

BLUE AND GREEN ARMY ON TOUR

ROAD RACE LEAGUE REPORT HOME PIERREPONT – 16TH MAY

ANOTHER SUPERB NIGHT IN CONDITIONS FIT FOR A DUCK!!!!!!!

31 MEN TOOK TO THE START LINE WHICH AGAIN BROKE THE CLUB RECORD. THE TEAM SPIRIT WAS FANTASTIC ON THE NIGHT IN VERY POOR CONDITIONS. EVERYONE STOPPED UNTIL THE END AND ENSURED EVERY MANSFIELD RUNNER WAS CHEERED ON.

SENIOR MEN WERE SECOND ON THE NIGHT WITH 60 POINTS WHICH MEANS WE ARE ONLY 7 POINTS BEHIND REDHILL OVERALL. WE ALSO FINISHED 2 OTHER SENIOR TEAMS ON THE NIGHT WHICH WAS FANTASIC.

VETERAN MEN AGAIN WON ON THE NIGHT AND ARE NOW 67 POINTS IN THE LEAD OVERALL.

TACTICAL TEAM SELECTION HAS PLAYED A BIG PART IN THE TWO FIXTURES SO FAR AND BOTH AGE GROUPS ARE SHAPING UP FOR A BATTLE ROYAL SO BRING IT ON!!!!!!!

Stuart King produced one of his best displays in a Mansfield vest to storm into 3rd place. Stuart was aggressive from the start and at one point had an 80metre lead but hung on superbly to lead the team home. Stuart his now 3rd overall and is improving week by week. He is also gaining the belief that he can compete with the best athletes in the county. **Steve Capewell** was next back with his second 7th place finish of the series. Steve started off in his usual calm and methodical way but stormed through the field in the second half of the race passing runners for fun in the process. Steve his becoming Mr Solid for the club and his enthusiasm is infectious. **Andrew “top gun” Harris** was next back with a superb performance in 9th place recapturing the form he showed for Newark last year. Andrew his just starting to benefit from all the hard work he has put in over the last few weeks. He becomes a pilot soon so starting to fly in his running his good practice for his new career. **Gareth Deacon** in his first ever run for the club ran a brave race even though he isn't fit to come 10th on the night. Gareth has been a brilliant servant to which ever club he has ran for over the years and showed this by not shirking the challenge even though he his short of fitness. He will be a superb asset to the club and with his experience a good mentor for the young guns we have coming through. Welcome to the team Gareth. **James “pocket rocket” Mee** was next back for the club in 13th place and again showed the team spirit in the club even though he hasn't trained much lately he still produced a solid performance. On the way home James vowed to storm into the Top 10 by the next one so watch this space.

Pete Stafford was again first vet back just behind James in 14th place. Pete is the most consistent athlete at the club and someone who would be on any team managers list when picking teams due to him being Mr Dependable. He is still improving race by race as he strives to reach the Top 10 once more and help the vets in their quest for honours this year. **Chris Brown** proved to himself that he can still compete over the longer distances against people who have much more of a stamina base. He was so disappointed after the first race of the series but didn't sulk and has just got on with getting himself fitter and showed what a good club man he is by producing the goods once more. **Mark Jenkins** who only a year ago was threatening to quit because he had fallen out with athletics showed what dedication and a will to succeed can do for you by slipping inside the Top 20 in 19th position, his best finish for over 3 years. Mark has been one of the best distance runners for the club in the past and I for one feel like I have a new signing with his renewed passion and zest for the sport.

Paul "the old warhorse" Fox ran his best race for over five years to claim 25th position. People who have been involved with Nottinghamshire athletics over the past 15 years will know how good Paul was and how good it is to see him getting fit once more. I for one know how much is still left in the tank and I think the rest of the athletic world need to take note of this performance and with Paul's dedication coming back he could become a scary proposition once more.

Faz "the Irish mad dog" Fahy was next back with his best ever finish in a road race league of 29th. Faz has been putting a lot of hard work into his training of late and is starting to reap the benefits. Faz has not been in the sport long and with a little more experience of racing he will become an accomplished athlete. He is another athlete whose enthusiasm rubs off on others. **John Farquharson** was just behind his club mate in 33rd. John is still coming out of the other side of his virus problems and will take another couple of weeks before he starts gaining the strength back to be able to train to his usual standard. Again he is not shying away from the challenges even though he isn't 100% fit. **Doug "the proclaimer" Flett** again showed he is becoming a vital member of the team with another superb performance in 41st position. Doug is a big personality in the club and there is no one more passionate about the club and cheering on athletes than this man. It must be something to do with being Scottish and having a big mouth but I wouldn't change him for the world.

Steve "the ginger prince" Davies was next back in 44th place. Steve is still feeling the effects of the London marathon but is that much of a club man that he will never let anyone down and showed this again by producing a solid performance. He is also my partner in crime trying to work the results out at the end and how to mix the teams which is sometimes a harder job than the race itself. **Rob Smith** was next finisher in 56th with another one of his solid performances. Rob his just starting to show some real improvements in training again and I think could be one to watch over the rest of the series. **Marcus Mcarthy** produced one of his best ever displays to finish in a very encouraging 86th position. Marcus doesn't race that often but with his training getting better all the time he now needs to get race fit and produce what he is capable of achieving. He might try and finish higher next time so he doesn't have me shouting at him for the last mile either. **Terry Ashmore** ran an awesome race storming through the field in the last two miles to finish in 89th position. He is improving all the time and now needs the confidence to realise he can go off a little harder at the start and still finish strongly but superb effort none the less. **Carl Emery and Bob Scott** looked like a Duracell advert swaying down the final straight with their ginger locks. The only trouble is neither looked like the batteries would last for ever and both know there is much more to come in the rest of the series.

Other Mansfield Harriers placings:

120 L Chambers – best finish of series

127 A King – best ever finish

130 K Wilson – first run for 3 years, Top man keep up the good work Mr Wilson

147 J Kirk

153 K Mellor

154 P Collinge

155 J Harrison

158 B Harris

170 G Brown

183 D Rose

196 J Wood

244 D Ward

257 J Hall

THANKS LADS IT WAS ANOTHER SUPERB EFFORT BY YOU ALL

**WE STILL HAVE A LOT OF HARD WORK STILL TO DO OVER THE
COMING RACES BECAUSE OTHER CLUBS ARE SHOWING THEY
WON'T GIVE UP THEIR TITLES WITHOUT A FIGHT. EACH FIXTURE
BECOMES MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE LAST AND NOT ONLY DO I
WANT TO WIN THINGS I WANT US TO KEEP BREAKING RECORDS
FOR THE NUMBERS OF RUNNERS WE HAVE THERE.**

NEXT FIXTURE IS JUNE 13TH AT EREWASH

SEE YOU THERE!!!!!!!!!!

LOVE CARL