

## HUGE MEDAL HAUL FOR HARRIERS

The Christmas and New Year period has been a busy one for Mansfield Harriers culminating in a large entry at last weekends Nottinghamshire County Cross Country Championships held in conjunction with the Derbyshire Championships at Derby's Markeaton Park.

With disappointingly low entries in some age groups Harriers took full advantage of the situation and returned back along the A38 with an impressive haul of 9 individual and 13 team medals.

The Senior Mens race provided the biggest field of the day with just short of 100 runners and Mansfield's first athlete home was the ever improving Luke Cragg who finished strongly in 5th place. He was followed just 2 places behind by James Mee who came home to take Gold in the Junior Mens race and secured 7th position in the race. Next Harrier in was Steve Lisgo in 9th place and then Steve Capewell, another runner showing great progress over recent months, in 11th. Mansfield's first veteran man, Doug Ross, and second Junior man, Stuart King battled it out in the closing stages with King taking 21st and Ross 22nd and King being rewarded with a bronze medal in the Under 20 Mens event. John Farquharson, back to form after a bout of recent illness was next home in 34th closely followed by Darren Hodgkinson in 36th. These performances helped Harriers to team Bronze in the Senior event and the Vets competition.

The Senior Ladies race saw Miriam Tedder, Eva Williams and Carol Hartin leading the way home for Harriers in 24th, 28th and 31st respectively and Carol being further rewarded with a second place spot in the Vet 45-54 category.

The pick of the Junior races was the Under 15 girls where Mansfield's dominance over the last few seasons was retained with the first 4 vests to cross the line all being Blue and Green. This ensured team gold along with a clean sweep of the individual medals - Siobhan Harrison led the way followed by Hannah Wragg, Rachel Brandham and Laura Brown.

Of the junior boys races pride of place went to the Under 13 boys - led home by Tom Wragg, winning his first County Championship title, with Jonny Brown in 4th and Sam Johnson in 6th making sure of team Gold.

The Under 13 girls took a clean sweep of the team medals - Charlotte Bellingham picked up individual Silver in the Under 13 girls race and team Gold was secured with help from Hannah Hardy (4th) and Chevelle Baxter (5th). Mansfield occupied positions second to eighth in the Under 17 women's race ensuring team Gold and Silver, individual Silver and Bronze going to Lucy Smith and Emma Wilkinson with Georgia Milton in 4th place.

The Under 17 men took the Silver team medal led home by a strong performance from Daniel Winter to take individual Gold and backed up by James Bellingham (13th) and Daniel Ward (14th). Ryan Saxton took Silver in the Under 15 boys and with Henry Partridge in 4th and Will Stone in 5th made sure of team Gold.

Other Mansfield finishers: UNDER 13 GIRLS: 6th: Hayley Silver, 8th: Molly Johnson, 10th: Emily D'Aguiar, 12th: Ellie Saxton, 14th: Robyn Foster, 16th: Kiera Abbott, 17th: Tamsin Smith, 21st: Jessica Smith, 22nd: Alice Mortiboy, 29th: Hazel Blount, 32nd: Holly Smith. UNDER 15 GIRLS: 7th: Claire Talbot, 8th: Hannah Harrison, 9th: Sophie Ward, 13th: Megan Roche. UNDER 17 WOMEN: 5th: Kate Raynor, 6th: Holly Blount, 7th: Nikita Pembleton, 8th: Daisy Bough, 10th: Gina Radford. SENIOR/VETERAN WOMEN: 34th: Tina Green, 36th: Sue

Bellingham, 46th: Denise Winfield. UNDER 13 BOYS: 8th: David Wilkinson, 10th: James O'Mara, 18th: Jordan Boam. UNDER 15 BOYS: 9th: Richie Talbot, 12th: Tom O'Mara. SENIOR/VETERAN MEN: 39th: Chris Brown-Monks, 43rd: Faz Fahy, 44th: Mark Jenkins, 45th: John Wood, 49th: Rob Smith, 52nd: Pete O'Mara, 60th: Trevor Hiscox, 63rd: Tim Raynor, 67th: Terry Ashmore, 68th: Dave Peet, 70th: Steve Childs, 71st: Clive Russell, 72nd: Alan Maddocks, 80th: Bob Scott, 87th: Graeme Wilkinson, 92nd: Julian Wood, 96th: Ivan Colton.

