

Report from last weekends Midland Mens (thanks to Martin White) and YA league sent to CHAD. Full YA results are at www.natyal.co.uk

Mansfield Harriers Senior Mens and Young Athletes teams both headed off towards the South West last weekend for their latest fixtures.

Saturday saw Harriers travel to a sun drenched Worcester in defence of their Midland Division 1 title. Hurdlers, Stefan Wilcockson and Jonathan Newell got the team off to a great start, Wilcockson coming home second in the 'A' string 400m hurdles whilst Newell went one better winning the 'B' string event, equaling his personal best time despite a strong headwind on the home straight. Chris Brown then followed up by winning the 800m with a well timed burst of speed in the last 100m. His winning time of 1:52.9 would surely have challenged the league record of 1:50.4, had wind conditions been more favourable. 16 year old Sam Cordin showed maturity and strength in winning the 400m 'A' race whilst Paul Wright easily won the 'B' string. Wilcockson and Newell then continued their domination of the hurdles events by winning both 110m hurdles races.

The match was concluded in style with new club records in both relays. The 4x100m team of Martin Cook, Stefan Wilcockson, Matthew Woolley & Martin White produced some slick baton changes to speed to victory in a time of 43.7sec. Not to be outdone, the 4x400m team of Cordin, Brown, Cook & Wright led from gun to tape to slash 2 seconds off the existing club record. Mansfield finished in 3rd place on the day and after two matches now head the league table with 13pts from Telford on 12 and Cheltenham with 10. Two more strong performances in the remaining matches should see the team retain their title and take their place in the end of season British League qualifier match.



Pictured are the 4*400 metre team who broke the club record. Samuel Cordin, Chris Brown, Martin Cook and Paul Wright

The following day it was the turn of the Young Athletes and a trip to Cheltenham to face Cheltenham Harriers, Birchfield Harriers and Bristol & West AC in the 3rd fixture of the Midland Premier Division. GCSE exams took their toll on Harriers and with only five U17 boys and seven U17 girls able to make the long journey several events were left unfilled. On the day the team put up a spirited performance with some encouraging individual performances but were only able to finish in 4th place overall.

Performance of the day on the girls side came from Charlotte Gair who won the athlete of the match award with a new personal best and club record of 29.25m in the U15 discus before also taking second place spot in both the Javelin and Shot. For the boys Tom Lowery completed a fantastic treble winning the U15 boys 100m, 200m and Discus before joining Ryan Childs, Ben Leivers-Riley and Nick Phillips in the 4x400m relay to win by a margin of 15 seconds in 3:55.9. Pushing Lowery close in the points scoring table was Ryan Childs who won the 400m and 800m before finishing second in his debut in the Pole Vault.

Mansfield's dominance of the female middle distance events again continued with a clean sweep of the U17 events – Georgia Milton and Emily Reeve winning the A&B string 800m, Milton and Amie Grainger winning the 1500m and Grainger and Reeve taking a double in the 3000m. These 3 girls, along with Laura Bennett who had earlier won the 80m Hurdles in a new personal best of 12.4 then went on to set a new club record of 3:03.0 in the 4x300m relay. Bennett's PB was one of 5 for the Mansfield hurdlers who are really beginning to shine under the coaching of Ted Grey. Rachel Brandham and Christie Childs both took first place in the A&B string U15 girls 800m and Hannah Hardy came home first in the U13 girls 800m. Other victories were secured by Beth Farr equaling her PB with a time of 12.2s in the U15 girls 75m Hurdles, Becky Woolley in the U13 girls Shot, Richie Talbot in the B string U15 boys 1500m and Conner McHale with a PB of 15.3s in the B string U15 boys 80m Hurdles.

The next fixture is a home match on Sunday 24th July with the visitors to Berry Hill Park being City of Stoke, Yate & District AC and Solihull & Smallheath AC. Action starts at 11.30am and spectators are welcome. The club are always on the lookout for youngsters keen to take up the sport and interested in competing and anyone interested just needs to turn up at Berry Hill Track at 6.15pm on a Tuesday or Thursday evening.