

St Abban's Athletic Club News

5th November 2014

Magic Team Display in Magic Mushroom Grounds in Stradbally

The Laois Credit Unions Juvenile relays and Senior cross country championships were decided on The Electric Picnic site at the Lawn in Stradbally on Sunday. Whatever was in the air or on the ground some brilliant performances were turned in and none greater than our senior men's squad running magnificently to win back the 'Mick Kirwan Cup' and to take the bronze team medals as well. With 13 from the club going to the line each one of them could be proud of their performance. Newcomer Jeff Kennedy ran a brilliant race in his first Laois senior to finish 29th and just lost out on scoring on the 'B' team. Dorel Picovici 28th, Niall English 27th, James Griffin 24th, Conor Barry 23rd, James Nolan 19th and a fine display from Kevin Brennan in 17th gave us a three point lead over a gallant Ballyroan/Abbeyleix outfit and the bronze medals.

At the front of the race Stephen Lawlor gave it a go for the silver medal but had to settle for bronze and the honor of leading home his teammates in their quest for the team title. He was followed home by the Leinster Novice silver medalist of the previous week Danny Lawler in 4th spot, with that great servant to the club Colm Burke once again producing it on the right day to finish 5th followed closely across the line from the much improved Cormac Kelly in 6th place. Our superb 800 metre runner Brian Kelly showed excellent form in 8th place while perhaps the performance of the day came from the youthful James Moore turning in a class race for 11th place and giving us a 19th point victory over the defending champions Portlaoise.

Our ladies team were down a few, not fully recovered from the marathon exploits the previous week, never-the-less we had 7 runners and finished a game 3rd with county Novice and Intermediate champion Maire Griffith leading us home in 6th place. Colette English once again displayed her liking for the cross country finishing 9th while marathon runner Caitriona McDonald was 13th and the team was completed by Kay Birmingham in 15th place. Support came from Ann Nicholl 15th, Marie Murray 16th and Sharon Buggy 18th.

It was a fine 1st, 2nd and 3rd in the Junior men's race with David Lawler taking the title from a fast finishing Aran Murphy and James Tyrrell in the bronze medal position. Fionn Maher completed the winning team finishing 7th.

In the 8 relays we finished on the podium in 7 and were unlucky to lose out in the girls U.10 where Katie Brennan, Katie Baldwin, Katie McGrath, Danielle O'Driscoll and Eabha Keogh wore the singlets in 4th place. In the boys U.10 4 x 250m it was bronze with Evan English, Jessica Murray, Fionn O'Sullivan and Sean O'Sullivan doing the business. It was gold for the girls U.12 4 x 500m with Niamh Graham, Audrey Byrne, Aoibhinn McDonald, Seoighe English and Amy Brennan giving a fine display. Not to be outdone it was gold also for the boys U.12 with Lee Murray, Coady Corrigan, Adam Buggy and Darragh Kealy carrying the baton safely around. In the U.14/U.16 girls we fielded two teams and finished 2nd and 4th with Ciara Harrington, Amy Brennan, Orla Davis and Cara Maher being the 'A' squad and Sarah Graham, Susan Oneniya, Orla Kelly and Ruby Millet the 'B' team. The corresponding boys saw us take silver also with Sean O'Driscoll, T. J. Burke, Adam Nicholl/Waugh, Niall Egan, Dean Malone and a fantastic leg from Cian Kelly. In the U.18 4 x 500m it was gold for both our girls and boys teams with Maeve Maher, Niamh Moore, Laura Graham and Alannah O'Rourke doing the business for the girls while

Conor Hayden, David Baldwin, Cian Burke and a magic lap from Jamie Pender showed the sprinting section in the club is progressing nicely.

Cheryl Breaks New Ground

The good news from across the Atlantic made the celebrations in Behans on Sunday evening all the better. Cheryl Nolan had produced the goods improving by over half a minute when running 17 minutes and 14 seconds for 5K. Running in the 'Sun Belt Conference Championship' she came right through the field over the second half of the race to record a new school record and a fine 4th placing. Her next big one is in Arkansas over 6K on the 14th November.

Daly Family scoop the big one

Leech's Wolfhill was the venue for the 2nd draw in our club members draw. The Daly family Ashfield were first drawn from the drum and took €1,000 with Paul Foley Wolfhill collecting €500. The following won €100 each Tom Dunne, Tolerton. Pat Wilson Clogh. Mary Brennan, Coolnariska. Kelly's Oakley Park, and Ciara McDonald Old Derrig. Thanks very much to everyone who supported the draw and the final one takes place in Behan's on the 23rd November.

Club Mass

The club mass for living and deceased members and friends will take place in the clubhouse on Friday 5th December at 9 p.m. All are welcome.

Dundalk the Venue

Best wishes extended to all the club athletes taking part in the first of the National cross country championships taking place in Dundalk IT on Sunday 23rd November.