5th December 2016

It was another good week, results wise, with both our U16 girls and Senior Scholars recording narrow wins.

Our U16 girls avenged an early season league defeat to Cobh by coming out on top in their Cork Cup encounter. The girls started brightly with their defence, led by Siofra Gleeson and Amy Higgins blunting the Cobh offence. The girls opened up a 8-2 lead and looked comfortable. However a quick number of substitutions seemed to disrupt our girls' focus. They went through a very sticky patch allowing Cobh a run of 20-2 to turn this game on its head. Two late baskets in the first half by our girls gave them a boost but they still trailed 14-22 at the interval. The girls went into the second half much more focused and took the game to Cobh. They shut down the Cobh offence allowing them only 4 points, while the introduction of U14 player Bronagh Dollard began to pay dividends offensively. The girls went into the final quarter a point ahead 27-26. They stretched this lead out to 5 early in the final quarter and were comfortable victors in the end 36-31.

Three players top scored on 8 points each, namely Jody O' Halloran, Orla Zundel and Bronagh Dollard.

Our senior scholars got back to winning ways with a hard fought win over league leaders Tipperary Tornadoes in the North Munster League. The first half was a cagey affair with both teams cancelling each other out in a low scoring affair. Tornadoes held a slight 13-12 interval lead. The game opened up in the second half, which suited the Scholars. They were able to up the pace of the game which forced their taller opponents into rushed offences. The scholars transition play began to pay dividends and they ran out deserving 35-32 winners.

Top scorers for Scholars were Emily Kavanagh 10 and Ruth Butler 5.

Next week our U14 girls are in Cork Cup action against Bantry while a number of our underage teams are in North Munster action away to Celtics.

12th December 2016

Our U14 girls continued their winning run by qualifying for the quarter finals of the Cork Championship with a comfortable win over Bantry. Both teams had met in a league encounter a few weeks earlier with our girls running out easy winners. Bantry to their credit put in a much improved effort in the cup encounter but found our girls much too strong. They raced into a commanding 24-2 first quarter lead and were never in trouble thereafter recording a facile 59-10 win.

Top scorers on the night were Sophie Moore 15, Bronagh Dollard and Abbie Piggott on 12 apiece, with other good performances by Buki Adejomehin and Julia Cunneen.

The girls were back in action on Sunday morning in a North Munster league encounter with Celtics to decide who would go into the Christmas break as league leaders. The first quarter was an even affair with our girls holding a slender 8-7 lead. The strength in depth of our girls squad was evident in the second quarter as our second unit outscored Celtics 15-4 to go in at the interval 23-11 ahead. The girls continued to be on top in the third quarter to stretch out to 39-19 heading into the final quarter. Celtics had a brief period of dominance at the start of the final quarter as they scored the first 8 points. However our girls settled themselves down and finished the stronger, winning out 47-29.

Abbie Piggott had a superb game for the girls, especially in the second quarter when our girls gained the upper hand. She scored 10 points and had great support from Bronagh Dollard 16, Sophie Moore 9 and Jana Zundel 6.

The girls along with their U16 counterparts have one more game to play before the Christmas break when they host Mallow in the Cork League.

Our senior Scholars unfortunately crashed out of the North Munster Cup at the first hurdle as they went down by 7 points to Glen Cruisers Newport. The game was evenly balanced before a couple of unforced turnovers proved crucial. Newport opened up a 10-12 point lead and despite a late rally by Scholars held out for a deserved win.
Best for St Colms were Orla Blake, Ruth Butler and Michelle Walsh.
The Scholars have had an up and down first half to the season, with a number of new players been integrated into the team. They should be more settled in the second half of the season.

19th December 2016

Our U14 and U16 girls rounded off a great first half to the season with both recording wins over Mallow in their Cork League games. The wins place both teams close to the summit of the Cork league tables.

Our U16 girls took a while to get going in their game. They were held scoreless for the first 4 minutes as they tried to deal with the Mallow defensive set up. The girls soon dismantled the Mallow high court defence and opened up a first quarter lead of 11-6. Our girls were totally in control in the second quarter as their pressure defence soon had Mallow on the back foot. Our girls scored at will in this quarter highlighted by a down town "3" pointer by Caoimhe Hogan. The game was in safe keeping by the interval with our girls leading 34-10. The second half was a quiet affair with our girls never seriously in trouble, winning out in the end on a scoreline of 54-19.

Aoife Morrissey had a superb game for the girls scoring a massive 37 points with strong support from Orla Zundel and Jody O' Halloran.

Our U14 girls suffered a blow with their top scorer Bronagh Dollard ruled out of the game with a serious hand injury. The girls shrugged off this setback and showed the depth in their squad, by running up a first quarter lead of 12-2. The girls continued to be on top in the second quarter and went in at the interval 26-8 ahead. Mallow came back strong in the second half and actually outscored our girls 21-14. However our girls had enough of a buffer at the interval to withstand the Mallow comeback and in truth always had the game in safekeeping recording a 40-29 win.

Top scorers for Colms were Sophie Moore 16, Julia Cunneen 10 and Abbie Piggot 8.

All our teams are on a small break from competition over the Christmas period. The U14 and U16 girls will be in action again in early January in the reverse fixture away to Mallow.