

Post-war history was made at Berry Hill Park as Mansfield Harriers lifted the Senior Men's County Cross Country Championship for the first time since 1928 last Saturday.



The Mens Gold Medal winning team, with Mick Robinson (Notts AC) taking the result in good spirits, despite Notts 42 year unbeaten run coming to an end.

In freezing conditions and with snow threatening all afternoon the Mansfield team removed the name of Notts AC from the trophy for the first time in 42 years. With Notts recognised as one of the best cross country and road running clubs in the country this was no mean feat and one which the young Mansfield team should take immense pride in.

Run as a joint event with the Derbyshire County Championships, a pack of 6 broke away from the field towards the end of the first lap and it was here that the pace was set.

Luke Cragg, about to return to University in the USA, looked comfortable and in control throughout the race and took 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Notts Championship event in a time of 28:42 behind Bruce Raeside of Notts AC and Alan Buckley of Leeds City. Cragg is looking to go under 29 minutes for 10K this summer and this race will have done his preparation no harm.

Next back for Mansfield was Steve Lisgo, another athlete returning this week to the USA to continue his studies and training at Butler State University. Lisgo ran a very controlled race – on his own for most of the 9Km 3 lap race – and took 4<sup>th</sup> spot in 29:46. Victory in the 3K Steeplechase at this summer's AAA Under 23 Championships is Lisgo's target and another 6 months good training in the USA will hopefully see him secure this.

James Mee had an excellent year in 2008 and he started 2009 with a strong run to come home as third Mansfield counter, finishing 5<sup>th</sup> overall and taking the Gold medal in the Under 20 age category with a time of 30:26.

Stuart King, Danny Barkes and Danny Heathcote all had strong runs to take the remaining scoring positions for Harriers. King was back in 7<sup>th</sup> place in a time of 30:42, Barkes recorded 31:05 to finish in 8<sup>th</sup> and Heathcote was close behind clocking 31:09 in 9<sup>th</sup>.

Taking 6 places out of the top 9 was better than the Mansfield team had hoped for and with some good back-up from Chris Brown in 14<sup>th</sup> place in 32:18, newcomer Chris Dale in 17<sup>th</sup> clocking 32:46 and Sean Ledger finishing 10<sup>th</sup> in the Derbyshire race in 31:18 the future is very bright.

All of these 9 runners are under the age of 23 and with the already strong team spirit boosted by the team victory this represents a tremendous start to the 2009 campaign.

A veteran's team weakened by injury and illness was led home by Rob Smith who put in another strong performance recording 34:57 to finish in 34<sup>th</sup> position overall. Grant Saxton took 2 minutes off his previous run over this course to finish in an excellent 50<sup>th</sup> spot with a time of 37:26. Dave Peet, 52<sup>nd</sup> in 37:30, and Terry Ashmore, 56<sup>th</sup> in 37:45, were the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> scorers.

In a ladies race in which Charnwood AC athletes picked up the top 3 spots, Natalie Yates continued her return to form with a top 10 spot. Yates ran strongly to finish 9<sup>th</sup> in 33:19 with Amanda Hardy also having a great run to finish 22<sup>nd</sup> in 37:23 and take the bronze medal in the VL45 category.

Claire Coombes and Susan Day battled it out around the course taking 31<sup>st</sup> and 32<sup>nd</sup> spots respectively with times of 38:55 and 39:01. Sue Bellingham and Ann Brown were the other Mansfield ladies, clocking 40:43 and 41:08 for 41<sup>st</sup> and 42<sup>nd</sup> places.

More Gold came in the Under 17 ladies race where Hannah Wragg picked up individual Gold with Wragg, Nikita Pembleton and Lucy Smith taking the Gold in the Under 17/Under 20 team race. Georgia Milton picked up Silver in the Under 17 individual race with Pembleton and Smith taking Silver and Bronze in the Under 20 event.

Team Gold followed in the Under 15 Girls race, Rachel Brandham, Claire Talbot and Hayley Silver being the triumphant trio. Brandham finished in silver spot in the individual race with Talbot taking bronze. Silver was in 6<sup>th</sup> place just 4 seconds ahead of 7<sup>th</sup> placed Hannah Hardy. Demi-Jade Jakymelen became Derbyshire Under 15 Girls champion in this race.

