

1st November 2015

The club held a dinner dance last weekend in the Savoy Hotel to mark the club's 50th anniversary. It was great to meet up with past players and reminisce about the good old days. A big thanks to the Savoy Hotel for a magnificent evening and all our sponsors for their generous prizes.

However special mention must go to the committee who organised the event and made it a night to remember for a very long time. Take a bow, Lynsey, Laura, Aoife and especially Joanne, you were fantastic. Looking forward to the next 50 years.

On the playing front, it was our U12s who got their North Munster league season off to a winning start against Glen Cruisers from Newport. There were a number of players making their debuts for the club, namely Jade McNamara, Zoe Dillon, Ellageorga O' Shea, Sophie Noonan and Abi Carey and all enjoyed the experience. 4 players from last year's U10 squad, Kate Barry, Emma Noonan, Aoibhin Lee and Elisha Noonan made the step up to 12 level, and received great help and encouragement from their more experienced team mates Abbie Pigott and Julina Ryan.

The girls took a little while to settle before establishing a first quarter 4-0 lead. The girls added a further 10 points in the second quarter to ease into a 14-0 interval lead. Glen Cruisers came more into the game in the third quarter and matched our girls score for score. However, our girls once more asserted in the final quarter to win out 30-6. Top scorers for Colms were Abbie Pigott, Kate Barry and Jade McNamara.

The girls are back in action next week when they play host to UL Huskies. Our U14 and U16 girls get their North Munster league campaign up and running with games also against UL Huskies.

Our two senior ladies teams are in action against Shannon and Limerick Celtics respectively.

9th November 2015

The club hosted UL Huskies in the North Munster League at U12, U14 and U16 level last Sunday. There were mixed results and performances by our teams, but the overall view is that each team is improving.

Our U14 girls gave debuts to Sophie Moore and Caoimhe Griffin, with five of our Cratloe based girls integrating into the full U14 squad. The girls dominated their game establishing a first quarter 13-3 lead and were never troubled thereafter. The girls played a five on five off rotation throughout the game but were still too strong winning out 45-27.

Best for Colms on the day were Aoife Morrissey, Bronagh Dollard, Isabelle Meaney and Amy Higgins.

Our U16 girls went into their game minus two frontline players and were not helped by the departure of Ruth Dollard early in the second half after picking up her fifth foul. At this stage the girls led 24-17 and could have panicked. Instead Orla Zundel single handedly took this game by the scruff of the neck and dominated proceedings. She scored 8 points and dictated the game in a 20-6 run. The girls naturally tired a little late in the game allowing UL to tag on a few baskets, but still ran out comfortable 47-35 winners.

Top scorers for Colms were Aoife Morrissey, Ruth Dollard and Orla Zundel, with Siofra Gleeson a rock in defence.

Our U12 girls showed their inexperience and were well outplayed and beaten by a talented UL squad. Our girls were jittery throughout and were always second best in all areas of this game and cannot complain about the 40-16 score line. There are a few rough diamonds in this U12 squad and players to look out for in the near future are Jade McNamara, Lily O' Halloran and Kate Barry.

There was one standout performance though in our U12 team with Julia Cunneen showing her class especially in the third quarter.

The game of the day was a challenge game between our U13 development squad and UL Huskies U12/U13 team. UL Huskies dominated the early stages of this game and raced into an early 13-3 lead and an easy win looked on the cards. However our girls gradually got back into the game and tied the game up 23-23 with a few minutes to go. This comeback was based on the back of great work by Grainne McKeogh, Kirsta Berzina and Aoife O' Neill. The girls lost Jana Zundel to foul trouble just as they were gathering momentum and UL had just enough in reserve to win out a fine game 27-25.

Next week is a busy week for the club. Our U13 girls host Limerick Celtics and our U16 girls host Ballincollig in the Cork League. We have five teams from U11s to U16s away to Morning Star in the North Munster league. Our senior ladies host Limerick Celtics in the National Intermediate Cup Championship while our Senior Saints are in North Munster cup action.

16th November 2015

It was a particularly busy week on the playing front with a number of our teams in action.

Both our U13 and U16 girls were in Cork league action with both teams suffering losses. Our U13 girls hosted Limerick Celtics and lost a high scoring contest 40-50. Despite the high score posted by our girls, they surely left another 20 to 30 points behind them as they managed to miss too many gilt edged scoring opportunities. Nevertheless the girls should be pleased with their performance and it was good to see some of the players deeper in the panel playing so well.

Top scorers for Colms were Krista Berzina 10, Sophie Moore 8 and Lucy Liston 6.

In the U16 game our girls allowed Ballincollig open up a 14 -2 lead in an error ridden first quarter period. To their credit the girls stepped up big time for the rest of the game with the final score line of 38-18 to the visitors a fair reflection of how the game went.

Special mention to Siofra Gleeson who ended up battered and bruised as she kept Ballincollig's 6' 3" international to 12 points in a stellar defensive performance.

Top scorers were Ruth Dollard and Aoife Morrissey.

The club had 5 teams in action in Hospital against Morning Star in the North Munster League.

The U14 game was a very one sided affair with our girls much too strong in winning out 38-2.

Top scorers for Colms were three of our U13 squad, Caoimhe Griffin 10, Jana Zundel 6 and Sophie Moore 6.

