

County Athletic Notes

County titles for Serena, Sean, Dymphna and Brian

The curtain came down on a very successful County Cross Country season last Sunday in Goold's Cross when the County Junior and Senior titles for both Women and Men were decided. The County Board would like to thank Dundrum Athletic Club for hosting these Championships on a very good demanding Cross Country course. Conditions were ideal for both athlete and spectators and the course was ideal for spectators as they had a great view of all the action. The County Board Chairman, Leslie Smyth, thanked the landowners Michael and Maurice Ryan for the use of their fine facility. The starter for the day was the multi County Cross Country Champion and local resident, Billy O Dwyer.

In the Junior Ladies race we had Serena Moloney of Thurles Crokes and Cliona Doyle of Clonmel competing with Serena pulling away over the closing stages to win her first County Junior Cross Country title much to the delight of her parents Mary and Jim Moloney. In the Junior Men's Race we had Clonmel fielding a very strong squad that recently won the All Ireland under 18 Inter Club Bronze medals. For many of the spectators it was their first glimpse of Sean Tobin, who last week ran a great race in the European Junior Cross Country Championships in Slovenia. Sean, only decided to compete at the last minute as the Club was short one for their 2nd team, such is his great interest in encouraging his fellow Club members to compete. Sean ran a steady race along with club mate Michael Carey with Sean getting the verdict on the line to win the Gold, pushed over the line by Michael, with Michael winning the Silver. Then we had Evan Egan making it a clean sweep for Clonmel when winning the Bronze. Clonmel won the team title while they also won the Silver medal with Jack Allen, Reece Maher and Brian Lorum. Conor Moore of Dundrum ran well when finishing 7th.

In the Ladies race we had eight athletes competing with three clubs represented. Right from the start Dymphna Ryan of Dundrum set a very strong pace and went on to defend her title in style. Then we had Angela McCann of Clonmel winning the Silver with Aine Roche Clonmel winning the Bronze. For the record Martina Ryan Thurles Crokes 4th, 5th Sareen Walsh Clonmel, 6th Claire Devitt Dundrum 7th Donna Nagle Clonmel and 8th Mary Keane Dundrum. Clonmel won the team title and retained the Sureprint Cup for another year on 11 points with Dundrum 2nd on 15 points

The Senior Men's race attracted a very good entry of 43 athletes, representing eight Clubs, over the 5 lap course. Right from the start Brian Murphy of Carrick on Suir, who was 2nd in the recent Waterford half Marathon, set a strong pace and soon opened up a commanding lead as he was determined to win this title, having finished 2nd in his previous outing in this event. Brian kept this strong pace going to win his first County Senior Cross Country title very convincingly in 35 mins 28 secs. Then behind him we had six athletes, all representing different Clubs, battling it out for the minor placings and they were Mark Gleeson (Nenagh Olympic), Kevin Moore (Dundrum), Shane Mullaney (Thurles Crokes) Ross Alexander (Coolquill), Brian Murray (Templemore) and Kevin Maunsell (Clonmel). This group was still together at the end of the 1st lap. Then midway through the 2nd lap Kevin Moore and Mark Gleeson broke away with Kevin Maunsell in hot pursuit while Shane and Ross were in close attention. As they went out on the 3rd lap the Silver and Bronze medals was between three athletes, the two Kevins and Mark. Midway through this lap the two Kevins opened a good lead on Mark and they would decide the destination of the medals. They were still together midway through the final lap and on the 2nd last incline Kevin Moore edged in front and with a good local support kept the pace going all the way to the line to win the Silver medal in 36 mins 33 secs with Kevin Maunsell winning the Bronze in 36 mins 52 secs. For the record 4th Mark Gleeson Nenagh Olympic, 5th Shane Mullaney (Thurles Crokes), 6th Ross Alexander (Coolquill), 7th Martin Keane (Dundrum), 8th Gary Scully (Nenagh Olympic), 9th Donal Keane (Dundrum) and 10th Pat Grace (Nenagh Olympic). With both Nenagh Olympic and Dundrum having three in the top ten it was going to be very close for the Club title. Shane Scully of

Nenagh Olympic was 13th but James Ryan of Dundrum finished 16th and in the process helped Dundrum to beat Nenagh Olympic by one point, brilliant competition as the lead changed between these two teams on three occasions during the race and great credit to both teams for such competition. For the record the Clonmel team of Kevin, William Maunsell 12th, 20th Mark Ryan and 21st Derek Nolan won the Bronze medals. Carrick on Suir were 4th, on 73 points, Thurles Crokes were 5th on 85 points, 6th Ballynonty 87 points and 7th Coolquill 89 points. In the B Section Dundrum won the Gold medals with their team of Willie O Dwyer, Padraic Coen and Michael Moore while their 3rd team of Michael Coen, Michael Ryan and Graham Butler won the Silver medals and we had the Coolquill team of Andrew Smyth, Tadhg Vaughan, and Oliver Cooke winning the Bronze medals. At the Presentation of Medals in Kennedy's Goolds Cross, the County Chairman thanked the Kennedy family for the post race refreshments, the Ryan family for the use of their land for the Championships and Dundrum for once again hosting a great day's activity.

Clonmel – County Senior Club Champions

The County Cross Country season came to a close last Sunday in Goold's Cross and after the County Junior and Senior Cross Country races were completed the points for the Best overall Club at Senior level throughout the whole County Cross Country season were made up. In a very close competition Clonmel were the overall winners beating Dundrum by 39 points at the end of a great Cross Country season with Coolquill finishing 3rd.

Seasonal Greetings

The County Board would like to wish all Club Officials and athletes the very best for the festive season and would like to thank everyone who helped to promote our Sport during 2011. The Board would like to wish all our members an enjoyable training and competition year in 2012.