

Clare Annan and Kevin Maunsell are County Champions while Clonmel capture both team titles

Clonmel was the venue for the first of the County Road Championships in 2012. Conditions were ideal for racing and we had two very good races that attracted record entries. In the Ladies race we had 30 athletes competing and representing 6 Clubs. After the initial charge for the first 600m a group of three athletes set the pace. They were the eventual winner, Clare Annan of Carrick on Suir along with the Clonmel duo of Sandra Bowe and Catherine Rice with them reaching 1k in 3 mins 34 secs and then they turned for home with Clare now having a slight lead over Sandra and Catherine. Clare kept the strong pace going and on the uphill climbs increased her lead as she went through 2k in 7 mins 19 secs. Clare kept the tempo going and came home a very convincing winner in 11 mins 8 secs and justified favouritism. This was a brilliant performance by Clare who was 2nd last year to Dymphna Ryan of Dundrum and her time last year was 11 mins 33 secs. Then we had Sandra Bowe of Clonmel, making her debut in these Championships running strong over the final part of the race to win the Silver medal in 11 mins 29 secs with Catherine Rice also running very well when 3rd in 11 mins 39 secs. Catherine was 3rd last year and her time was 12 mins 36 secs, great improvement. For the record Johanna Lacey of Clonmel was 4th in 12 mins 20 secs, 5th Laura Burke of Coolquill in 12 mins 28 secs, 6th Helen Linnane Coolquill in 12 mins 40 secs, 7th Fiona Burke Clonmel in 12 mins secs, 8th Nicola Maunsell Clonmel in 12 mins 44 secs, 9th Lisa Quinlan Moyne 13 mins 16 secs and 10th Maria Fitzgibbon Thurles Crokes 13 mins 25 secs.

With three to count on the Ladies team, Clonmel were the winners on 9 points with Sandra, Catherine and Johanna winning the Gold medals. Then the Clonmel B team of Fiona Burke, Nicola Maunsell and Katie Tutty 13th in 13 mins 28 secs won the Silver medals. The Bronze medals were won by the Coolquill team of Laura, Helen and Kathleen Mockler who was 22nd in 15 mins 8 secs.

The Men's race attracted a record entry of 106 athletes with 9 Clubs represented. Right from the start a group of 6 athletes set the pace, Kevin Maunsell, William Maunsell and David Ryan all Clonmel along with Ross Alexander, Coolquill, Donal Keane, Dundrum and Gary Scully of Nenagh Olympic. This group was still together at 2k, then as they headed over Sir Thomas's Bridge Kevin Maunsell increased the pace and soon it was down to four with Kevin, William, Ross and David in contention with Donal and Gary in close attention while David Shelly of Ballynonty had moved into a clear 7th and closing on the athletes ahead. Kevin was now full of running and as they came to 4k he increased the pace again and kept it going all the way to the finishing line to win very convincingly in 19 mins 22 secs. This was a powerful performance by Kevin who justified favouritism to win a great race. Then we had William Maunsell also running very well on his debut in these Championships when winning the Silver medal in 19 mins 38 secs. Ross Alexander of Coolquill ran very well to win the Bronze medal in 20 mins 1 sec, Ross was 3rd last year in 20 mins 18 secs, great improvement. Then we had Gary Scully of Nenagh Olympic finishing 4th in 20 mins 8 secs with the fast finishing David Shelly of Ballynonty 5th in 20 mins 12 secs while Donal Keane of Dundrum was 6th in 20 mins 17 secs. For the record David Ryan Clonmel was 7th in 20 mins 36 secs, Michael Ryan of Dundrum 8th in 20 mins 54 secs, 9th Patrick Roche Carrick on Suir 20 mins 56 secs and 10th Derek Nolan Clonmel 21 mins.

In the team competition with four to count on the team, Clonmel were the winners on 20 points with the team of Kevin, William, David and Derek. The defending Champions, Dundrum, won the Silver medals with the team of Donal, Michael, 17th Colm Bradshaw 21 mins 41 secs and 20th Padraig Coen 21 mins 47 secs. The Bronze medals were won by the Coolquill team of Ross, Andrew Smyth 13th in 21 mins 24 secs, 21st Donal Horgan 21 mins 48 secs and 22nd Michael Carey 21 mins 50 secs. 4th Club was Nenagh Olympic on 77 points, 5th Carrick on Suir on 84 points, 6th Thurles Crokes on 88 points, Ballynonty 8th on 118 points, Moyne 11th on 190 points and Templemore 13th on 216 points.

The County Board Chairman thanked Clonmel for hosting two very good races, he also thanked the South Tipperary Vocational Committee for the use of their fine facilities and he complimented the Ladies committee for the post race refreshments while John Moore was praised for doing MC on the day.