

# **BLUE AND GREEN ARMY ON TOUR 2007**

## **ROAD RACE LEAGUE – TEVERSAL FRIDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST**

### **STUART IS CROWNED KING OF THE SUMMER LEAGUE**

**Stuart King became the first Mansfield man since Billy Farquharson to grab the overall title with a mature series of results. Stuart has grown up as an athlete over the summer and should use this as a springboard to bigger and better things.**

**The senior team finished the season in silver medal position which was a fantastic effort considering the track commitments of a good majority of our athletes. We have shown when all the runners are competing we are a match for anyone in the East Midlands.**

**The veteran team competed strongly throughout the season to take the team title. The nucleus of the team has been the same for a few years now and they have all shown what a consistent bunch of lads they are.**

**A fantastic series and what a battle it has been with our rivals Redhill Road Runners.**

**Well done Boys!!!!!!**

The run of the night belonged to **James “the pocket rocket” Mee** with a superb 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish only losing out in the last 200 metres to the experienced campaigner Alan Smith from Mansfield (oops I mean Redhill ). James has improved every race throughout the summer and has started producing the quality we all know he is capable of. He now needs to build both his strength and confidence throughout the winter to come out next summer all guns blazing. **Stuart “I can now be called” King** ran a solid if unspectacular race on the night to secure the title. Stuart has been a revelation throughout the series, always mixing it even against better and more experienced runners. He has never been short of confidence but can now back this up with his first senior title apart from the tin pot Booths League XC title from a couple of years ago. Stuart now needs to get his head down, train even harder and move to the next level. **Steve “The Heanor Hare” Capewell** had a welcome return to form after a few niggling injuries to return with a 7<sup>th</sup> place finish. When fit Steve is a vital member of the squad and if he can sustain a period of hard training with no injuries he

will be key in our attempts to move the club on to better things. **Aiden “the young pretender” Brown** ran a controlled and encouraging race to finish 14th to show that his runs in the 12 stage were not a fluke. Aiden is maturing has an athlete and now his exams are out of the way he can start to put the training in which will ensure he has a very fruitful winter. Aiden will be looking for a good run at the Mansfield 5K to force his way into the 6stage team in a month’s time. **Pete “consistency” Stafford** was his usual self with another good showing in 17<sup>th</sup> position. Pete is one of the main reasons the vets have reclaimed their team crown. Pete never lets the club down and his a superb role medal for our younger athletes coming through. **Lee “The comeback King” Garrett** ran an awesome race to fly through the field and finish in 20<sup>th</sup> position after limited training and 2 years chasing an egg shaped ball. Lee is one of the most talented athletes in the Midlands and if he can reproduce his form of old will be a massive asset to the squad. He is also good to have around the team has his enthusiasm and charisma is infectious. **John “fearless” Farquharson** was next back for the club in 23<sup>rd</sup> position with another solid performance. John like Pete is vital for the veteran section challenging for honours and when he performs well we are never far from winning team events. Steve “The Ginger Prince” Davies showed there is life in the Duracell battery yet with a good 27<sup>th</sup> place finish. Steve has run more road races over the years than Richard Massey has eaten pies, which is not an easy task to achieve. He always supports the club on and off the track and there is no one more passionate than him (apart from me of course) in wanting this club to succeed. **Darren "Iron Man" Hodgkinson** was next back in 25th. This was a good run for Darren despite being in heavy training for an upcoming 365 day race. Sorry that was an exaggeration but you get my drift. Darren is a superb athlete and how he gets time to train for all his events his beyond me and he is a vital member of the team **Sir Steve of Grainger** was next back in 28<sup>th</sup> position. This was a remarkable performance by Steve after only just returning from a long flight back from South Africa. Steve is starting to return to form after a length spell trying to shrug off an ankle injury. He will be another athlete trying to force his way into one of the top teams at the Six Stage Relays. **Rob “the stylist” Smith** had a race long battle with his club mate **Doug “the proclaimer” Flett** before finishing in his best position of the summer in 31<sup>st</sup> position. Rob has run every race throughout the summer and deserved his medal for being part of the winning vets team. Rob went through a dodgy period at the start of the summer but is now starting to reap the benefits of getting his head down and working hard in training. The mad Scotsman, Doug was a further place back in 32<sup>nd</sup> which is a good effort considering the training he is doing ready for his first attempt at a marathon next month. Doug will then look to re produce the brilliant form he showed over the X/C last year. **Luke “the kid” Marshall** in only his second ever senior race finished a very encouraging 46<sup>th</sup> position. Luke has a lot of potential and this will give him good experience has he moves up the age groups. **Brian “bomber” Harris** had his best finish of the summer to storm into 63<sup>rd</sup> position. Brian is a superb servant of the club and is also my drinking partner at the Norfolk Relays so much respect to the bomber. **Hedley “the animal” Cauldwell** showed there is life in the old dog yet with a superb comeback after a long injury lay off. Hedley always gives 100% when he is able to run which is easy when he only works about 2 hours a day, but that is another story. **Mark “the general” Jenkins** continued his comeback from a broken foot with a gutsy 73<sup>rd</sup> position. Mark is still feeling pain in the foot and will look to strengthen this during the winter so he is able to challenge for a top 10 finish in next years summer league.

**Other positions.**

- 87 L Chambers – best finish of series**
- 93 A King – best finish of series**
- 99 T Hiscox – best finish of series**
- 102 J Woods – first race in 10 years**
- 105 J Kirk – best finish of series**
- 115 J Wood – best finish of the series**
- 120 A Maddocks – first ever road race league**
- 159 E Palmer – first race since hip operation**
- 165 T Gilsthorpe – first ever road race league**
- 172 R Massey aka The Fridge – What can I say – a true viking**

**What a series this has been in many ways. I think it was the best Road Race Series in terms of teams battling against each other for a long time, which can only be a good thing. As for the blue and green army, it has been another major step forward in both numbers competing and the quality of the performances. We have had over 25 men at each event and even broke the 30 men barrier in one of the races. Each and every one of you is important for the club from the champion, Stuart King right through to the Fridge. The more runners we have out the better!!!!!!!!!!**

**I was a proud man during the whole of the summer and you make my job as a team manager easy.**

**Thanks for all your efforts**

**Love**

**Carl**