

2nd February 2015

Our U12 girls certainly take top billing this week after recording two important wins over the weekend. The girls travelled to Cobh to play in a top of the table clash in the Cork league. These teams had served up a cracking game in Limerick and another close game was anticipated. Once again our girls settled the better of the two teams and opened up a narrow lead. The girls were doing great defensive work on Cobh's two tall inside players and stifling their attack to great effect. Meanwhile our girls were keeping the scoreboard ticking over and went into the final quarter 9 points clear. Cobh staged a mini revival in the fourth quarter encouraged by a large home support and narrowed the gap to 3 points. However our girls showed great composure under pressure and regained the advantage tagging on some late scores to win out 32-24.

Meanwhile our U15 girls went into their two Cork league home games against Team Kerry and Mallow decimated by injuries and illness to 4 of their front line players. Despite some sterling work by Siofra Gleeson, Isabelle Meaney and Ruth Dollard, they could not avoid two heavy defeats. It is hoped that the team will be near back to full strength when they host Middleton next week.

Our U12 girls were also in North Munster cup action way to the holders Limerick Celtics at the quarter final stage. The two teams were tied at the end of the first quarter before our girls edged slightly ahead in the second quarter. Thereafter they slowly increased their lead. However Celtics were never going to relinquish their title easy and kept onto our girl's coat tails throughout. It was only in the final couple of minutes when our girls scored two late baskets that they could be assured of the victory. The final score was 28-20 to St Colms.

There were some outstanding performances by the U12 girls over the weekend led by Abbie Pigott and supported by Bronagh Dollard, Lucia McGill, Julia Cunneen, Lucy Liston and Krista Berzina. However this was a true squad performance with all the girls stepping up to the plate.

Our Senior Scholars also enjoyed a good week with two victories in the North Munster League. They started with a comfortable win over LIT by 48-19 with top scorers in Aoife O' Connell 19, Emily Kavanagh, Joani Hargrow and Naomi Keogh on 8 points each.

The Scholars after resting a number of players against LIT the previous night were back to full strength for their game against Nenagh. This was a close affair for most of the game with our girls always ahead by 6 to 8 points. It was only in the final quarter when the strength of our bench showed, that the Scholars pulled away to win out 47-35.

Top Scorers for Colms were Aoife O' Connell 18, Lynsey Purcell 12 and Laura Sheahan 6.

Our Senior Saints were also involved in a close game against Thurles Knights. The girls were well on top in the first half and enjoyed a 30-26 interval lead. However a poor third quarter proved to be their undoing. They only scored two points in this quarter and despite a late rally could never overhaul their opponents and lost out on a 42-49 score line.

Top scorers for Saints were Joanne DeLoughrey 11, Emma Cleary 9, Laurie Brosnan and Noreen Campbell 6 each.

The club hosted an U10 blitz last Saturday with invited teams from Cratloe, UL Huskies and Springfield. The 5 teams that took part were evenly matched which resulted in some entertaining games throughout the morning.

Players to watch out for in the future were Elisha Noonan, Kate Barry, Cara Ni Dhonabhain and Julina Ryan.

16th February 2015

Our U15 girls were the only underage team in action during the week with back to back home and away Cork league games against Middleton, Despite defeats in both games, the girls are at last, beginning to show signs that they can compete at this high level. The girls' defence is now much improved with opposing teams finding it a little more difficult to score. The girls' passing has also improved which is allowing them to break through opposing teams' full court press system. Their shot selection is better as evidenced by good scoring by Emma McDonnell and Caoimhe Hogan in the two games. There were also strong performances by Elaine Murray, Orla Zundel and Aoife Morrissey in both games.

The club held a very successful junior wheelchair basketball blitz in Delta Dome recently with players from 7 different teams competing. Our own junior team came agonisingly close to their first wins of the season losing by a single basket to both Athlone and a Killester Selection. The team travel to Carlow and Clonaslee next month where hopefully they will achieve that elusive first win.

Those to play well for Colms on the day were Kate Delaney, Mark Leyden and Aoife Horgan.

A combination from our two senior ladies teams travelled to Kerry last weekend for the annual KCYMS invitational tournament. The ladies bowed out at the semi-final stage with strong performances by Siobhan Keane, Aoife O' Connell and Deirdre Barton.

Next week our U15s are away to Fr Mathews in the Cork League. Our U12s are also away in the Cork League against Skibereen.

We also have a number of our teams in North Munster league action against Rockets.

23rd February 2015

The club had a number of their younger teams in action in both the Cork League and the North Munster League.

Our U12 girls are getting better with each passing game and recorded three wins out of three over the weekend.

They travelled to Cork for a vital league game against second placed Skibereen minus a number of key players. However coaches Emily and Dorothy Kavanagh have built a strong squad of players over the past few months. This was evident as they proved much too strong for their Cork opponents easing to a 44-17 win. The win keeps them on track for a first ever Cork league title for the club.

The following day, the girls were away to Rockets in the North Munster league. The girls were way too strong for a game but inexperienced Rockets B team with Lucy Liston hitting a game high 15 points.

The girls then faced up to Rockets A in a dress rehearsal for the cup semi-final in a few weeks' time. The girls set the early pace to this game racing into a first quarter 8-0 lead. Rockets played tough defence throughout the game and really put it up to our girls. However this U12 side now have a number of scoring threats with 8 different players on the scoresheet for a 36-13 win.

Best for Colms were Sarah Moloney, Krista Berzina, Abbie Piggott on a game high 9 points and Sarah O' Brien.

Our U15 girls travelled top Cork to play a strong Fr Mathews team in the Cork League. Despite another defeat, this young squad put in a gutsy performance based on a willingness to work hard in defence.

All these girls bar one were back in action the following day in the North Munster league away to Rockets. The girls put in a strong first quarter performance to open up a 15-0 lead and were able to ease to a comfortable 36-18 win. There was a debut for U12 player Krista Berzina for the U14s. Another U12 player Bronagh Dollard was the game's top scorer on 14 points with strong performances also by Hazel Dineen and Caoimhe Hogan.

Our Cratloe based girls almost got their elusive first win of the season. The girls went in at the interval against Rockets tied at 9 points apiece in a close and competitive game. However a poor third quarter performance, not helped by the loss of Amy Higgins through illness, proved their undoing, eventually losing out 12-20.

These girls have come a long way in a short space of time. They will all be under age again next season, when we should see them fulfil their potential.

Best for the girls on the day were Ana Radojicic and Cliona Murphy.

Finally there were some superstars in action when St Colms and Rockets squared up to each other in a heavyweight Under 8 game. The skills and scoring from both teams shows that the game of basketball is in safe hands going forward.

Next weekend our U12 girls host Carrigaline in the Cork League while our U15 girls are home to Brunell. All our under age teams are then in action against Limerick Celtics in the North Munster League.