The U16 game was a much closer and competitive game. Morning Star played extremely well and trailed only 17-19 going into the final quarter. However our girls greater experience helped them tough out a rather unconvincing 28-19 win. The game marked U16 debuts for U14 players Jody O' Halloran and Amy Higgins. The win however was overshadowed by a serious injury to Ruth Dollard which will keep her sidelined for up to 2 months.

Top scorers for Colms were Aoife Morrissey and Orla Zundel.

A number of new U12 players made their competitive debuts as the club continues with their development programme this season with these young players. The U12 game was a close affair up to half time before the Morning Star girls upped their performance in the final quarter to run out deserving winners.

Best for Colms were Lily O' Halloran and Julina Ryan.

Most of the U12 squad were back in action soon after in an U11 challenge game against Morning Star and proved too strong in this game running out comfortable winners. Best for Colms were Kate Barry and Ellageorga o' Shea.

A number of new U13 players played with some of the established U12 and U13 players in a further challenge game against Morning Star U14s with our girls led by Julia Cunneen, Abbie Piggott and Sarah Moloney running out ready winners.

Our senior ladies bowed out of the National Intermediate Championships during the week. The girls played extremely well and will have garnered great match experience ahead of their U20 National Cup game against Liffey Celtics later in the month.

Both our U13 and U16 squads are back in Cork League action with our U13s hosting Fr Mathews before travelling to Cork the following day to play Brunell. Our U16 girls host Kanturk.

Finally, the club were saddened to hear of the death of former player and friend Peadar Murtagh who passed away last week after a short illness. Peadar left this world much too young and will be missed but always fondly remembered by all his former players and friends at the club. Our sincere condolences to his wife Suzanne, his parents, brothers and sisters and extended family.

23rd November 2015

Storm Barney almost put paid to our fixtures this week. Luckily enough, CBS Sexton Street, were in a position to put emergency plans into action with the damaged roof been repaired within a few days of the storm.

It was a good week on the court with both our U13 and U16 girls recording wins in the Cork League. Our U13 girls were very impressive putting up another big score against Fr Mathews. The girls were at the pace of the game right from the start and built a commanding first quarter lead of 19-5. The second quarter five increased this lead out to 29-9 by half time. The pace of the game fell a bit in the second half with our girls always in control. They finished 51-14 winners with Bronagh Dollard top scoring on 19 points. She was followed by Sophie Moore, who continues to improve with each passing game on 8 and Lucy Liston on 7.

Our U16 girls went into their game with Kanturk minus 3 key players. The rest of the panel shrugged off the loss of the 3 girls by playing their best game of the season. They worked tirelessly in defence and set out the pace of the game they wanted to play, right from the start. Both Amy Higgins and Caoimhe Hogan had excellent games forcing turnovers time and again from their Cork opponents. At the other end of the court Hazel Dineen took on the responsibility of scoring and she ended up the games's top scorer on 16 points. Orla Zundel continued her rich vein of form and controlled this game from the point position with an assured display.

The final scoreline of 36-30 was reward for an excellent display.

The club hosted the first U10 blitz of the season with over 70 players from 6 different clubs in attendance. The level of skill on display was of a high standard which is a credit to their coaches and mentors who work tirelessly behind the scenes to get these young girls playing to this standard. A big thanks to referee Aaron who gently enforced the rules of the game throughout the day, but allowed these young players to still have fun.

Both our senior ladies are in North Munster action next week, while our U20 girls travel to Leixlip in Kildare to play Liffey Celtics in the quarter finals of the U20 National Cup. Our junior wheelchair team have their first outing of the new season in Athlone.

30th November 2015

Our U20 girls crashed out of the U20 National Cup after they were overpowered by a rampant Liffey Celtics team. The Kildare side, who boasted a number of Super League players had too much firepower for our girls and simply ran away with this game.

The game was a sobering experience for our girls who will now need to pick themselves up ahead of a North Munster Cup game this week.

Even though the girls were outplayed, they still put in a great effort and were beaten by a super team.

Best for Colms were Lynsey Purcell and Jessica O' Brien.

Our U13 girls also came back down to earth losing their Cork league game away to Brunell on a scoreline of 18-42. The girls were second best in this game and cannot have any complaints with the result. The girls have a couple of weeks to improve before facing Glanmire.

Our Junior Wheelchair team travelled to Athlone to participate in the November Blitz. There was a huge turnout of players representing 7 different clubs and regions. Our squad showed a bit of ring rustiness in their earlier games losing each by 4 points. However they improved as they day went on and were finally rewarded with a 6 point win over a strong Athlone side.

Best for Colms on the day were Aoife and Cian Horgan, Mark and Aoife Leyden, Evan and Ally Whelan and finally Sean Byrnes.

A big shout out goes out to Limerick Scorpions who defeated Belfast Knights in a pulsating game by 10 points to maintain their unbeaten start in the National Wheelchair Basketball League.

It is a busy week for our club next week with all our teams in action. Our underage teams face up to Limerick Celtics and Springfield in the North Munster League. Our U16 Girls also host Mallow in the Cork League. Our U10 girls are in action in the Aaron O' Flaherty Memorial Tournament, while both our senior teams are in North Munster Cup action.