

4th February 2013

It was a quiet week for the club on the playing front with only our U15 and U10 teams in action.

Our U15 girls hosted Ballincollig in the Cork league in a dress rehearsal for their quarter final tie in the championship next month. The girls went into the game minus the ill Laura O' Shea but did enough to ensure the win.

The girls started the brighter of the two teams and opened up a 15-10 first quarter lead on the back of some good inside play and fast breaks. This lead went out to 23-17 at the break. There was a big drop off in concentration and work rate by the home side in the third quarter which allowed Ballincollig right back into this game to tie it up on a scoreline of 29-29 each, entering the final quarter. The reintroduction of Roisin Gleeson into the game in the final quarter after sitting out most of the third quarter on foul trouble, was the turning point. She made three interceptions and converted each to establish a quick six point advantage, which Colms never relinquished winning out 43-34 after a close and competitive game.

Top scorers for Colms were Roisin Gleeson 20, Jane Clohessy 9 with Naomi Keogh and Ruth Dollard on 4 apiece.

Our U10 girls took part in a 4 team blitz last Sunday comprising teams from Morning Star, St Colms, Springfield and UL huskies. The girls again showed significant improvement from the previous blitz with a great spread of scoring throughout the team. There were standout performances by Bronagh Dollard, Naoise Fitzpatrick, Hannah Barry, Lucy Liston, Abbie Piggott, Abby O' Halloran, Sarah O' Brien, Jana Zundel, Isabelle Meaney, Sinead Moynihan and Aoife O' Neill.

A big thanks goes to Morning Star Basketball Club for a most enjoyable morning.

Both our U15 and U18 girls are in Cork league action again next weekend, with away games against Carraig na BhFear.

Our U12, U14 and U16 teams are in North Munster League action against Springfield.

11th February 2013

Both our U15 and U18 teams travelled to Cork for league games against Carraig na BhFear. This was our U18 girls first game of 2013 and ironically went into it minus a number of players absent because of school trips and work experience programmes. The girls certainly showed signs of ring rustiness in the first quarter and found themselves a point down. The girls settled into the game more in the second quarter and began to dominate proceedings. Their inside play was causing the home team all sorts of trouble and soon a sizable gap had been opened with Colms leading 34-23 at the interval. Some of the U16 players who travelled with the team namely Fiona O'Connell and Karen Lee got some valuable court experience in the second half, as Colms always held the upperhand to win out 68-47.

Top scorers for Colms were Caoimhe Gleeson 25 and Ciara O' Halloran on a break from International training scoring 24.

Our U15 girls faced a tough task against Carraig Na BhFear who are occupying second spot in the league. Nevertheless the girls put up a great performance. 4 points separated the sides at the interval. However some concerted pressure by the home side yielded some turnovers and scores which in the end proved the difference between the two sides. Carraig Na BhFear eventually winning out 49-33.

The girls have made giant strides in the past few months and if they can instil a little bit more confidence in themselves will continue to improve.

Top scorers for Colms were Jane Clohessy 12 and Roisin Gleeson 10.

Our U12, U14 and U16 girls hosted Springfield in the North Munster League.

Our U14 girls were first up. The girls put in a disjointed performance with nerves unusually playing a big part. The girls allowed Springfield an early lead which they never were able to claw back. To their credit the girls tried their best but panic decisions eventually proved their undoing as they fell to a 21-29 defeat.

Top scorers for Colms were Ruth Dollard 10 and Caoimhe Lee 4.

5 of the U12 girls who played in the U14 game played a big part in their U12 win against Springfield. The girls suffered a serious setback on the eve of the game with the news that Emma McDonnell would miss the next six weeks with a fractured wrist. She now joins Aoife Morrissey on the injury list. Emma's injury seemed to spur the girls on. They put in a terrific performance with Shiofra Gleeson and April Hartnett really stepping up in defence. There was also a superb performance by U10 player Bronagh Dollard who has a bright future in the game. However it was the scoring of Orla Zundel, Lauren Walsh and Megan Haugh who shared 27 points between them that proved the difference in their 39-19 win.

The U16 girls proved much too good for their Springfield counterparts. The final scoreline of 30-16 really did not reflect the dominance the girls exerted in this game. Their old failings came home to roost as they again spurned numerous scoring opportunities. This is a worrying development and hopefully will be rectified in the upcoming games.

Top scorers for Colms were Jessica O' Brien and Eimear Dollard on 8 points each.

Our U10 girls entertained Springfield U12B in a challenge game. Our girls were all at sea in the first quarter as they trailed 0-14. They improved significantly for the

remainder of the game. However the opening quarter deficit proved too much and they eventually went down on a 31-12 scoreline. These games are great experience for these young girls who are enjoying themselves.

Best for Colms were Sarah O' Brien, Niamh Kiely and Issabelle Meaney.

Next up for the U15 girls is an away game against St Anthony's, in the Cork League.

Both our senior ladies are in action in the North Munster league against Celtics and Shannon respectively.

Finally our U12, U14, U16 and U18 teams host UL Huskies in the North Munster League.

18 February 2013

It was a busy weekend for the club with 7 teams in action.

Both our senior teams were first in action and unfortunately both suffered reverses.

Our Scholars travelled to Shannon minus three of our inside players and found life tough against the much taller home team.

The Scholars put up an excellent first half performance and were level at the break 18 apiece. However the physicality of the home side proved too much for the Scholars and they faded out of the game in the second half losing out in the end 28-53.

