

3<sup>rd</sup> October 2016

The new basketball season started for the club with our underage squads in action away to UL Huskies.

Our U14 and U16 girls were very impressive in their North Munster league games as they set out on the road to AICC qualification for next April.

Our U14 girls showed signs of ring rustiness in the early moments of their game with UL scoring the first two baskets to open up an early 4-0 lead. However our girls soon settled and went in at the end of the first quarter 8-6 ahead. Our second quarter unit extended this lead out to 23-12 at the interval. Our girls with their strong five on court in the third quarter outscored their opponents by 14 to 1. The final quarter was about getting players on the court with the result no longer in doubt. Big shout out to U13 players Jade McNamara and Zoe Dillon who were late call ups to the team. Full time score St Colms 48 UL Huskies 21.

Top scorers Bronagh Dollard 14, Sophie Moore 14 and Abbie Pigott 13.

Our U16 girls were on fire in their game with the result all but settled by the end of the first quarter, as our girls outscored UL by 25-11. All 11 players got plenty of court time as the girls won all 4 quarters on a final scoreline of 62-34. The result was all the more impressive as the girls went into the game without first choice point guard Orla Zundel who missed the game through injury.

Hazel Dineen had her best game for some time scoring 12 points. Amy Higgins dominated our defensive boards doing a lot of unseen work and contributing 8 points in another impressive outing. However the star of the show was surely Aoife Morrissey who scored an incredible 34 points despite sitting out large parts of the game.

It is always an anxious and exciting time when our U10 girls take to the court for their first basketball game. This year's team were a revelation on court with the team scoring heavily in each of the 4 quarters. These girls will be in action again in two weeks time and we are already looking forward to see them play. The 10 girls on duty last Saturday were Grace, Claire, Alice, Jade, Isabelle, Grainne, Sarah, Daria, Kaylah and Molly.

The club have big numbers at U12s and U13s this season and will be developing these players over the next couple of seasons before they get into the competitive environment of the older age groups. A number of the least experienced players took to the court for their first taste of basketball. The U12s were all at sea in the first quarter and allowed UL to dominate. The girls were much improved for the rest of the game with bright performances by Elisha Noonan, Melissa Do and Julina Ryan. Our U13s found life very tough against UL and know that they have a lot of work to do in training over the next few weeks if they are to improve. The girls are a well motivated bunch of girls and know that they will improve as they get to play more games. Best for the girls on Saturday were Lily O' Halloran, Sarah Cantillon and Amy Minihan.

Our U14 and U16 girls are in action in two weeks time in the Cork league against Ballincollig and Middleton respectively.

17<sup>th</sup> October 2016

Both our U14 and U16 girls got their Cork League campaign for the new season off to a winning start against Ballincollig.

Our U14 girls proved much too strong for Ballincollig in their game. The result was all but sealed after a dominant first quarter performance where our girls opened up a 15-2 lead. Ballincollig had the better of the second quarter winning it 6-3. However our girls moved up the gears in the second half scoring 16 points in both quarters to ease to a 50-21 win.

Top scorers were Bronagh Dollard 20, Sophie Moore 16 and Jana Zundel 7.

The U16 game was a much more competitive affair although our girls always held the edge. They won the first quarter 11-5 and followed up in the second quarter outscoring Ballincollig 11-6 to lead at the interval 22-11. Ballincollig got on top in the third quarter but could only outscore our girls by 7-6. With our strong five back on court for the fourth quarter our girls went on a 10-1 run. However a serious drop in concentration in the last few minutes would be a concern as Ballincollig went on a 9-0 run themselves before a "3" pointer by Aoife Morrissey in the final seconds sealed a 43-31 win. Isabelle Meaney had her best game for St Colms, getting a number of steals which led directly to scores.

The girls were boosted by the news that Orla Zundel returned to light training and should be back playing by the end of the month.

Top scorers for St Colms were Aoife Morrissey 21, Amy Higgins 6 and Jody O' Halloran 6.

Our Senior Saints played their first North Munster league game of the new season but went down to Newport on a scoreline of 23-35. The team is much changed from last season with Emily Kavanagh and Ruth Butler moving from last year's Scholars team and Michelle Walsh and Liona Carroll making their debuts for the club. There was certainly a period of adjustment early in the game which Newport exploited opening up an early 8-0 lead. The Saints grew slowly into the game but were not clinical enough when it came to putting points on the board. However there were plenty of positive signs in the game which bodes well for the rest of the season.

Top scorers for St Colms were Michelle Morrissey 6, Ruth Butler 6 and Nuala O' Flaherty 5.

Next time our U14 and U16 girls travel to Midleton for Cork league games. Our Senior Scholars host UL Huskies while our U10 and U12 girls play Glen Cruisers in the North Munster League.

25<sup>th</sup> October 2016

The club had a number of teams in action during the week from u10s up to senior ladies.

Our U16 girls continued their impressive start to the season recording their second win in the Cork League away to Midleton. The girls were the better team early in the game and established a first quarter lead of 10-5. In a low scoring game, Midleton slowly made inroads into the deficit and by the end of the first third quarter had drawn level on a scoreline of 23 each. Just when it seemed that the momentum had shifted to the home team, up stepped Isabelle Meaney to deliver a five star performance. She scored 7 point on the bounce in the final quarter which proved to be the platform for the girl's narrow win on a scoreline of 32-29.

Top scorers for Colms were Aoife Morrissey 10, Isabelle Meaney 7 and Bronagh Dollard 6.

Our senior Saints got their North Munster League campaign up and running with a comfortable win over UL Huskies. The Saints scored the first nine points of the game, but Huskies came back strong towards the end of the first quarter and beginning of the second quarter to only trail 9-13. It was taking a little bit of time for the Saints to gel with 5 of the squad moving from last year's Scholars team. However the Saints continued to play at a high tempo throughout, which began to yield turnovers and quick scores. They soon pushed out the score to 36-15 by the end of the third quarter, before wrapping up the win on 57-23 scoreline.

Top scorers were Aoife O' Connell 20, Deirdre Barton 14 and Joanne DeLoughrey 8.

Our U10 and U12 girls hosted Glen Cruisers in two close games.

Our U10 girls took some time to get going but eventually started to convert their scoring opportunities led by Sophie Hartridge, Grainne Ni Cholbaird, Grace Liston and Claire Liston.

There were also some pleasing performances by the younger members of the squad namely Molly, Sintija, Daria, Isabelle, Sara, Alice and Jade.

Our U12 girls that took to the court were quite inexperienced with a number of the girls making their competitive debuts. The girls started brightly and were 14-3 up at the interval. There was a serious drop in concentration by the girls in the second half as they allowed Glen Cruisers some easy scores. The girls did enough in the first half to win out 20-12.

Kate Barry top scored for the girls on 8 points with the rest of the scores shared by Nofeesat Muniru, Lily O' Halloran, Julina Ryan, Natasha O' Neill and Melissa Do.

Chloe McDonagh had a good debut performance and was unlucky not to score.