

County Athletic News

William Maunsell and Madeline Loughnane crowned 10 Mile Champions

The County 10 Mile Road Championships brought the curtain down on what has been a very successful County Road season when this event took place in summer like conditions in Ballynonty last Sunday. Athletes faced very warm conditions where the thermostat hit 23 degrees at times on the route. The Race started and after the initial charge a group of athletes set the pace and that group included the defending Champion, Brian Murphy of Carrick on Suir along with Danny Smith of Ballynonty, also a previous winner, and the Clonmel trio of William Maunsell, Niall McCormack and David Mansfield. Then as the athletes approached 3 miles William and Niall went to the front and increased the pace that soon saw them open a lead on the chasing pack. From here to 9 miles these two athletes went stride to stride at a good pace. Then just after 9 miles William upped the pace and increased the tempo that soon saw him open a lead, a lead he held all the way to the line to win his first County Senior title in a very impressive time of 53 mins 5 secs. This was a fantastic performance by William who was making his debut over this distance and he crowned it off by setting a new Championship record over this course by beating the old record set by Brian Murphy of Carrick on Suir in 2012 when he ran mins secs. Then we had Niall McCormack also making his debut over this distance running very well to win the Silver medal in 53 min s28 secs. To round off a great day for Clonmel Athletic Club David Mansfield came through very strongly to win the Bronze medal in 54 mins 57 secs. For the record Brian Murphy of Carrick on Suir was 4th in 55 mins 20 secs with Danny Smith of Ballynonty 5th in 55 mins 35 secs, Tony Fogarty of Templemore was 6th in 58:28 with John Russell of Coolquill 7th in 59:30, Liam Shanahan of Thurles Crokes was 8th in 59:48 with his club mate John Fitzgibbon 9th in 59:51 and Seamus Duggan of Temple more in his first County 10 miler running very well when 10th in 60 mins 11 secs. It is great to see 9 athletes break 60 mins over what was a good course in very demanding conditions.

The Ladies race was also competitive with Madeline Loughnane of Thurles Crokes going clear over the closing stages to win in 66:14. Then we had Martina Ryan of Thurles Crokes coming through to finish 2nd and win the over 45 title impressively in 73:28. Yvonne O Connor of Clonmel also ran very well when winning the over 40 title in 79:28, Claire Devitt of Dundrum on her debut in these Championship ran very well to win the County Senior Ladies medal in 79:51. Then we had Anna Byrne of Clonmel winning the over 45 medals in 82:46 with her club mate Lizzie Ryan winning the over 45 Bronze medal in 86:21. For the record Helen O Ceallaigh of Clonmel was 7th overall in 88:38 with Tracy Culleton of Ballynonty 3rd Senior lady in 93:58 and Catherine Crotty 9th overall in 100:10.

In the Ladies Team event the Clonmel trio of Yvonne, Anna and Lizzie won the Gold medals.

In the Men's team event Clonmel with 3 athletes in the top 3 won the team event with Ciaran Fahey beating his training partner John Browne to finish 23rd in 66:21. The Silver medals were won by the Templemore squad of Tony, Seamus, Peter Madden 13th 62:53 and Sean Percy 14th 63:20 and it is great to see Templemore win their first medals at this event in recent years, showing that the great work on the ground is paying off. The Bronze medals were won by the Dundrum quartet of Martin Keane 11th 60:14, James Ryan 12th 61:57, Michael J Ryan 16th 63:47 and Donal Keane 19th 65:29. In the B Section The Clonmel trio of John Browne 24th 66:30, Mark Corcoran 25th 66:55 and Tom Bourke 31st 69:31 won the Gold medals. The Templemore trio of Mark Saunders 28th 67:45, Paul Walsh 29th 68:22 and Paddy Clarke 30th 68:23 won the Silver medals. The Dundrum trio of Michael Ryan 21st 66:11, Brendan Kinane 35th 73:10 and Gerry Ralph 44th 77:51 won the Bronze medals. It was also great to see athletes from Ballynonty, Fethard and Coolquill competing in this event.

In the Men's master categories here are the Medal winners:

Over 35 1st Brian Murphy (Carrick on Suir) 55:20, 2nd Danny Smith (Ballynonty) 55:35 and 3rd John Russell (Coolquill) 59:30.

Over 40 1st Peter Madden (Templemore) 62:53, 2nd Sean Percy (Templemore) 63:20 and 3rd Fergal Loughnane (Ballynonty) 65:04.

Over 45 Ciaran Fahey (Clonmel) 66:21, 2nd Tom Bourke (Clonmel) 69:31 and 3rd Cyril Fogarty (Clonmel) 71:48.

Over 50 1st James Ryan (Dundrum) 61:57, 2nd Bernard Feery (Fethard) 65:51, 3rd Sean O Dea (Clonmel) 76:36.

Over 55 1st Gerry Ralph (Dundrum) 76:51

Over 60 1st Eamonn Crowley 89:31

Over 70 Myles McHugh (Clonmel) 90:20.

At the presentation of prizes Billy Purcell thanked Ballynonty for promoting a great race, he also thanked the clubs for supporting this Championship event which has been part of what has been a highly successful season.