The week before saw 37 Mansfield athletes complete the Southwell 10K held at Caythorpe. The fast, flat out and back course is always a good tester of the festive celebrations and this year was no exception.

7 Harriers came home in the top 50 in a field in which there were 659 finishers. 20 year old Steve Lisgo led the way finishing in a very credible 5th position in a time of 33-22 just 39 seconds ahead of the second Mansfield runner – Steve Capewell who came home 10th in 34-01.

Andy Plumb and Darren Hodgkinson were battling it out to make the top 20 with Darren closing in the latter stages on Andy who has made a great start in his first season with Mansfield. Andy finished 20th in 35-35 and Darren was just 10 seconds behind in 22nd with a time of 35-45.

Steve Grainger ran a personal best on this course to be the next blue and green vest home finishing in 32nd in a time of 36-30. Steve Davies and Rob Smith completed the top 50 line up taking positions 38th and 39th respectively in times of 37-09 and 37-14.

It was left to the Ladies to take the prizes and strong sub 40 minute runs from Jackie Massey and Lisa Farquharson resulted in them taking the 3rd place spot in the Senior ladies and 3rd place in the Vet 35 Ladies. Jackie finished as 5th Lady overall and 52nd in the overall race with a time of 38-34 and Lisa was 6th Lady home, finishing in 65th place overall posting a time of 39-25.

Other Mansfield positions and times: 55:Marcus McArthy – 38-56, 60:Luke Marshall – 39-11, 68:Trevor Hiscox – 39-45, 78:John Wood – 40-50, 83:Alan Crewe – 41-00, 98:Chris Brown – 41-36, 106:Alan Maddocks – 42-07, 111:Hannah Mulcaster – 42-13, 156: Julian wood – 43-50, 177:Carol Hartin – 44-24, 211:Wayne Turner – 45-26, 213:Keith Mellor – 45-29, 230:Graeme Wilkinson – 46-09, 242:Eva Williams – 46-29, 248:Steve Wragg – 46-39, 251:Maddy Collinge – 46-46, 260:kate Raynor – 47-10, 286:Julie Grainger – 48-05, 322:Andrew Watterson – 49-05, 362:Sue Bellingham – 50-22, 363:Dave Ward – 50-23, 366:Chris Fell – 50-35, 367:Colin Fell – 50-36, 372:Ann Brown – 50-45, 513:Linda Wilkinson – 56-35, 522:Alan Smith- 57-07, 544: Gina Radford – 58-36, 546:Kathryn Raynor – 58-43

On the same day that his team mates were tackling the Southwell 10K Luke Cragg made the trip up to the North West to run in the Sale festive 5. A fantastic run from Luke saw him finish 4th in a time of 24-06. This performance lifted him to 9th place in the UK 5 mile rankings for 2007.

Mansfield Harrier Les Chambers finished 3rd overall in an event with a difference over the New Year period. 3 events in 3 days make up the New Year Triple Sporting Challenge and after a Duathlon (2.4 mile run followed by a 9.2 mile bike ride and then another 2.4 mile run) on December 30th Les then took part in a

2km run at 11.57pm on New Years Eve and then a 5 mile Road race on New Years Day! Needless to say he wasn't joined by any of his club mates but kept the Harriers flag flying with an excellent 3rd place finish in the series.

The end of the year sees the publication of the annual UK Track and Field rankings and this year 8 Mansfield Harriers appear in the top 20 in the UK.

Talented young discus thrower 14 year old Charlotte Gair leads the way appearing in 2nd place in the Under 15 girls Discus and 16th in the Under 17 Women's Discus. Another member of the Gair family - Rachel - maintains her position as a top ten Senior athlete with her ranking of 8th in the Hammer.

The Woolley family provide the second family pairing in the rankings with Becky appearing twice in the Under 13 girls rankings - in 6th spot in the Javelin and 11th in the Shot. Meanwhile her brother Richard matches her 6th place with his own in the Under 20 Men's Javelin.

Three athletes are ranked in the UK top 20 in the Steeplechase event - Steve Lisgo, in his first season competing as a senior, appears at 16th in the Senior Men's 3000m listings, James Mee is in at 19th in the Under 20 men 2000m event and at 10th in the same age group over 3000m. Meanwhile, in her first season competing in this event, Amie Grainger breaks into the Under 17 Women's rankings, in 11th place.

Hannah Wragg completes the Mansfield line up with her 9th place in the Under 15 girls 3000m.