
Tipperary Juvenile Athletics

Munster Even Age Juvenile Cross Country Championships

Leah Quane, Moreabbey Milers, Joe Egan, Moycarkey-Coolcree and Aimee Hayde, Newport provided Tipperary athletes and spectators alike with something to cheer about when capturing individual Munster honours at U/12 and U/14 level in the Munster Juvenile Cross Country Championships in Cork on Sunday.

Sophie Coughlan, Moycarkey-Coolcree and Cian Hodgins, Nenagh Olympic won individual silver medals with Daire O'Donnell, Moycarkey-Coolcree, Tom Walsh, Nenagh Olympic, Shane Buckley, Dundrum and Emma Fagan, Newport collecting bronze medals while Tipperary captured the Boys U/12 title with the Girls U/12 and Girls U/14 teams winning bronze. Moyne and Thurles Crokes won bronze medals in the club section at U/12 and U/14 level respectively.

Over 100 athletes from the County representing twelve individual clubs turned out on Sunday, with no stone left unturned by the promoting club Carrig Na BhFear who provided a very solid course with some testing inclines. This together with the strong breeze made for a very competitive Munster championship.

14 athletes from the County contested the Girls U/10 event and young Sophie Coughlan, Moycarkey-Coolcree was always within striking distance of the front. She made a great effort over the final couple of hundred metres to reel in the leader and eventual winner but the line came too soon for her but finishing runner-up was just reward for her efforts. Abigail O'Regan, Carrick-on-Suir crossed the line in 13th place, just one place short of a medal while Jane Corcoran, Moycarkey-Coolcree finished 27th closely followed by Alana Spillane, Moyne in 34th, Cara Hennessy, Clonmel 44th and Emma Corcoran, Moycarkey-Coolcree 47th. Tipperary finished 4th in the Inter-County event with Moycarkey-Coolcree 10th and Moyne 13th in the club event. The largest representation from the County came in the Boys U/10 event where 26 athletes from around the County took to the start line. The first of those home was Daire O'Donnell, Moycarkey-Coolcree who crossed the line in 8th overall to win an individual bronze medal. Charlie Tobin, Newport came through to place 17th with Matthew Downey, Clonmel 35th. Shane and Tony Ryan, Moyglass finished 38th and 39th respectively followed by Ronan O'Dwyer, Thurles Crokes in 48th. Once again Tipperary finished fourth in the Inter-County championship while Moyglass, Moyne and Clonmel finished 9th, 12th and 14th respectively in the club competition.

The U/12 category proved to be a most fruitful one for Tipperary with first Leah Quane, Moreabbey Milers and then Joe Egan, Moycarkey-Coolcree taking the Munster titles. Leah proved to be the strongest athlete in the Girls event but was made to work very hard for her title showing true grit over the final yards when she came under severe pressure from a Cork athlete. Kate Ferncombe, Dundrum finished 19th overall with Saoirse Walsh, Newport in 27th, Ruby Carroll, Clonmel 33rd, Chloe Carroll, Templemore 35th and Helen Cleere, Moyne 36th. This showing by all six athletes saw Tipperary winning the bronze medals in the team competition with the Dundrum club team finishing 12th and the Moyne team 13th in the club section. Joe also showed tremendous strength over the final stages

of his race before finally shaking off the attentions of yet another great County athlete Cian Hodgins, Nenagh Olympic. Joe and Cian have traded places at County level already this season and stepping up to Munster level was no different as both athletes battled it out at the head of the field with Joe on this occasion proving the stronger to claim his Munster title. Cian was a clear runner-up while Tom Walsh, Nenagh Olympic and Shane Buckley, Dundrum ran great races to finish 6th and 7th respectively and earn individual bronze medals for their efforts. With Oisin Shelly, Moyglass finishing 15th and Dara Kennedy, Newport 17th the County were in with a strong chance of gold and they duly delivered, albeit by one point, to be crowned Munster U/12 champions. The Moyne club team of Aaron McLoughlin in 21st, Jake Bowe 27th, Aaron Moore 45th and David Doyle 54th crowned a great day at U/12 level by winning the bronze medals in the Inter-Club competition.

Aimee Hayde, Newport is no stranger to winning Munster or indeed National titles but her display on Sunday was probably one of her finest. Competing at U/14 level she completely dominated her opposition, putting daylight between herself and the rest of the field from the start, to give an exhibition of cross country running. Never in any danger, she crossed the line well clear to add yet another Munster title to her growing collection. Ailbe O'Neill, Nenagh Olympic was just one place off a podium finish in 13th while Laura Purcell, Moycarkey-Coolcree came through to take 30th place. Lorna Ryan, Dundrum and Emma Gleeson, Moyne were just behind in 32nd and 34th with Gillian Hughes, Clonmel completing the team in 39th and with a score of 149pts the County finished third in the team event. The Moyne club team came through to take 7th in the club competition. The Thurles Crokes club provided the backbone of the County team at U/14 level with Sean Phillips leading them home in 18th place. Darragh Minogue finished 24th just ahead of Jack O'Meara in 26th followed by Emmet Fogarty in 40th. Alex Crowley finished 53rd with Brendan Quinn, Newport finishing 56th. The County finished fourth in the team competition while Thurles Crokes won the bronze medals in the club competition.

Fourth place was also the lot of the Tipperary Girls and Boys teams at U/16 level. The girls were led home by Siobhan Whelan, Clonmel in 17th followed by Aifric Walsh, Newport 30th, Molly Keane, Clonmel 39th, A.N. Other of Clonmel 52nd, Elma Casey, Clonmel 53rd and Brid Moynihan, Clonmel 59th. The Clonmel girls combined to finish 5th in the club competition. Adam Ryan, Newport led the Boys team home in 20th followed by his club mate Michael O'Brien in 34th. Daniel Slattery Clonmel finished 38th with the Moyne trio of Dylan McLoughlin, Brian O'Callaghan and Sean Burke finishing 43rd, 48th and 50th respectively.

The highlight of the U/18 section was the run of Emma Fagan, Newport who finished an excellent 8th overall and won an individual bronze medal for her efforts. Ciara O'Neill, Clonmel finished 22nd followed by Nuala Fitzgibbon, Thurles Crokes in 26th, Jean Kelly, Dundrum 29th and Moya Whelan, Clonmel in 34th. Fred Crowley, Thurles Crokes was our leading athlete in the Boys event finishing 16th just ahead of TJ Quigley, Clonmel 18th. Colm McCarthy, Clonmel finished 30th with Nathan Bowe, Moyne 31st and Riain Patterson, Clonmel 40th.

Congratulations and well done to all our athletes on their successes on Sunday and to all the athletes from around the County that competed. The next step for our successful individuals and teams is the National Finals in Abbotstown in November where Leah, Joe and Aimee will spearhead the Tipperary challenge for honours.