

## **Tipperary Masters Cross Country Championships**

Thurles Crokes AC hosted the County Masters Cross Country Championships and on an ideal day, with ideal underfoot conditions, we witnessed two great races with Madeline Loughnane, Thurles Crokes and Stuart Moloney, Moreabbey Milers leading from gun to tape to record two great victories.

In the Ladies 4k championship a field of 34 athletes faced the starter representing eight different clubs thus having the makings of a very competitive event. And that is how it turned out with Madeline Loughnane, Thurles Crokes setting out her stall from the whistle, charging to the head of the field and proceeding to extend her lead throughout that first of three laps. Maire O'Shea, Moreabbey Milers, Dympna Ryan, Dundrum and Suzanne Shine, Clonmel went with that blistering pace and this brought them clear of the rest of the field. Madeline continue her strong pace throughout the rest of the race and though Dympna Ryan, having broken clear of the other two athletes, went in pursuit and did close the gap on the final lap but it was Madeline who crossed the line first to claim victory and take the O/35 title. Dympna maintained her pace to the line to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> and win the silver medal in the O/35 category. Suzanne Shine ran a very strong final lap to overhaul Marie O'Shea to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> overall and win the O/40 category with Marie 4<sup>th</sup> and winning the silver medal in the O/40 category. 5<sup>th</sup> place went to Angela Fogarty, Moyne who claimed the bronze medal in the O/35 category with Michelle Doherty, Clonmel coming through for 6<sup>th</sup> and winning the bronze medal in the O/40 category. The winner of the O/45 category was Martina Ryan, Thurles Crokes who crossed the line in 9<sup>th</sup> place overall with Mandy Parslow, Moreabbey Milers winning the silver medal having finished 18<sup>th</sup> and Aine Hennessy, Templemore the bronze medal winner crossing the line in 22<sup>nd</sup>. Catherine Hogan, Moreabbey Milers was the winner of the O/50 category with her club-mate Trish Blackburn winning the silver medal and Liz Power, Moyne the bronze. Templemore claimed the top three medals in the O/55 category with Dolores Hennessy, Martina Connolly and Breda O'Meara the winning trio while Hilary Collins, Coolquill was the winner of the O/65 category.

The O/35-O/40 team event saw only one point separate the top two teams with Thurles Crokes taking the title on 18pts from Dundrum on 19pts with Clonmel third on 23pts. Moyne finished 4<sup>th</sup> on 36pts with Moreabbey Milers 5<sup>th</sup> on 48pts.

The O/45 team event was won by Moreabbey Milers on 57pts with Templemore winning the silver medals on 71pts with their second team taking the bronze medals on 88pts while Coolquill finished fourth on 92pts.

64 men took to the start line of the Master Men's event and again great credit is due to the clubs for getting their athletes out and competing. Stuart Moloney, Moreabbey Milers showed a clean pair of heels to the rest of the field with a superb front running exhibition. Having taken the lead from the whistle he never let up to come home a clear and convincing winner and in the process was the winner of the O/35 title. Second place came down to a sprint finish between three athletes who had ran together throughout the race but it was the speed of John Fitzgibbon, Thurles Crokes that won out in the end and he crossed the line in 2<sup>nd</sup> to also claim the silver medal in the O/35 category. Gareth McGlinchey, Dundrum came through for third and won the bronze medal in the O/35 category with his club mate Dermot Hayes having a great run to finish 4<sup>th</sup> and win the O/50 title. Fifth place went to Stephen Flanagan, Moyne with Michael Hassett, Coolquill, on his return to competitive running,

finishing 6<sup>th</sup> and taking the O/55 title. John Fogarty, Moycarkey-Coolcroo having finished 10<sup>th</sup> overall won the O/40 title from John Russell of Coolquill who crossed the line in 17<sup>th</sup> place with the bronze medal going to Seamus Duggan, Templemore who finished 19<sup>th</sup>. The winner of the O/45 title was Peter Madden, Templemore with his club-mate Sean Percy winning the silver medal and Ger Hanley, Moreabbey Milers winning the bronze. As already mentioned Dermot Hayes won the O/50 title from Tom Blackburn, Moreabbey Milers with James Ryan, Dundrum winning the bronze medal. Following Michael Hasset home to win the silver medal in the O/55 category was Willie O'Donoghue, Moreabbey Milers with Bernard Feery, Fethard winning the bronze medal. Liam Butler, Dundrum won the O/60 title with brothers Matt and Jack Alexander winning the silver and bronze medals respectively. Patrick Kennedy, Templemore won the O/65 title while Eddie Cahalane, Coolquill won the O/70 title with Myles McHugh, Clonmel finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in the same category.

The O/35-O/45 team event was once again a very competitive competition with six clubs in contention but it was Moreabbey Milers who came out on top on a score of 33pts. Dundrum finished second on 45pts with Templemore third on 71pts. Fourth place went to Thurles Crokes on 95pts with Coolquill fifth on 112pts and Moyne sixth on 126pts.

In the O/50 and upwards team event Dundrum were the winners on 48pts from Coolquill on 91pts with Clonmel third on 107pts.

Once again well done to all the athletes and the clubs for supporting this event and to Thurles Crokes who had everything planned so well on the day.

### **Munster Senior Cross Country Championships**

Moreabbey Milers AC are hosting the Munster Senior Cross Country Championships in Galbally on Sunday next and with the event being on home ground and given the strong cross country tradition of the County we hope that all clubs will persuade their senior athletes to tog out and represent Tipperary at these Championships.

Siobhan O'Doherty, Borrisokane is the defending ladies senior champion and with the back-up of athletes like Madeline Loughnane, Thurles Crokes and Linda Grogan, Dundrum should they compete Tipperary can go one better than last year and win the team title while Dundrum finished 3<sup>rd</sup> a year ago in the club event and again if all their athletes are participating they can be there or there about again this year.

The Maunsell brothers, William and Kevin along with Kevin Moore, Dundrum should form the backbone of the men's team and again if all clubs supply their senior athletes for the County team then Tipperary will be in with a great shout considering their third place finish last year. Clonmel and Dundrum should be our leading club teams and again getting amongst the medals as Clonmel did a year ago when finishing third is well within their remit.

The closing date for on-line entries is this Monday night and we hope to see a big contingent of Tipperary athletes competing in Galbally on Sunday.