

Linda Grogan and William O Dwyer – lead Dundrum to Double Gold

Moyne was the venue last Sunday for the County Novice Road Championships where conditions were good and dry while the underfoot was slippery at times. Still these conditions attracted two very good entries with 39 women and 72 men competing in the events. In the Ladies race we had athletes representing 8 Clubs while in the Men's race the 72 athletes represented 13 Clubs, great entries.

In the Ladies race the pace was strong and soon the leading group was down to two athletes with Eileen McCullough of Thurles Crokes and Linda Grogan of Dundrum setting the pace. Then as they reached the 2k mark Linda increased the pace and made every stride a winning one as she came home a worthy Champion in 11 mins 16 secs, great performance on your debut in these Championships. I am sure she will, on this performance, have a major say in the destination of the rest of the Women's Championships titles in 2015. Then we had Eileen McCullough running on well to win the Silver medal in 11 mins 30 secs. Phil Ryan of Ballynonty also ran very well when getting clear of the chasing pack to win the Bronze medal in 11 mins 52 secs. For the record Claire Devitt (Dundrum) was 4th 12 mins 2 secs, 5th Louise Fogarty (Moyne) 12 mins 16 secs and 6th Karen Ryan (Dundrum) 12 mins 19 secs. With three athletes to count in the team event Dundrum were convincing winners with their three athletes in the top 6 and they won the title on 11 points? The host Club, Moyne, won the Silver team medals with Louise, Susan Fogarty 10th 12:35 and Bridget Gleeson 11th 12:41 on 26 points. The Clonmel trio of Yvonne O Connor 8th 12 mins 25 secs, Suzanne Shine 9th 12 mins 25 secs and Marian Flaherty 13th 12 mins 47 secs won the Bronze medals. It was great to see new faces on all three teams winning their first County Championship medal.

In the Men's race 72 athletes faced the starter, Billy Purcell, for the 6k race. William O Dwyer of Dundrum was going all out to make it a County Novice double having won the Cross Country equivalent last October. He made his intentions known very early on as he shared the pace for the first 2k and then increase the pace, a pace that saw him go clear of the rest of the field and a pace he maintained all the way to the line to come home a very worthy Champion in 20 mins 8 secs, great running. We then had a great battle for the Silver medal with Aaron O Donnell of Carrick on Suir edging out Liam Shanahan of Thurles Crokes close to the line to win the Silver medal in 20 mins 25 secs with Liam winning the Bronze medal 4 secs adrift. For the record John Fitzgibbon (Thurles Crokes) was 4th 20:34, Andrew Smyth (Coolquill) was 5th 20:40 and Jimmy Boland (Clonmel) was 6th 20:47. In the team event competition was keen with just 12 points separating the top 3 teams. In the end Dundrum came out on top scoring 42 points with their team of William O Gorman, Michael Ryan 7th 20:59, Colin Bradshaw 15th 21:42 and Michael J Ryan 19th 22:11. The Thurles Crokes team of Liam Shanahan, John Fitzgibbon, John Treacy 9th 21:12 and Declan Ryan 30th 22:47 won the Silver medals on 46 points. The Bronze medals were won by the Clonmel team of Jimmy Boland, Mark Darmody 8th 21:04, Conor Fleming 14th 21:38 and Adrian Cremins 26th 22:37 on 54 points. Here again it was great to see new faces on all three teams win medals at this level.

The County Chairman, Billy Purcell, thanked Moyne for promoting two great Championship races and he also thanked all the Clubs for their support. The next County Championship event is the County Intermediate which takes place in Galbally on February 15th.