

Tipperary County Athletics News

The County Juvenile Uneven Age Cross Country Championships took place at the Middlepiece, Two Mile Borris on Sunday last. Our thanks to the host club, Moycarkey Coolcree A.C. who provided a great challenging cross country course for juvenile & senior athletes alike.

While we didn't have the blue skies of last week, the rain held off for the most part although spikes & wet gear were definitely required. A great day's running was witnessed in true cross country style with the major medals going to 7 different clubs. In the individual competitions, Clonmel, Nenagh Olympic & Thurles Crokes won 3 titles each with Moyne, Moycarkey Coolcree & Tipperary Town winning 1 each. In the team competitions, Nenagh won 4, Moycarkey Coolcree & Thurles Crokes 2 each & Clonmel & Fethard 1 each.

First race of the day was the Girls U/9 500m where 49 athletes raced off from the line led by Emma O'Dwyer of Tipperary Town, closely followed by Niamh Ryan of Moyne (10th in U/10 600m last week) & Clodagh McIntyre of Nenagh Olympic. The same 3 girls kept their positions throughout the race with Emma O'Dwyer increasing her lead over the 500m to end up the clear winner. Kate Herke from Templemore also ran a brave race to come home 4th. The Boys U/9 500m race had 55 boys racing to the finish line led by Sean Hayes of Nenagh Olympic followed by Nicolas Kennedy of Tipp Town & Patrick Staklum of Thurles Crokes.

In the Girls U/11 800m Alannah Deering of Nenagh Olympic (who was 4th last week in the U/10 600m) was the clear winner followed home by Jean Kelly of Dundrum in 2nd (9th last week in the U/12 1000m) & Fiona Molloy of Nenagh Olympic in 3rd place. In the Boys U/11 800m 78 athletes lined out. There was no doubt about the winner as Jack Fallon of Moycarkey Coolcree hit the front of the race after 100m & charged home to easily win adding to his U/10 600m title last week. He was chased all the way by Michael Purcell of Thurles Crokes in 2nd place (3rd last week in Boys U/12 1000m) & Craig Morgan of Nenagh Olympic who battled it out with Declan Ryan of Moycarkey Coolcree & Conor Murphy of Clonmel for 3rd place.

In the Girls U/13 1000m race, Ciara Cummins of Moyne displayed her winning form again this week by adding the U/13 crown to her U/14 1200m crown last week. She ran a superb race & was pushed all the way by Aoife Delargy of Templemore who finished in 2nd place (adding to her 2nd place last week in the U/14 1200m) & Nicola Loughnane of Thurles Crokes in 3rd. In the Boys U/13 1200m Niall McIntyre of Nenagh

Olympic made it one place better this week (he was 2nd in the U/14 1500m last week) by winning the race well ahead of the field with Rory Purcell of Thurles Crokes 2nd & his team-mate Cathal Maloney withstanding a late surge from Patrick Cleary of Clonmel to clinch the bronze medal. The Girls U/15 1500m race provided a gold & silver medal for Clonmel when Orla Moynihan (3rd last week in Girls U/14 1200m) was the winner followed by Clare Horgan in 2nd & Orla Deering of Nenagh Olympic in 3rd. In the Boys U/15 2000m Reece Maher of Clonmel took the lead early in the race & held onto it to easily win (he adds this to his 3rd place in the Boys U/16 3000m last week). He was followed all the way by Tom Hennessey of Nenagh Olympic with Jack Corbett of Thurles Crokes just pipping Carrick-on-Suir athlete Liam Landy to take 3rd. In the Girls U/17 2000m Eimer Kennedy of Thurles Crokes (winner of U/16 2000m last week) & Cliona Doyle of Clonmel (winner of U/18 3000m last week) battled it out for most of the race with Eimer Kennedy pulling away in the last 200m of the race to take the title followed by Cliona in 2nd & Marita Moloney of Moycarkey Coolcree in 3rd. The Boys U/17 4000m provided a thrilling finish with Sean Tobin of Clonmel & Christy O'Brien of Thurles Crokes battling it out throughout the race. In the final seconds of the race Christy was in the lead coming into the home straight when Sean came up alongside him & both sprinted for home with Sean emerging the winner. Sean adds this title to his U/16 3000m title last week. Edward Hynes of Templemore came home 3rd adding to his silver medal in the U/16 3000m race last week.

The Girls U/19 3500m was easily won by Serena Moloney of Thurles Crokes with Hannah Trehy of Carrick-On-Suir in 2nd & Sarah Berkery of Newport in 3rd place (adding to her silver medal last week in the U/18 3000m). The Boys U/19 6000m produced a clear winner when Vincent Molumby of Thurles Crokes won gold with Adam O'Donnell of Fethard in 2nd place & Richard Fogarty of Moyne in 3rd place (adding to his bronze last week in the U/18 5000m).

By Aisling Hoey
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