Top scorers for Scholars were Caoimhe Gleeson 13 and Aoife O'Connell 7.

Our Saints also faced a tough game against unbeaten Celtics at home. This game despite the score was competitive with little separating the sides. The score at half time was 33-26 in favour of the away side. The Saints could never really bridge this deficit. They got plenty of looks at the basket but were guilty of some poor misses. Celtics on the other hand took their chances which proved to be the difference in the end. Final score Saints 43 Celtics 64.

Top scorers for Saints were Joanne DeLoughrey 12, Deirdre Barton 11 and Noreen Campbell 9.

Our U15 girls had a good away win in the Cork League against St Anthonys. It took a little time for our girls to settle into the game. As a result they trailed 4-6 at the end of a low key first quarter. However our girls really upped their game thereafter. Slowly they got on top of their opponents to lead 17-8 going into the final quarter of a very low scoring game. The girls opened up in the final quarter tagging on 14 points to win out 31-10.

Top scorers for Colms were Jane Clohessy and Ruth Dollard.

Our U10, U14 U16 and U18 sides hosted UL Huskies in the North Munster League.

Our young U14 squad just fell short in the opening game losing out 30-34. The damage was done in the second quarter when they were outscored 4-12. The girls were the architects of their own downfall as they turned over too many balls in this quarter. The pleasing aspect, is that they never gave up, finishing the game strongly.

Best for Colms were Muireann Scanlon and Ruth Butler.

Our U10 girls found it very tough against the older and stronger U12 UL Huskies team. They were at a huge disadvantage under the boards, and as a result lost a little confidence as the game progressed. Nevertheless they stayed competitive despite been on the receiving end of a big loss.

They girls will be back in action in their own age group next week as we host the next U10 blitz.

For a long time in the U18 game, it looked like UL would provide a massive shock. UL played very tough defence which our girls found difficult to break down. At one stage in the second quarter UL held a well deserved 18-8 lead. However the introduction of Ciara O' Halloran off the bench had a big impact. Ciara provided an inside presence which was sorely missing up to then. The deficit at the interval was reduced to 19-23. The girls who had been quite pedestrian in the first half finally upped their game and outscored their opponents 33-9 in the second half to win out 52-

32 in the end. The girls have some tough games coming up in the next few weeks and will need to show significant improvement.

Top scorers for Colms were Caoimhe Gleeson 18, Ciara O' Halloran and Lynsey Purcell on 11 each.

Our U16 girls put in a much improved performance in their win over UL Huskies despite going into the game minus Chloe Dineen and Jane Clohessy. The girls took this game by the scruff of the neck early, racing into a first quarter 30-4 lead. The girls were never troubled in the game and proved way too strong winning out 82-12 in a very one sided game.

Top scorers for Colms were Roisin Gleeson 25, Jessica O' Brien 18 and Eimear Dollard 15.

Both our senior ladies teams are in North Munster League action with our Scholars at home to Thurles and our Saints away to Nenagh.

Our U10, U14 and U16 teams are in North Munster league action away to Newport, while our club host an U10 Blitz next weekend.

25th February 2013

Three of our teams travelled to Newport last weekend and came away with three wins.

First up were our U12 girls who played Newport in a challenge game. A number of the younger U10 players played up with some of the older Scholars and acquitted themselves well in the game. The girls opened up an early first quarter lead by 9-0 and were always in control thereafter winning out 21-8 with Orla Zundel and Lauren Walsh top scoring on 8 and 6 points respectively.

Our U14 girls stepped up big time on their previous week's performance and proved much too strong winning their game 40-15. The older U14 girls set up the foundation for this win by opening up a 11-2 first quarter lead. The U12 girls who played up were unrecognisable from the previous week as they totally outplayed their opponents especially in the final quarter. Top scorers for Colms were Laura O' Shea 14 and Caoimhe Lee 8.

Our U16 girls were quite lethargic early in their game as they scored only 14 points in a low scoring first half. They were a little hesitant on a slippery floor surface, which slowed down their fast breaking game. They improved somewhat in the second half to win out snugly in the end on a scoreline of 36-12. Fiona O' Connell and Jessica O' Brien shared 22 points between them in the win.

Our Senior Scholars were again missing their three inside players for the second week in a row as they faced up to Thurles in the North Munster League. Similar to last week the Scholars more than held their own in the first half as the sides were all square at the interval 23-23. However Thurles eventually got to grips with our defence in the third quarter and did serious damage outscoring our girls 23-10 before maintaining this lead to the end to win out 56-41.

Top scorers were U18 players Lynsey Purcell 13 and Aoife O' Connell 12.

Our Senior Saints blew a fantastic opportunity in their game against Nenagh. The Saints started brightly but only led 21-20 at the interval. Self doubt crept into their game in the second half. The Saints' defence was not the problem as they held Nenagh to only 15 points in the second half. It was at the other end of the court where they fell down. Silly turnovers became more frequent as the half wore on limiting their scoring opportunities. In the end the Saints could only score 6 points in a disappointing second half performance to allow Nenagh win out 35-27.

Top scorers for Saints were Anna Keyes on 7 and Siobhain Keane 5.

Next week our Senior Saints host Thurles while our Senior Scholars are away to Celtics in the North Munster League. Our U15 girls host Ballincollig in the quarter finals of the Cork Championship and hope to join their U18 counterparts who are already through to the semi finals.

Finally all our age groups are in action in the North Munster League as we host Celtics.