

10th May 2018

The 2017/2018 basketball season has drawn to a close, which gave the opportunity for the club to host its annual awards day at Sarsfield Barracks.

The proceedings commenced with a fun junior quiz for all the underage players. A big thanks to Annette Duhig for setting the questions, organising the day and ensuring everything ran smoothly on the day. A big thanks to Richard Smith who acted as quiz master and provided the music on the day. The quiz proved to be quite competitive with only one point separating the top 4 teams, proving that these girls have brains as well as sporting ability.

The club have had an exceptional season on the playing front with some sparkling displays from our youngest players right up to some very talented older players. A lot of groundwork is carried out with our younger players to develop their basics and skill sets. The fruits of this work will be seen over the coming seasons.

These young players will see that hard work at practice at an early age will pay dividends as they get older. Our U15 girls have shown this season, that it is an accumulation of hard work and practice that will eventually show reward. They had a marvellous season finishing runners up in the Cork League, Cork Championship and Cork Top 4s with only an exceptional Brunell team, the one team to beat them all season. Our u16 girls capped a very good season for the team by capturing the North Munster Championship. Our U14 girls finished the season very strongly and were rewarded by capturing the North Munster Shield Competition. Our U12 girls belied all expectations with an exceptional season. They finished runners up in both the North Munster league and North Munster Championship and with a number of the squad still underage again next year, the future is bright for these young girls. Our U18 girls finished top 4 in Cork and put up some sterling performances during the season. We should see this team in a brighter light next season, with all bar one player underage again.

The club had two teams in the North Munster senior ladies leagues. Our Division one team finished runners up in the league and championship, while our Division two team won their league.

It was only fitting that the club recognised a number of players for their contributions over the season. The deserving winners were as follows:

U11 Girls	Ava Shire, Anna Zundel
U12 Girls	Aisling Downey, Ciara Downey
U13 Girls	Alana Moran, Ruby Mulholland
U14 Girls	Megan Cunningham
U15 Girls	Abbie Pigott, Jana Zundel
U16 Girls	Bronagh Dollard, Sophie Moore, Izzy Murphy
U18 Girls	Orla Zundel, Elaine Murray
Seniors	Lynsey Purcell, Aoife O' Connell, Eimear O' Malley, Nuala O' Flaherty

Aoife Morrissey capped a superb season by been selected on the Irish U17 Development team. Bronagh Dollard, Sophie Moore and Jana Zundel are part of the Munster Academy and it should not be long before these players are following Aoife onto the international set up.

Finally, it was a great honour again to receive the Howard and Coates families to our awards day. The club have commissioned an annual trophy to honour and remember Susan, a truly remarkable player, woman, mother, wife, daughter and sister, who was taken from us way too young. This is the

second year of this annual award. The deserving winner this year was Karen Butler, who played alongside her friend Susan, for many years, from underage to National league level and who has coached for many a long year in the club.

It is important to recognise that a lot of a work behind the scenes takes place in running a club. A club will only survive and prosper if there are dedicated people working within. A big thanks as always to the parents who provide encouragement and an essential taxi service for their daughters.

A big thanks to our committee who keep the show on the road.

A big thanks to all the coaches who give their time, passion and commitment to the club.

A big thanks to St Clements, Laurel Hill, St Munchins and CBS for the use of their facilities over the season.

And a huge thanks to all the players within the club who are true ambassadors through their actions on and off the court.

Finally, the club would like to sincerely thank two of our most long serving and loyal members who have decided to step aside after many years of service to the club. A huge thank you to both Karen and Colm for your passion, energy and commitment over the years.

Some of the teams will be training away over the next few weeks as they get ready for their trip to Poland in July.

Also, best wishes to all our members who will be sitting exams next month.

The timetable for next season's training times will be posted shortly.

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER