

GOLD AGAIN FOR HARRIERS' UNDER 15 GIRLS

Newbold Common in Leamington Spa was the venue for last weekends Midland Counties Cross Country Championships. With a severely depleted Senior Team it was left again to Mansfield Harriers juniors to take the honours.

Pride of place again went to the Under 15 girls team who took gold in the team event through fine runs from Hannah Wragg (6th), Rachel Brandham (7th), Dee-Anna Davey (12th) and Siobhan Harrison (15th).

The Under 13 girls turned out a team of 13 which was double the size of any other Mansfield team on the day. A strong run from Chevelle Baxter led the Harriers contingent home in 12th and with Charlotte Bellingham in 31st, Hayley Silver 33rd and Demi-Jade Jakymelen 38th this was enough to take bronze in the team event.

Lucy Smith saw her Triathlon training beginning to pay off with a 13th place finish in the Under 17 women followed by Amie Grainger in 37th, Kate Raynor in 43rd and Gina Radford in 47th.

The senior men were led home by Luke Cragg with 21st position. Luke will now be hoping that the work he has put in over the winter and the endurance base he is developing by running cross country will pay off in the summer when he returns to his preferred road surface. Billy Farquharson, who often trains with Mansfield but competes for Notts AC, finished 4th in this race after falling flat into the knee deep water hazard.

James Mee showed his potential with an excellent 10th position in a strong Under 20 Men's field and was followed home by Stuart King in 26th.

The best performance in the junior male races came from Ryan Saxton with 14th in the Under 15 boys with John Brown first home in the Under 13 boys in 22nd.

Other Mansfield competitors: SENIOR MEN – 260: Chris Brown, 288: Les Chambers, 319: Graeme Wilkinson, 346: Steve Wragg, 360: Mark Partridge. UNDER 17 MEN – 69: Alex George, 90: James Bellingham. UNDER 15 BOYS – 47: Richie Talbot, 55: Henry Partridge. UNDER 13 BOYS – 67: James Macintosh, 72: Sam Raynor, 76: David Wilkinson, 96: Jordan Boam, 103: Jake Lancaster. UNDER 15 GIRLS – 20: Laura Brown, 44: Claire Talbot, 73: Megan Roche. UNDER 13 GIRLS – 41: Hannah Hardy, 44: Ellie Saxton, 52: Kiera Abbott, 61: Robyn Foster, 69: Tamsin Smith, 72: Amelia Mitchell, 79: Claire Norris, 97: Alice Mortiboy, 98: Holly Smith, 99: Emily D'Aguiar, 100: Rachel Norris, 107: Jessica Smith, 118: Jess Raynor.

Booth League at Bramcote

A week earlier saw a Mansfield team head for Bramcote Park in Nottingham for the 4th fixture of the Booth cross country league. Luke Marshall was the first Mansfield athlete home in 12th place overall with 1st place in the Junior Men's category.

Miriam Tedder finished 85th overall to take 6th in the Senior Ladies with Kate Raynor 6 places behind in 91st and finishing as first Junior lady.

Other Mansfield finishers - 32: Tim Raynor, 41: Trevor Hiscox, 43: Dave Peet, 46: Clive Russell, 57: Ies Chambers, 59: Pete Collinge, 75: Julian Wood, 83: Daniel Ward, 95: Holly Blount, 96: Tony Gelsthorpe, 99: Eva Williams, 104: Tina Green, 107: Maddy Collinge, 108: Adie Bellingham, 112: Sue Bellingham, 113: Keith Carrington, 117: Gina Radford, 126: Louise Harrison, 130: Alan Smith, 137: Elaine Greaves, 138: Michelle Peet, 139: Denise Winfield

Bronze for Cook

Meanwhile at the Midland indoor Championships at Birmingham's National Indoor Arena Martin Cook won Mansfield's only medal.

Competing in the Senior 400m he brushed off the winter cobwebs, posting the fastest time of the heats with 50.08sec. In the final Martin was in a strong position at the bell but had to check his stride to avoid a collision. Regaining his rhythm he went on to produce a strong finish coming home in the Bronze medal position in a time of 49.50sec.

In the heats Stefan Wilcockson (52.85sec) & Jonathan Newell (56.33sec) both ran well posting indoor personal best performances in the process.

London Marathon

Several Mansfield Harriers athletes will be taking to the streets of London on April 13th for the Flora London Marathon. The club are organising a coach and hotel for the weekend and have spaces available for anybody that might be running or wanting to go and watch. Leaving on Friday 11th and returning after the race on the 13th the cost for 2 nights bed and breakfast in a 3 star hotel and coach travel is £125 per person sharing. For queries or further information please contact club chairman Steve Davies on 01623 636775.