

2nd March 2015

First of all a big thanks to the Ladies Committee spearheaded by the fantastic Joanne who organised an excellent fund raising and social night at Limerick Greyhound Stadium last Friday. The night was a great success and it is hoped that everyone had a great night.

There was a mixed bag of results on the playing front. Our U12s continue their relentless march to a first ever Cork league title with a resounding win over Carrigaline. The girls took a little time to settle into the game before a late push in the first quarter helped them open up a first quarter lead of 11-4. Our 5 girls in the second quarter were simply excellent outscoring their opponents by 20-0 to effectively seal the win by half time. The second half was all about keeping the scoreboard ticking over before running out 51-12 winners.

Top scorers for Colms were Bronagh Dollard 13, Lucy Liston 12, Abbie Piggot 12 and the returning Julia Cunneen 8.

The following day the girls faced up to Limerick Celtics in the North Munster league decider but fell to a narrow defeat. The girls played second fiddle to a more determined Celtics unit and can have no excuses losing out 15-23.

Our U15 girls are at last beginning to find their feet in the ultra competitive Cork League. They faced a Brunell team that were simply awesome with their outside shooting on the night. The Cork side had one of those nights where they simply could not miss. Nevertheless our girls stuck to the task and scored some nice baskets themselves before losing out 22-56.

Best for Colms were Orla Zundel, Aoife Morrissey and Ruth Dollard.

The girls the following day played host to Celtics in the North Munster league. The girls were a shadow of the team the previous night and maybe their exertions then was the reason for this very flat performance. The girls themselves were very disappointed and know that there are much better performances in them.

Our U16 and U18 girls also found Celtics too strong in their North Munster games and can have no complaints with the results.

Our U12 girls have two Cork league games next weekend at home to Lee Valley followed by Carraig na BhFear away. Our U15 girls are also in Cork league action at home to Glanmire.

Our juvenile wheelchair basketball team travel to Carlow next Sunday.

Finally, it is a pity that our two senior ladies teams have to meet each other in the quarter finals of the North Munster Cup. This eagerly awaited game takes place on Thursday 5th March.

9th March 2015

Our two senior ladies teams served up a cracking game in their North Munster quarter final encounter which was only decided in overtime.

The Scholars were the better team in the first half helped by some strong outside shooting which yielded 5 “3” pointers. They led 25-20 at the interval.

The Saints defence started to get out and stop the outside shooting of the Scholars in the second half. At the other end of the court they were enjoying dominance under the boards led by Eimear O’ Malley who was causing untold damage to the Scholars defence. Going into the final quarter the Saints had edged ahead 33-31. The final quarter was basket for basket before the game finished 48 apiece in regulation time. The Saints were the better side in the first period of overtime to win an absorbing game 52-50.

Top Scorers for Saints were Eimear O’ Malley 11, Joanne DeLoughrey and Noreen Campbell on 9 each.

Top scorers for Saints were the inspirational Lynsey Purcell on a game high 28 followed by Aoife O’ Connell on 15.

Our U12 girls qualified for the North Munster Cup Final with a hard fought win away to Rockets. The girls had 12 points to spare and will now join their U16 and U18 counterparts on finals day.

The girls also received a walkover by Lee valley in the Cork league which leaves them on top of the league standings heading into the final few weeks.

Our U15 girls put in another good shift in their Cork league game against a strong Glanmire side despite another defeat. Best for Colms on the night were Hazel Dinneen and Aoife Morrissey with Orla Zundel impressive on the point.

Our Junior wheelchair squad travelled to Carlow for the next round of the IWA basketball blitz sessions. The juniors almost got their first win of the season but had to settle for a draw against a more experienced Ballybrack Bulls squad. However the juniors did not have to wait long for their first win as they edged South East Swifts by a single basket in a very exciting and tense game. The team that travelled were Mark Leyden, Kate Delaney, Sean Byrnes, Cian Horgan, Evan Whelan, Matthew Rice and Molly Delaney.

