

14<sup>th</sup> January 2014

St Colms Basketball Club were back in action after a short break over the Christmas period. The club were due to have a full schedule of North Munster league games against Morning Star in Hospital last Sunday.

However, it was soon apparent during the first game of the day, that the playing surface was unsafe due to rain water coming in through a leak in the roof.

The referees made the correct decision to cancel the remainder of the games.

It was therefore left to our U15 girls to open the 2014 campaign with a Cork league game against Ballincollig.

The girls opened brightly in the game to lead 4-0 early in the game. However some wayward outside shooting by the girls allowed Ballincollig back into the game and they led 10-6 at the end of the first quarter.

Ballincollig dominated the second quarter helped in no end by our girls' indecisions in offence and poor defence.

The girls were much improved in the second half, but having allowed Ballincollig open up a sizable interval lead, were never in a position to bridge the gap, eventually losing out on a scoreline of 24-42.

Top scorers for Colms were Laura O' Shea 8, Ruth Butler 6 and Caoimhe Lee 4.

The girls have a week to dust themselves down before meeting Skibereen in the first round of the Cork Championship. Our U18 girls are in Cork League action away to Kanturk while our Senior Ladies are in quarter final action against UL Huskies in the North Munster Cup. Finally our U11s, U12s and U14s are in North Munster league action away to Rockets.

20<sup>th</sup> January 2014

The club had a number of teams in action over the week with a mixed bag of results and performances.

Our Senior Ladies got the week off to a great start with a resounding win over UL Huskies in the quarter final of the North Munster Cup.

The game was evenly balanced after the first quarter with Colms holding a slender 10-6 lead. However the greater depth on the Colms bench soon came to the fore. The ladies took complete control in the middle half of this game with 9 players on the scoresheet as they opened up a 42-17 lead entering the final quarter. This allowed them ease to a deserving 54-23 win.

Top scorers for Colms were Deirdre Barton on 14 followed by Emma Cleary and Aoife O' Connell on 8 points each.

Our U15 girls travelled to Cork for a cup tie against Skibbereen minus 6 of their squad and paid the price losing out on a scoreline of 21-49. The girls did not do themselves justice in a poor first half performance. However they upped their game in the second half and one can only wonder what the outcome would have been, if the girls had put in the same effort in the first half. Saoirse Meaney in only her second game, played well and was well supported by Ruth Butler and Ruth Dollard.

Most of the girls which were unavailable for the Skibbereen game were back in action against Rockets the following day, in the North Munster League. The girls put in a very solid defensive performance led by Muireann Scanlon and Siofra Gleeson. This allowed the girls to play their fast break game to telling effect, which paved the way for a comfortable win.

Orla Zundel top scored on 16 points followed by Ruth Dollard and Lauren Walsh on 10 points each.

Our U12s put in a disappointing first and final quarter display in their defeat to Rockets in the North Munster League. This defeat should be a wake up call for this young team, who must realise that they will need to improve significantly in the future. They cannot go in to games from now on, and only perform for half a game.

Rockets were by far the more hungrier and determined team throughout, and were deserving winners on a scoreline of 39-20. Best for Colms on the day were Lucy Liston and Ciara Griffin.

Our U11s played Rockets in a non competitive but high scoring game. Those to shine for Colms were Bronagh Dollard, Abbie Pigott, Roisin O' Reilly and Lucia McGill.

Next week, there will be a report on our U18 girls game against Kanturk in the Cork League and our senior ladies North Munster league game against Shannon.

27<sup>th</sup> January 2014

The club only had two teams in action during the week, with our U18 girls and senior ladies taking to the court. Although both teams lost two tight games, there were a lot of positives to take from both performances.

Our senior ladies hosted the unbeaten Thurles Knights in their North Munster league encounter. The ladies had a full squad for the game with all 12 players getting court time. The game was a close and hard fought affair. Both teams had their periods of dominance with St Colms slightly on top in the first half before Knights seized the initiative in the second half.

In the end it was a couple of crucial errors late in the game by Colms that decided the outcome of this game with Knights edging it on a scoreline of 44-40.

The pleasing aspect from the game was the fact that 10 players were on the scoresheet, with Eimear O' Malley top scoring on 8 points followed by Joanne De Loughrey and Emily Kavanagh on 7 and 6 points respectively.

The return of Emma Cleary and Niamh Barton to the club has also been a welcome boost to the squad.

Our U18 girls travelled to Kanturk for a Cork league game with a full squad with the exception of Ciara O' Halloran. They were hoping to reverse a narrow loss after overtime, to the same opponents, earlier in the season.

Unfortunately the girls again just came up short. A dip in concentration in the second quarter proved their undoing, as Kanturk went on a 12-0 run. The girls to their credit regrouped, and for the rest of the game were the better team. They produced a strong performance with all 11 girls playing their part, but just fell short on a scoreline of 40-49.

Eimear Dollard and Caoimhe Gleeson shared top scoring honours on 10 points apiece.

Nest week our senior ladies host Shannon while our U16 girls are away to Newport in the North Munster League.