



Rotherham Harriers

18 May 2019

Race Report: British Masters National Road Relay Champs

Sutton Park 18th May 2019

The Rotherham Harriers black vests were aplenty at the British Masters national road relay championships at Sutton Park, Birmingham on Saturday. The Harriers had 4 teams present across the different age groups. All relay legs were run over the same 3.1 miles through the lovely rolling terrain of the park. The weather conditions were perfect on the day and thankfully much better than forecast !

The Harriers ladies W35 team were reigning champions from 2018 and with just one change in the lineup, the National athletics magazine, Athletics Weekly had the pre-race review stating that "*Rotherham ladies were a weakened team from 2018 and Derby looked like probable favourites !*". This is all our ladies needed to see before the race !! Fired up by these comments Sarah Lowery had great first leg in (18:19) finishing in first place almost 30sec in front of the nearest rivals, Natalie Harris took over leg 2 and ran a fabulous (21:18) keeping the Harriers in striking distance and finishing in 2nd place just 7secs behind Westbury. Next up was Fiona Davies who had an absolute stellar run (18:35) taking back the lead for Rotherham and stretching out a gap of over 3mins. Then on a nail biting anchor leg for the Harriers was Diane Elliot who ran a majestic final leg in (21:31) cutting the finishing tape in first place, retaining the title for the Harriers ladies ! Derby AC finished in 2nd place 27secs shy of the Harriers ladies. Sarah and Fiona also scooped medals for the 2nd and 3rd fastest legs of the day. What a great team performance by the Rotherham ladies !

Next up were the mens races, the M55 Harriers men of John Comrie, John Dutton and Paul Clemmens came home in 22nd spot overall. In the M35 and M45 mens races, the M35 team finished 13th with some great runs from Damian Worsdall and the always improving Chris Griffith only 3 weeks after his corking London marathon. The Harriers mens M45 were 21st overall , with 3 of the 4 runners debutants at the BMAF road relays. Well done to debutants Dean Norton, Simon Scully and Andy Eblet !

Another great day out for the Rotherham Harriers at this prestigious national event.

W35 ladies				M35 men			
1 Rotherham Harriers & Ac		1:19:43		13 Rotherham Harriers & Ac M35		1:50:23	
1 Sarah Lowery	(1)	18:19	2 Natalie Harris	(2)	21:18	1 Philip Hoole	(16) 17:54
3 Fiona Davies	(1)	18:35	4 D Elliott	(1)	21:31	3 Damian Worsdall	(14) 17:51
M55 Men				M45 Men			
22 Rotherham Harriers M55		1:07:16		21 Rotherham Harriers & Ac M45		1:19:23	
1 John Comrie	(17)	20:26	2 John Dutton	(21)	22:53	1 Dean Norton	(15) 18:28
3 Paul Clemmens	(22)	23:57		3 Andrew Eblet	(22) 21:40	2 Simon Scully	(21) 20:36



Gold medal winning W35 ladies Sarah Lowery, Natalie Harris, Fiona Davies, Diane Elliot ! Sarah and Fiona also took honours of 2nd and 3rd fastest legs of the day respectively.



Diane Elliot breaking the tape after a fantastic performance to stay ahead of Derby and take the win by 27secs.



The ever dependable Steve Marshall flying up the finishing straight for the M35 team.



Debutant at the BMAF road relays for Simon Scully in the M45 team.