The Limerick Scorpions rounded off a great weekend for Limerick Wheelchair basketball with a solid win over a talented Belfast team which leaves them in a strong position in the National league standings.

Next week, our U12 and U14 girls are in North Munster league action against Rockets, deferred from earlier in the season. Our U12 and U15 girls host Ballincollig in the Cork league while our U14 girls round off the weekend with a North Munster cup semi-final against Springfield.

16th March 2015

Our U12 girls were certainly very busy this week with 3 games in the space of 6 days. The girls travelled to Cork to play Carraig na BhFear in the Cork league hoping to take a step closer to the league title. The girls however suffered an agonising 30-32 defeat in a tight and exciting game and will have to wait a little longer if they are to win the title.

The girls were awarded their game against Lee Valley the following day as their opponents could not fulfil the fixture.

The girls were back on the court on Saturday as they hosted Ballincollig in the penultimate game of the Cork League. The coaches were looking for a reaction from the girls, after their defeat the previous week and were not disappointed. The girls put in a devastating first half performance to lead 42-12 at the interval against their shell shocked opponents. Ballincollig were much more competitive in the second half and succeeded in keeping the final score down to 57-23.

Top scorers for Colms were Abbie Pigott 19, Bronagh Dollard 18 and Sarah O' Brien 6.

Earlier in the day the girls completed their North Munster league programme with a win over Rockets. The girls were always in control in this game and were full value for their 37-19 win.

Top scorers for Colms were Bronagh Dollard 13, Sarah Moloney 8 and Buki Adejomehin 5.

Our U14 girls made it a clean sweep for the club as they joined their U12, U16 and U18 counterparts in the North Munster Cup Finals. The girls had to work hard in their game against Springfield to earn their place in the final. The girls were slow to start and found themselves 5-7 down at the end of the first quarter. The girls picked up the pace in the second quarter and started to get on top to lead at the interval by 20-12. The girls put in an excellent third quarter performance to stretch their lead out to 37-14 before closing out the game 43-19.

The girls would like to thank Grainne McKeogh of the U12s for stepping into the side at the last moment, to ensure there were 10 players.

Top scorers for Colms were Aoife Morrissey 21, Bronagh Dollard 7 and Hazel Dineen 5.

Our Senior Saints are in North Munster cup semi-final action against Thurles Knights this week hoping to join the 4 underage teams in the cup finals weekend. There will be a report on this game plus their league encounter with Shannon in next week's report.

23rd March 2015

It was a hectic week on the playing front for the club with practically every team in action.

Our Senior Saints were in North Munster cup semi final action against Tipperary Knights, knowing that a win would mean a clean sweep of finalists for the club in all the cup competitions.

The ladies put in a great performance to lead all the way and win out by 6 points led by Aisling Stapleton who was terrific on the night.

So onto the weekend, where the club, for the first time in a long time was contesting all five North Munster cup finals. There was a large support and expectations for our U12 girls who were the club's best chance of winning a title. The occasion seemed to get to these young girls, who were very tentative and nervous in the first half. Their opponents, Springfield were enjoying the experience of competing in a final and were far the better team leading by 4 points at the interval.

Our girls though are an experienced squad and knuckled down to the task in the second half. The girls started to concentrate on the game rather than the occasion and racked up their defensive intensity. They outscored their opponents 13-0 in the third quarter, to put them on the road to victory. The girls knew that Springfield would come back strong in the final quarter, but they held firm to outscore their opponents and seal a memorable win for the club.

The coaches Dorothy and Emily Kavanagh have put a lot of work and faith in these young girls and the result bears out this effort. However, on the day it was these young girls that rose to the challenge under intense pressure and are a credit to our club. It would be unfair to single out players from this squad, but mention must go to Bronagh Dollard, Abbie Pigott and Julia Cunneen who really shone on the day.

