mate Jonathan Newell second. Chris Ashmore won the vets long jump gold with a leap of 5.20m – new club vet 40 record, whilst also claiming bronze in the vets 100m final. Club mate Shaun Davy took silver. Paul Gair retained his vets hammer title and won gold with a throw of 36.69m. Paul Wright won bronze in the men's 200m, whilst Lee Peters took silver in the javelin with a throw of 49.43m a new club vet 40 record.

In the men's junior events, Sam Cordin at the bottom of the age group returned from injury to win the 200m in a time of 22.2 seconds, whilst in the 1500m, local middle distance gladiators, Aidan Reid and Stuart King slugged it out for nigh on four laps before Reid came home first for gold in a time of 4:05.2 with King taking silver in 4:05.9. Richard Woolley took javelin gold with a throw of 54.58m. In the U17M category, Adam Samson son silver in the long jump with a leap of 5.42m, whilst James Hardy won silver in the 100mH.

The U15 boy's saw Ryan Childs lead a Mansfield 1-2-3 in the 400m in a time of 55.0 seconds, from Tom Lowery and Nick Phillips. Lowery returned later to win the 200m in a time of 24.5 seconds. Childs also won the javelin and took silver in the 80mH. In the same event Connor McHale was third whilst also winning bronze in the javelin. Henry Partridge won bronze in the 1500m. In the U13 age group, Jonathan Brown won the 1500m in a time of 5:11.8 with team mate Thomas Wragg taking silver. Jack Cabourn continued his cracking start to the season with yet another club record in the 75mH and a championship best performance in a time of 13.4 seconds to bag gold. He then won long jump gold from Harrier Jonathan Brown who took silver.

The ladies and girls also picked up a host of medals on Saturday. Rachel Gair opened her account by taking the senior women's shot title with a new club record of 8.34m, whilst mother Sandi took the vet women's title with a throw of 5.50m as well as taking silver in the discus. Meryl Harrison retained her vet women's 100m crown in 15.6 seconds. In the junior ranks, Lucy Spray won the 200m title in a new club record of 25.8 seconds, whilst also winning the 400mH in a time of 65.7 seconds – again a new club record. GCSE commitments kept away a number of the clubs U17 women athletes over the weekend, however, Georgia Milton won the 800m in a time of 2:18.6, leading from the start from Lincoln Wellington's Blue Haywood. Improving Emily Reeve took bronze for Harriers in the race. Laura-Jo Bennett won the high jump title with a leap of 1.40m, shot with a throw of 9.10m, whilst also taking bronze in the 100m. Kate Raynor picked up the 3000m crown, running at the bottom of the age group, whilst Hannah Gair bagged bronze in the discus.

The U15's saw several club battles, with 800m proving a real tussle. Christie Childs led from the gun, pursued by Rachel Brandham. Both athletes crossed the line in new pb's with Childs claiming gold in a time of 2:18.7, with Brandham settling for silver in a time of 2:20.4. Hannah Wragg ran a seasons pb to take bronze. Charlotte Gair broke the clubs discus record in winning gold with a throw of 26.48m, whilst also taking silver in the shot. Laura Massey took silver in the 100m, followed home for bronze by Amy Porter, whilst Beth Farr took high jump bronze. The U13's saw Becky Woolley take the plaudits with a championship best performance in the shot, throwing 8.28m, whilst the 800m's saw Mansfield take a 1-2, with Keira Abbott winning gold in a time of 2:39.9, whilst Chevelle Baxter took silver.

Saturday at least was dry in parts. Sunday brought with it weather more akin to a swimming gala for all the athletes. The highlight of the day for the wet yet cheerful crowd was the appearance of Notts AC GB International 110m hurdler Andy Turner. The local GB star had just returned from the heat of Qatar, set a new CBP in the 100m in a time of 10.5 seconds. Harrier's senior men also had another good day, led by Martin Cook winning the 400m title in a time of 50.5 seconds with team mate Paul Wright taking bronze. Given the weather at this stage was adding between 1-2 seconds per lap, Martins win on another day would have challenged the club record. Multi-eventer Matthew Woolley claimed the discus title with a throw of 36.68m, whilst youngster Chris Brown took silver in the 1500m. In the vets, Martin White led home fellow Harrier vet Chris Ashmore to take gold and silver in the 400m, White improving his own club record to 54.1, whilst Alan Maddocks broke the vet 55 record in coming fourth in a time of 63.2 seconds.

In the junior ranks, the gladiators Aidan Reid and Stuart King put on their best battle gear for the 1500m title. King having come second the previous day let Reid hit the front early doors, before mounting his challenge 200m from home. As both runners came chasing down the home straight, Stuart just got his nose in front to take the title in a time of 1:51.1, with Aidan just 0.8 seconds behind for silver. Sam Cordin continued his winning streak by taking gold in the 100m in a time of 11.3 seconds, before bagging the 400m title in a time of 49.2 seconds, again just outside the club record. Tom Bell having moved up to U20 this season claimed the triple jump title with a leap of 12.53m.

In the U15 ranks, Ryan Childs added to his first day medal haul by beating pre-race favourite Tom Collins from Notts AC, by over 5 seconds in taking the 800m title in an English schools qualifying time of 2:06.1, Harriers Nick Phillips took bronze. Childs also claimed the shot title with a throw of 9.20m, Cy Holmes taking bronze to go with his 100m silver. Connor McHale took high jump bronze. The U13's also bagged second day medals, Jack Cabourn took the long jump title from Jonathan Brown with a leap of 4.14m, whilst also winning high jump gold – 1.33m, and picking up 800m bronze.

The ladies kicked off Sunday with probably Mansfield Harriers best performance of the weekend. National standard young hammer thrower Rachel Gair continued her domination of this event by throwing the sixth ranked distance of 56.86m in the UK during 2007 to take the title. Not to be out done Paul Gair coached athletes also picked up the silver and bronze medals through Lorraine Garvey and wife Sandi. Meanwhile Rachel took the shot title with a throw of 8.34m, a new club record, whilst Sandi took javelin silver. The junior women saw Jodie Bestwick take 400m bronze in a time of 64.2 seconds.

Laura Bennett continued to pick up U17W medals, firstly by winning the 80mH title in a time of 12.7, followed by long jump gold with a leap of 4.85m. Hannah Gair kept in the family by taking the hammer title with a throw of 20.69m, whilst also taking silver in the javelin, with Kate Raynor scooping bronze. Amie Grainger won 1500m silver, whilst Emily Reeve took 300m bronze.

The U15 ranks saw a Mansfield Harriers dominated 1500m race, with seven of the nine runners from the club. Siobhan Harrison ran a very determined race, leading from an early stage, with Rachel Brandham running along side, and Christie Childs just behind. Following some early bumping and barging, Harrison kicked at the 800m mark, pulling away quickly to come home comfortably to take gold and the title in a time of 4:53.6. Meanwhile the race behind saw Hannah Wragg pass the other athletes down the home straight to take silver in a season's best 5:01.8, with Brandham taking bronze in 5:06.9. Beth Farr retained her 75mH title by claiming gold in a time of 12.7 seconds, whilst also winning long jump silver.

Charlotte Gair, having just missed the schools standard the previous day in winning the discus, consoled herself with two silvers in the hammer and shot, whilst in the 200m Christie Childs won silver from team mate Amy Porter who took bronze. The U13's saw Chevelle Baxter run a mature race in chasing down early pace setter Bo Haywood from Lincoln Wellington over 1500m to take the title in a time of 5:24.8, with Keira Abbott picking up bronze, whilst Becky Woolley won silver in the long jump,