

# St Abban's AC

9<sup>th</sup> November 2016

## Stephen & John Battle it Out

Emo Court was the beautiful setting for the Downey's Auto Laois masters and juvenile development cross country on Sunday last. While our juvenile numbers were scarce we made up for it in the masters. In the juveniles Laoi Cullen was 12<sup>th</sup> U.10, Ella Conway 16<sup>th</sup> and Holly Byrne 19<sup>th</sup> U.12 while the boys we had Jack Milton 4<sup>th</sup>, Reece O'Hallornan 6<sup>th</sup>, Daragh Farrell 10<sup>th</sup>, Riann Cullen 17<sup>th</sup> and Cian Houlihan 18<sup>th</sup>. Zoe Hancock was 8<sup>th</sup> and Emma Dermody 10<sup>th</sup> in the girls U.14 with Jamie Conway 9<sup>th</sup> in the boys. Sarah Graham having a fine run for 3<sup>rd</sup> in the girls U.16 her sister Laura took the bronze also, in the junior ladies while Cian Kelly was a convincing winner of the junior men's event. The master ladies saw Colette English set the pace from the off and succeeded in dropping all her rivals until the last 100 meters where she had to give way to St. Michaels Monica Corcoran. Never the less she had the satisfaction of leading her team to victory with Margo Dowling 5<sup>th</sup> and Caitriona McDonald 6<sup>th</sup> with excellent support from Josceline Ayres 7<sup>th</sup>, Sharon Buggy 11<sup>th</sup> and Deirdre Brennan 16<sup>th</sup>. Mairead Moore was 2<sup>nd</sup> in the O.45 with Ann Nicholl 3<sup>rd</sup> and Colette Brennan R/M 4<sup>th</sup> and these combined for 1<sup>st</sup> team.

The men's race saw several interesting battles among club members none more interesting than the battle for 1<sup>st</sup> place in the O.35. Stephen Hunter set a hectic pace from the off and opened up a sizeable gap on the rest of the field. Just before the halfway point John Fenlon set off in pursuit and closed the gap little by little. Going out on the last lap it was shoulder to shoulder with John coming out on top. No doubt we will see some more great battles from these two. With Dermot Ayres 7<sup>th</sup> and Colin Coyne 9<sup>th</sup> the team title was secured, providing support we had Conor Barry 20<sup>th</sup>, Niall English 24<sup>th</sup> and Francis Fleming (Junior) 25<sup>th</sup>. Colm Burke led the O.45 team to 2<sup>nd</sup> place when he finished 4<sup>th</sup> overall and 2<sup>nd</sup> individual. With Liam Byrne 19<sup>th</sup> Francis Fleming (Senior) 26<sup>th</sup> and Matt Moore 32<sup>nd</sup> completing the team. Support came from Paddy Harding 35<sup>th</sup> and Dinny Whelan 36<sup>th</sup> to complete a fine morning's action.

## Stradbally the Venue

Downeys Nissan Laois senior cross country and the juvenile relays will take place on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November on the Electric Picnic site on the Lawn in Stradbally. On what is a fine cross country course another keen tussle is anticipated and all are welcome to come along and support Laois athletics.

## Members Draw

The 2<sup>nd</sup> draw will take place in Behans on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November. Still some tickets available, your support appreciated.