Unfortunately the U12s were the only victors over the weekend. Our U14, U16, U18 and senior teams lost out to strong Limerick Celtics units. However in defeat, all the players gave it their all and can be rightly proud of their performances. The U14s after a tough first half in their game, showed their true abilities and fighting qualities to outscore their opponents in the second half, led by Aoife Morrissey and Orla Zundel.

Our U16 girls ensured that Celtics had to work hard for their win. 5 of the under 14 squad played up in this final with an excellent performance by Emma McDonnell. The older players Ruth Butler and Laura O' Shea led from the front and gave excellent encouragement to their younger players.

Our U18 girls badly missed the presence of both Fiona O' Connell and Laura O' Shea who were ruled out of the final through illness. The girls only trailed by 3 points at the end of the first quarter, but the lack of cover on the bench told on the girls as the game wore on. The girls simply could not keep up the intensity for the whole game and went down., despite the Trojan efforts of Jessica O' Brien especially, and Eimear Dollard.

The senior ladies were also missing a couple of players through work commitments. However they lost this game through a slow start. Once they settled, they slowly went about the task of reducing the deficit, but were never able to get close enough. Best

for Colms on the night were Deirdre Barton, Joanne DeLoughrey, Laurie Brosnan and Noreen Campbell.

Despite these defeats, the club have come a long way this season. The players have been a credit to the club for all their hard work over the season, and we are sure this work will be rewarded sometime in the future. A big thanks to all the parents and club members who supported the 5 teams over the weekend.

Back on the playing front in the league, our Senior Scholars played their penultimate game of the season with an easy win over LIT Thurles. The girls raced into a 20 point lead by the interval and coasted home in the second half.

Our junior wheelchair team continued their development with 4 more games in Clonaslee. The progress of this team can be gauged by the inclusion of three players, namely Sean Byrnes, Kate Delaney and Mark Leyden in the All Star team.

The Limerick Scorpions senior team continue at the top of the National Basketball Wheelchair league with another win this time over Dundalk Ravens on a score line of 72-36.

Next week, our U12 girls are away to Lee Valley in the Cork League. No pressure on the girls, but should they win this game, they will clinch the league title. Elsewhere our Senior Scholars play their final North Munster league game at home to UL Huskies, while both the Senior teams will be in top 4 action.

30th March 2015

Our U12 girls rounded off a memorable week by clinching the Cork U12 league title. Following their win in the North Munster Cup last week, the girls travelled to Macroom knowing that a win against Lee Valley would be enough for the title.

The first half was a cagey affair with both defences on top. It was evident though, that Lee Valley were finding it very difficult to score against our girls who were immense in defence, restricting the home team to only 2 baskets. Lee Valley to their credit were also working hard in defence and kept the score line to 13-4 in favour of Colms at half time.

The third quarter was all Colms though as they eventually found a way through the home team's defensive set up. The girls started converting their scores and led by Grainne McKeogh, Lucy Liston and Sarah Moloney outscored their opponents 17-2. With the league title in sight, there was no danger of the girls faltering in the final quarter. Despite Lee Valley scoring the first 5 points of the quarter, our girls finished the stronger. They scored the final 3 baskets to win out on a final scoreline of 36-11.

This has been a real squad effort with the U12 girls. Nearly 20 players saw court time over the season, and all acquitted themselves well. It is this depth in the squad that has kept this team so competitive over a long season. Huge credit goes to the coaches Dorothy and Emily Kavanagh who have overseen a massive improvement in this season.

The players that sealed the win on Saturday were Bronagh, Jana, Abbie, Sarah, Buki, Nancy, Lucy, Grainne, Aoife and Hannah.

The players would also like to thank their parents who travelled in large numbers to support the team.

The club have a number of players representing North Munster in the Southern Regional Tournament on Easter Monday and wish them all the best.

Finally a huge thanks to all parents and players who supported our recent bag packing day in Dunnes Stores.