

# *Mansfield Harriers & Athletic Club*

With two National relays events and the Midlands Championships set for Berry Hill Park this winter the testing parkland course saw its first fixture this week when schools from across Nottinghamshire descended on the town.

Over the next few months the country's best athletes will visit Mansfield as the reputation for cross country events continues to grow. The first major event takes place next Saturday (October 4th) when the British Masters Cross Country Relays takes place. Attracting competitors from as far as Belfast, Wales and Folkestone there are 2 start times for races across 7 different age groups with the action starting at 12.30pm. Spectators are welcome and entry is free.

The premier event of the year returns to Mansfield on Saturday November 1st when thousands of runners descend on the park for the prestigious English Cross Country Relays. This event attracts Olympians and World Championship level athletes and organisers will be hoping for a repeat of last years blue skies and sunshine.

The sunshine was out in abundance last Saturday when the first fixture of three Nottinghamshire Schools Cross Country League events took place and encouraged some promising early season form.

Mansfield Harriers were well represented with their youngsters securing all but one of the victory places and taking over half of the top 5 spots across the 8 different races.

Taking top spots were two sibling pairings with twins Sam and Molly Johnson, running for Southwell's Minster School, taking both year 7 races and Joseph Whitaker School's Hannah and Tom Wragg coming home first in the year 10/11 Girls and Year 8/9 Boys respectively.

Nicole Goulding and Alex Rieley cleaned up in the Year 5/6 races with Ewan Millar defeating Richie Talbot (2nd) and Tom O'Mara (4th) for victory in the longest race of the day – the Year 10/11 Boys.

Clare Norris, Ella Shirley and Abigail D'Aguiar took 2nd, 3rd and 4th in the Year 7 Girls whilst Rachel Brandham, Claire Talbot and Laura Brown did likewise in the Year 10/11 Girls. Bailey Wardle and George King came home 2nd and 5th respectively in the Year 7 Boys with Ben Hardy fourth in the Year 5/6 and David Wilkinson fifth in Year 8/9 completing the boys top spots.

The Year 8/9 Girls just missed out on a clean sweep with Chevelle Baxter (2nd) followed home by Demi-Jade Jakymelen (3rd), Charlotte Bellingham (4th) and Hannah Hardy (5th).

Thirteen Harriers took to the roads of Clumber Park for the annual Clumber Park 10K Road Race with Rob Smith returning home first in 13th place and in a time of 37:31.

3 others joined him in clocking sub 40 minute times with Alan Hutchinson next back in 38:51 finishing 19th. Dave Peet ran well to post a time of 39:21 finishing 24th and Trevor Hiscox only just dipped under the 40 minute mark with a time of 39:59 for 31st place.

Maddy Collinge took the Veteran ladies prize finishing first in the VL45 category and 173rd in the race with a time of 47:10. She was joined in the sub 50 minute group by Adie Bellingham who returned in 224th position with a time of 48:48.

Other Mansfield finishers: 270:Sue Bell – 50:35, 343:Christine Fell – 53:05, 379:Michelle Peet – 53:40, 441:Elaine Greaves – 56:06, 529:Tania Partridge – 59:03, 530:Jane Wragg – 59:03, 591:Susan Watkinson – 61:00.

With the winter season approaching Mansfield Harriers welcome any new members or anyone just wanting to try out the sport. Alongside the championship events the club takes part in several local leagues where entry for club members is free and there is a level of competition to suit everyone – juniors and seniors. New members wanting to have a go are always welcome and invited to join the club for their training sessions on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at Berry Hill Park from 6.15pm.

Liz Lilley had a fine return to form after a lengthy injury absence, when winning the Sandringham 10km in 38.20sec on a tough off road course around Sandringham estate.