

# St Abban's AC

23<sup>rd</sup> November 2016

## Stradbally a roaring success

Downeys Nissan Laois senior cross country and juvenile relays were held in the excellent grounds of Stradbally Hall, courtesy of the Cosby Family. On a beautiful day if a little on the cool side many outstanding performances were witnessed. Our boys U.13 got the show on the road and made up mainly of our U.12 squad we were clear winners from the start with Adam Buggy, Jack Fenlon, Lee Murray, Eoin Cawley, Ryan Harrington and Jamie Conway doing the business. Our U.13 girls had to settle for silver giving way to a strong Rosenallis outfit. Looking after the baton here we had Audrey Byrne, Maeve Gallagher, Aoibhinn McDonald, Amy Brennan, Zoe Hancock, Niamh Graham, Holly Byrne and Holly Brennan.

The boys U.11 were convincing winners putting on a great show with Jack Milton, Evan English, Ben Reid and Timmy Byrne carrying the baton safely around. Our girls U.11 also claimed the gold with fine runs from Ciara Malone, Katie McGrath, Ava Kehoe, Katie Brennan, Ella Conway, Amy Handcock, Caoimhe Brennan and Aisling Cawley. Our boys U.9 had to settle for 4<sup>th</sup> after a couple of falls with the squad comprising of Kalem Buggy, Kyle Handcock, Fionn Gallagher and James McGrath. The girls U.9 put us back on the top of the rostrum with a fine performance to take the gold. Team included Cara English, Emma Malone, Ciara Milton, Caoimhe Brennan and Faye Brennan. The girls U.15 emerged victorious also with Aoife Gallagher, Rebecca Fenlon, Ciara Harrington and Sarah Graham making up the winning team. The U.17 & 19 boys were 2<sup>nd</sup> comprising of Jamie Pender, David Baldwin, Keelan Mulhall and Tom Buggy with Gerard Kelly, T.J. Burke and Niall Egan supporting. Our girls were clear winners with Ruby Millet, Laura Graham and the Maher sister's Caragh and Meabh doing the business.

In the senior ladies we had 8 participants, with the race being over 5k. From the outset Mary Ann O'Sullivan was to the fore. After the first lap the leading group was down to three with Mary Ann and Mary Mulhare locked to-gether. Over the next lap each tried to dominate with neither giving an inch. Over the final 1K Mary emerged to take the title Mary Ann 2<sup>nd</sup> led the club to the bronze in a very tight team placing. Colette English 7<sup>th</sup>, Sinead Kelly (her 1<sup>st</sup> Laois senior) 10<sup>th</sup> and Caitriona McDonald 12<sup>th</sup> made up the scoring team. Our 'B' team finished in 4<sup>th</sup> place being led home by Claire Phelan (making a welcome return) 14<sup>th</sup>, Josceline Ayres 16<sup>th</sup>, Sharon Buggy 17<sup>th</sup> and Kate Bermingham 19<sup>th</sup> scoring.

The senior men over 10K saw the defending champion Stephen Lawlor and last year's runner up Colin Maher go to the front from the gun. A mighty battle ensued with Colin coming away over the last 1500 to take his first Laois senior title. Stephen led the club to a clear cut victory in the team event with Cormac Kelly taking bronze (same as last year), Stephen Hunter 4<sup>th</sup>, John Fenlon 5<sup>th</sup>, Danny Lawlor 6<sup>th</sup> and Colm Burke 8<sup>th</sup>, for a convincing victory. With good backing from the remainder we took bronze as well with Brian Kelly 9<sup>th</sup>, Sean Proctor Geoghegan 11<sup>th</sup>, Colin Coyne 13<sup>th</sup>, Conor Barry 22<sup>nd</sup>, Liam Byrne 24<sup>th</sup> and James Nolan 25<sup>th</sup> scoring. Good back up came from David Lawlor

26<sup>th</sup>, Niall English 30<sup>th</sup> and James Griffin 32<sup>nd</sup>. So the curtain came down on another Laois senior and the club can be proud of it's many outstanding achievements. Many thanks to parents, coaches and athletes for making it such an outstanding success.

Development Draw Number 2 was held in Behan's on Sunday last. John & Mary Egan of Aughtaterry scooped the top prize of €1,000, with Ruby and Joe Sixsmith claiming €500 and the following winning €100 each:- Caleb Roche Moneenroe, Tom & Vera Lawlor Duncannon, Brendan & Liz Kehoe C/O Glanbia, Declan Byrne Monavea and Aaron & Shane Maguire Aughtaterry. Thanks to everyone for their support. Final draw in Behan's on the 11<sup>th</sup> December, tickets still available.

#### Three County secondary schools League

The 3<sup>rd</sup> and final stage of the Kildare, Carlow and Laois league concluded with the relays in the Carlow hurling club last week. Record numbers of athletes turned out with over 33 teams in some races. The club was well represented and performed admirably for their school.

#### BounceLand

All our Primary school members are invited to sign up in the clubhouse for your Christmas Party. It is scheduled for Bounceland, Carlow courtesy of SCATS on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December from 7 to 9. Complete sheet a.s.a.p. as we need to know numbers. Thanks and have a mighty evening.