

St Abban's AC

4th Nov'15

Stephen Romps to Title

The Laois senior cross country titles were decided over the picturesque Stradbally estate courtesy of the Cosby family on Sunday last. The juvenile events that were held in conjunction with the main event saw a decent turnout from most clubs in the county. A couple of poor selection decisions didn't help our U.9's, but it was nice to have a group to pick from. Our U.9 squad was made up of Eabha Kehoe, Jessica Murray, Cara English, Caoimhe Brennan, Aoibhin Brennan, Ciara Milton and Niamh Maher while the boys included Fionn O'Sullivan, Timmy Byrne, Sean Doyle, Scott Delaney, Cameron Delaney and Ter Patterson. The U.11 had some fine performers and were in contention throughout with Katie Brennan, Audrey Byrne, Katie Baldwin and Danielle O'Driscoll doing the business as did Jack Fenlon, Adam Buggy, Evan English, Eoin Cawley, Sean O'Sullivan, Ryan Harrington, Lee Murray, Jack Milton and Peter Grogan. The U.13 were short on boys with girls taking silver: Amy Brennan, Seoighe English, Aoibhin McDonald and Maebh Gallagher. Evan Dowling made a welcome return and was joined by Sean O'Driscoll. The girls U.15 figured strongly throughout with Rebecca Fenlon, Aoife Gallagher, Sarah Graham, Ciara Harrington and Orla Kelly doing the business. We had a fine crew for the U.17 & U.19 with the girls scoring with the assistance coming from Maebh Maher, Laura Graham, Niamh Moore and Ruby Millet and the boys with two teams finishing 1st and 3rd comprised off Niall Egan, Gerard Kelly, David McDonald, Tom Buggy, David Baldwin, Cian Burke, Jamie Pender and Cian Kelly.

Our senior ladies ran a strong race to take bronze being led home by Moira Griffith 8th, Catriona McDonald 9th, Margo Dowling 10th and Mairead Moore 13th scoring with Kate Bermingham, Ann Nicholl/Waugh and Laura Brennan ably supporting. The much anticipated senior men's event started slowly with no in particular eager to set the pace. Covering 5 x 2K laps we were into the 3rd lap before the action started to unwind. The recently crowned Leinster novice champion Colin Maher in the Ballyfin colours sought to add the senior title to the novice and intermediate which he won over the past month was making his bid for glory. Stephen Lawler saw fit to follow and the battle was on. With a lap and a half to go Stephen put the foot on the gas and succeeded in making a decisive break. He came home to the sound of a proud father to take his first county crown and thus become the first father and son to do so. The battle for 3rd was a mighty scrap with Danny Lawler making all the right moves only to be hauled in by Cormac Kelly finishing like a train coming from 7th to 3rd on the last lap. With Colm Burke 6th and Brian Kelly 7th we were packing nicely for the team title which was clinched by Garry Cantwell when he crossed the line in 17th place. We had fine support from James Nolan 23rd, Aran Murphy 25th, Colm McEvoy 26th, Dorel Picovici 27th, Conor Barry 28th, Niall English 30th, John Kenny 32nd and Francis Fleming 34th. Many thanks to all the athletes that turned out, to the parents for the support, to those that helped in running the event especially to Ben hope he enjoyed the day.

Members Draw No2

Last Friday night saw the 2nd members draw take place in the clubhouse. Joe Kilbride Luggacurren scooped the €1,000 with Mr. C Cray, Ardenteggle taking €500 while the recipients of €100 included:- Jimmy Farrell, Old Leighlin (on the double), Anastasia Buggy, Dromagh, Craig Comerford, Doonane Terrace and Hazel O'Connor, Maidenhead. Thanks to everyone for their mighty support and the final draw will take place in Behan's on the 22nd November. Still not too late to join up.