

County Athletic News

County Road Season gets underway

The County Road Championship season gets underway in earnest on Sunday 26th February with the County Novice road titles down for decision in Clonmel. The Ladies race over 3k gets underway at 12 noon followed immediately by the Men's 6K race. These Championships have grown in stature and in numbers in recent years and so for this year's races we will be taking entries at the Vocational School, the Mall from 11 o'clock onwards, so all Clubs are asked to instruct their athletes to register in time for these races.

These Championship races have proven very competitive over the years and this year will be no different. Looking back over the results since 2000 we have seen some great races. 2000 the venue was Ballynonty where Carmel Delaney (Clonmel) and Martin Hassett (St Catherine's) became the first County Novice Champions under Athletics Ireland with Clonmel winning both Club titles. The Clonmel Ladies team was Carmel Delaney, Donna Nagle and Anne Cronin while their Men's winning team was Tom Walsh, John Walsh, Willie Leahy and Tommy Cahill.

Ballynonty was the venue in 2001 where Maria Walsh (Clonmel) and Bernard Feery (St Catherine) were crowned Champions with the Clonmel Ladies team of Maria, Sareen Walsh and Anne Cronin winning the team title and the Ballynonty Men's team of Jim McCormack, Kenny Curran, Noel O Dwyer and Neillie Hall winning the Men's Club title. Ballynonty was also the venue in 2002 where Dolores Costigan (Ballynonty) and Pat Ryan (Dundrum) were Champions while the Club titles were won by the Coolquill Ladies team of Phyliss Bennett, Brenda Rowan and Marian Doherty and the Ballynonty Men's team of Kenny Curran, Danny Smith, Pat Cormack and Jim McCormack. Ballynonty was the venue in 2003 when Aideen Rigney (Clonmel) and Mark Gleeson (Nenagh Olympic) were champions and the Club titles were won by the Clonmel Ladies of Aideen, Siobhain O Loughlin and Audrey Caron with the Nenagh Olympic Men's team of Mark, Shane Scully, Vincent Mulcahy and Paul Scully. In Ballynonty 2004 Denise Compton (Dundrum) and Pat O Sullivan (Clonmel) were Champions while the Club titles were won by the Thurles Crokes Ladies team of Nora Kennedy, Orla Donovan and Eileen Carey and the Clonmel Men's team of Pat, Anthony Feery, Johnny Brunnock and John Walsh. Dundrum was the venue in 2005 where Nora Kennedy (Thurles Crokes) and Johnny Brunnock (Clonmel) were Champions with the Club titles going to Thurles Crokes (Nora, Sinead Phillips and Eileen Carey) and to Ballynonty (Shane Mullaney,

Gary Condon, Pat Cormack and Sean Hanley). Ballynonty was the venue in 2006 with Laura Taylor (Clonmel) and Pat Cormack (Ballynonty) Champions while the Club titles went to Clonmel Ladies (Laura, Elaine O'Brien and Emma Ferris) and to Ballynonty (Pat, Danny Smith, Kevin Shelley and Noel O'Dwyer). In 2007 the venue was Clonmel with Mary Moloney (Thurles Crokes) and William Hughes (Thurles Crokes) crowned Champions while the Club titles were won by the Clonmel Ladies (Kealey Tideswell, Kate McLoughlin and Emma Ferris) and the Clonmel Men's team of (Brian Long Valeriu Thzcoin, Niall O'Ceallaigh and Larry Martin). 2008 Clonmel was the venue where Angela McCann (Clonmel) and Christopher Bracken (Thurles Crokes) were crowned Champions while the Club titles went to the Clonmel Ladies team (Angela, Aine Roche and Sarah Whelan) and to the Thurles Crokes team (Christopher, Tony Fogarty, Billy Phillips and David Kenneally). 2009 Clonmel was the venue where Aine Roche (Clonmel) and Tony Fogarty (Thurles Crokes) were Champions while the Club title were won by Clonmel Ladies (Aine, Mary Molloy and Kealey Tideswell) and the Thurles Crokes Men's team of (Tony, Keith Maher, Denis Shanahan and David Kenneally). Clonmel was the venue in 2010 where Martina O'Dwyer (Carrick on Suir) and Shane Scully (Nenagh Olympic) were crowned Champions while the Club titles were won by the Dundrum Ladies team (Catherine Kelly, Mary Keane and Elizabeth Breen) and the Dundrum Men's team (Kevin Moore, Donal Keane, Ruaidhri Devitt and Sean McGrath). Last year Clonmel was the venue where Dymphna Ryan (Dundrum) and Kevin More (Dundrum) were crowned Champions while the Club titles were won by Dundrum Ladies (Dymphna, Leah McCormack and Mary Keane) and The Dundrum Men's team (Kevin, Michael Ryan, Donal Keane and Sean McGrath). I will do a preview of this year's Championship races in next week's notes.