Mansfield took Gold, Silver and Bronze team awards at under 13 level despite only getting one individual medal. Chevelle Baxter took bronze with Caelidh Ross and Molly Johnson, finishing 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> respectively, joining her on the podium to take team Gold.

Claire Norris (9<sup>th</sup>), Ellie Saxton (9<sup>th</sup>) and Robyn Foster (12<sup>th</sup>) took team Silver whilst team Bronze went to Harriet Codd (13<sup>th</sup>), Tamsin Smith (14<sup>th</sup>) and Amelia Mitchell (16<sup>th</sup>).



Left to right, Bailey Wardle, Sam Johnson and David Wilkinson, who took the gold team medal, Sam Johnson came in 1st, Bailey 4th and David 8th,

Sam Johnson made it another golden moment for Mansfield in the Under 13 boys race with victory in 11:25 and was joined by Bailey Wardle, 4<sup>th</sup> in 11:48 and David Wilkinson, 8<sup>th</sup> in 12:10 in taking the team Gold. Jake Lancaster, competing in the Derbyshire Championships finished in 11:50 taking 4<sup>th</sup> place.

Ryan Saxton took Silver in the Under 15 boys race with good runs from Ewan Millar (4<sup>th</sup>) and Tom Wragg (5<sup>th</sup>) making it the 6<sup>th</sup> team Gold of the day for Mansfield.

Daniel Winter and Richie Talbot put in great finishes in the Under 17 men's race, battling it out all the way to the line. Despite only finishing 2 seconds apart another athlete still managed to get between them – Winter taking 5<sup>th</sup> spot in 22:25 and Talbot 7<sup>th</sup> in 22:27. Jack Longstaff was the third team counter and his 10<sup>th</sup> place finish secured a team silver for the trio.

**OTHER MANSFIELD FINISHERS:** Senior/Vet/U20 Men – 57: Trevor Hiscox – 38:03, 64: Clive Russell – 38:38, 65: Graeme Wilkinson – 38:47, 83: Julian Wood – 41:01, 89: Jason Foster – 42:16, 91: Steve Wragg – 42:32, 97: David Robertson – 44:52, 100: Alan Smith – 48:12. Under 17 Men – 11: Daniel Ward – 25:45, 12: James Bellingham – 26:14. Under 15 Boys – 7: Will Stone – 16:55, 9: Tom O'Mara – 17:06, 10: Henry Partridge – 17:36, 18: Chris Day – 19:34, 19: Alex Heath – 19:40. Under 13 Boys – 9: Lewis Ashmore – 12:23, 11: George King – 12:39, 14: James O'Mara – 13:21, 16: Joseph Day – 13:29, 20: James McIntosh – 13:51, 24: Jack Foster – 14:27. Under 11 Boys – 37: Luke Silver – 7:54. Under 17/20 Women – 8: Laura Brown – 19:03, 9: Jodie Bestwick – 19:09, 11: Emma Wilkinson – 19:52, 12: Kate Raynor – 20:07, 13: daisy Bough – 20:14, 15: Gina Radford – 21:32. Under 15 Girls – 10: Emily D'Aguiar – 18:24, 11: Alice Mortiboy – 18:27, 16: Alice Keogh – 19:04, 18: Jess Smith – 19:28, 19: Hannah Harrison – 19:43, 21: Eleanor Winning – 19:44, 24: Kiera Abbott – 20:12, 26: Megan Roche – 21:17. Under 13 Girls – 18: Abigail D'Aguiar – 13:54, 20: Hazel Blount – 14:09, 21: Rachel Norris – 14:14, 22: Holly Smith – 14:23, 26: Laura Wade – 14:58, 27: Sophie Harrison – 15:17.

Luke Cragg prepared for his County Championships performance with an outstanding run at the Ribble Valley 10K. As 2008 came to an end Cragg's 3<sup>rd</sup> place took him up to 5<sup>th</sup> place in the Under 23 UK rankings for 10k and placed him 39<sup>th</sup> in the overall UK rankings.

His time of 30:04 was only 9 seconds behind the eventual winner, Aldershot, Farnham and District's Ben Lindsay who finished 4<sup>th</sup> in the European Cross Country Under 23 Championships 2 weeks prior to Christmas.

Steve Lisgo led the Mansfield charge at the annual Southwell 10K staged on a flat out and back course from Caythorpe Cricket Club. Lisgo came home in 8<sup>th</sup> place just one position and 13 seconds ahead of James Mee. Both runners broke the 32 minute barrier, Lisgo clocking 31:43 and Mee 31:56.

Danny Barkes continued his return to race form with an excellent 14<sup>th</sup> place finish in 32:48 just 6 seconds ahead of 15<sup>th</sup> placed Stuart King.

Rob Smith had another strong run, showing that he is back in business on the race scene. Smith was the first Mansfield veteran back in 33<sup>rd</sup> place with a time of 35:31. Youngster Luke Marshall continued his challenge with a 54<sup>th</sup> place spot and a time of 36:53 whilst Mark Jenkins only just failed to break 37 minutes, clocking 37:01 for 58<sup>th</sup> place.

Natalie Yates was the first female Harrier home, recording 37:41 to finish 69<sup>th</sup> overall and take the honours as 4<sup>th</sup> lady back. Jackie Massey made a welcome return to racing finishing 80<sup>th</sup> overall and 6<sup>th</sup> lady with a time of 38:21.

This race is used by many local runners as their first 10K and Rob Curley didn't disappoint on this front. Curley ran strongly over the first 5 miles and his 83<sup>rd</sup> position and time of 38:33 will make him a useful addition to the Veteran's road team this summer.

The accompanying Fun Run attracted a number of Mansfield's youngsters with Sam Johnson leading the charge taking 2<sup>nd</sup> place in 6:24. Jake Lancaster was just 9 seconds behind him to take 3<sup>rd</sup> spot with Caelidh Ross and Molly Johnson, in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, taking the first and second girl's spots in times of 6:50 and 6:56.

OTHER MANSFIELD FINISHERS – 10K: 68: Tim Raynor – 37:34, 75: Steve Davies – 38:11, 77: Trevor Hiscox – 38:18, 93: John Harrison – 38:56, 124: Rick Huntington – 40:20, 127: Hannah Wragg – 40:38, 150: Claire Talbot – 41:37, 160: Graeme Wilkinson – 41:59, 161: Richie Talbot – 42:00, 171: Vinny Jones – 42:32, 176: Daniel Ward – 42:42, 186: Adey Bellingham – 43:01, 190: Wayne Turner – 43:12, 191: Julian Wood – 43:14, 192: Henry Partridge – 43:16, 207: Philip Shaw – 43:36, 216: Eva Williams – 43:54, 230: Steve Wragg – 44:20, 232: Dave Rose – 44:27, 233: Eric Palmer – 44:27, 235: Keith Mellor – 44:30, 238: Helen Scott – 44:34, 239: Bob Scott – 44:35, 264: Maddy

Collinge – 45:22, 274: Claire Coombes – 45:48, 302: Tina Green – 46:48, 348: Sue Bellingham – 48:21, 377: Christine Fell – 49:19, 382: Kate Raynor – 49:29, 398: Louise Harrison – 50:11, 413: Gina Radford – 50:53, 424: Dave Ward – 51:21, 429: Mark Partridge – 51:33, 443: Hayley Jones – 52:10, 447: Sally Smith – 52:19, 464: Lynne Talbot – 53:08, 472: Alan Smith – 53:28, 530: Tracey Lancaster – 56:58, 532: Chris Huntington – 57:13, 549: Lorraine Garvey – 58:12, 555: Tania Partridge – 58:23, 556: Jane Wragg – 58:27, 561: Carol Hartin – 58:47. FUN RUN: 6: Alex Heath – 7:14, 8: Emily D’Aguair – 7:27, 11: Abigail D’Aguair – 7:45, 14: Emma Heath – 7:54, 21: George Partridge – 8:23, 22: Holly Shaw – 8:31, 56: Carl Lancaster – 10:03, 81: Harrison Smith – 13.15