

3rd February 2014

A big congratulations to our U12 girls team who played out of their skins to reach the semi finals of the Cork Intermediate Tournament last Saturday.

The girls had a good win over Glanmire in their first pool game before seeing off Donoughmore in a tight game by 3 points. This win was important as it ensured our girls had an easier quarter final on paper. Sure enough, the girls stepped up their performance again and comfortably defeated Lee Valley in the quarter final. The win set up a semi final clash with Carrigaline.

This game was a very close affair with little separating two evenly matched sides. In the end it was Carrigaline's greater game experience that decided this game, with 5 points separating the two teams at the end.

The girls' coaches were delighted with how all the girls played with Aoife Morrissey, Bronagh Dollard, Aoife O' Neill, Caoimhe O' Neill, Ciara Griffin and Hannah Barry leading on the scoring front. Isabelle Meaney worked tirelessly in defence along with Abbie Pigott, with Sarah Moloney, Jana Zundel, Sarah O' Brien and Aoibheann Cosgrave making huge contributions on the day.

Our U16 girls game against Newport was called off at the eleventh hour due to the adverse weather conditions. This meant that our senior ladies were the only other team from the club in action last week, as they hosted Shannon in the North Munster League.

This is a game that the ladies should have won. Once again, the whole 12 players put in a great performance everywhere on the court except where it really mattered, which was on the scoresheet. In the first few minutes, the ladies spurned a number of good scoring opportunities to find themselves 0-9 in arrears. However, once they got their first basket, they set about reducing the deficit quite quickly.

Unfortunately the ladies did not reward their good work on the court with points on the scoreboard and succumbed to a narrow 40-44 defeat.

There are definite signs that once this team clicks with their scoring, that they will start winning out these close games.

Top scorers for Colms on the night were Emma Cleary and Niamh Barton.

Next week the senior ladies host Limerick Celtics in the North Munster League.

Our U16 girls have a double header next week away to Morning Star in the North Munster Cup and home to Springfield in the North Munster League.

Our U11s, U12s and U14s also are in action against Springfield in the North Munster League.

Our U15 girls host Glanmire 2 in the Cork League while our U18 girls host Brunell in the Cork Championship.

10th February 2014

There were a number of teams from the club in action during the week.

Our U18 girls hosted Brunell in the Cork Championship. The girls put up a terrific performance against arguably the top U18 team in the country at the moment. The girls got off to a slow start with every turnover ruthlessly punished by the slick Cork outfit. The girls found themselves 26-9 down at the end of the first quarter. The girls dusted themselves down, eliminated the silly turnovers and soon proved more than a match for their Cork counterparts. For the next two and a half quarters, the girls matched Brunell score for score based on some great scrambling defence by all the team and good inside offensive play. It was only late in the game that Brunell tagged on a few late scores to leave the final score 35-62 to Brunell.

Top scorers for Colms were Ciara O' Halloran 15 and Caoimhe Gleeson 10 with Fiona O' Connell, Sarah Murray, Chloe Dineen and Jessica O' Brien others to play well.

Our U15 girls got off to a terrible start against Glanmire 2 in their Cork league game and soon found themselves 0-10 down early in the game. The introduction of U13 players Emma McDonnell and Caoimhe Hogan gave the girls an impetus and slowly but surely the girls dragged themselves back into the game. Based on a superb defensive performance the girls restricted Glanmire to only 1 further point in the first half to go in at the interval leading 12-11. The third quarter was an even affair before the girls pushed on in the final quarter to win out 32-23.

Top scorers for Colms were Laura O' Shea 14 and Orla Zundel 8.

Our U16 girls had a busy schedule with two games over the weekend. The girls were away to Morning Star in the quarter finals of the North Munster Cup and recorded a comfortable 61-33 win. The girls were never in trouble in this game as they opened up a 18-4 first quarter lead and were never troubled thereafter.

Top scorers for Colms were Roisin Gleeson 19, Ruth Butler 12 and Jane Clohessy 10.

The following day the girls hosted Springfield in the North Munster League. The girls put in a very jaded first half performance to find themselves 5-16 down at the interval. This deficit soon went out to 15 before Colms came out of their half court zone defence and moved to a full court zone defence. The girls came right back into the game but their challenge proved too late as they fell to an agonising 26-28 loss.

Jane Clohessy and Laura O' Shea were best for Colms.

Our U12 and U14 girls fared better in their league encounters with Springfield. The U12 game was an exciting game for the large crowd in attendance with Colms edging it 30-28 after overtime. Aoife Morrissey the star of the show on a game high 18 points. She had great support from Aoife O' Neill, Abbie Pigott, Jana Zundel and Bronagh Dollard.

Our U14 girls were missing a number of players and had to call up 4 of the U12 squad onto their team. With the 5 on 5 off rule for the first half, the game was close with

Colms leading 11-7. However in the second half, Colms proved much too strong despite missing a host of chances to win out 36-7.

Top scorers for Colms were Ruth Dollard 10, Emma McDonnell 9 and Aoife Morrissey 8.

Next week our senior ladies host Limerick Celtics in the North Munster League in a game deferred from last week. The seniors are also in Kerry next weekend for an invitational tournament and some team bonding!!

Our U18 Girls are home to Celtics in the Cork League while our U14 girls are in Cork for the Johnny Murphy Tournament.

Finally the club are hosting a one day junior wheelchair basketball blitz in the Delta Dome in association with the Irish Wheelchair Association. A large crowd is expected to witness some incredible basketball on the day.

17th February 2014

There was a large attendance at the Delta Dome to witness some fantastic basketball as St Colms in association with the Irish Wheelchair Association held the February Leg of the juvenile wheelchair basketball blitz. The home team with 3 debutantes in Matthew, Ian and Jake got off to a flyer with a 10 point win over a combined Galway/Kerry selection. They followed this up by coming from 3 points behind at the break against Fr Mathews from Cork to win out 22-13. This win set up a decider against Killester from Dublin in the game of the day.

This was wheelchair basketball at it's very best, with always only one or two scores separating the sides throughout. The skills shown by both teams was of a very high standard, in an exceptional game that kept the large attendance on the edge of their seats throughout. In the end, it was the the home side that edged a thriller by 3 points. Well done to Aisling, Abraham, Ruth, Tiernan, Robbie, Khalid and the two Seans on the day.

Our Senior Ladies just fell short in the final of The Old Forge Tournament in Killorglin over the weekend. The ladies played 3 pool games on Saturday with the highlight been their one point win over the holders KCYMS. This win qualified them for a semi final game at 10.00 on Sunday morning. The ladies were obviously buzzing from the night before !! as they capped a marvellous performance with a stunning 16 point win.

Unfortunately for the ladies, they had to play the Final against Tridents from Dublin without the Barton sisters. Both had to travel back to Limerick after the semi final win.

The ladies put in another huge effort in the final but lost out narrowly. They are already looking forward to next year.

Our U14 girls were thrown into the deep end as they competed in the U14 Johnny Murphy tournament in Cork last Saturday. The girls were well beaten in their two pool games against Mallow and Waterford Wildcats, but should be very happy with their performances. The girls played some great basketball on the day and will have learned a great deal from the experience by playing at this elite level. The 12 girls on the day did themselves proud, with some, most notably Elaine Murray and Hazel Dineen showing massive improvements in their games. 10 of this squad are underage again next season, and it is only then, that the club expect that these girls will compete at this level.

Finally our U18 girls put in a very disappointing performance in their Cork League game against Limerick Celtics. The girls simply never got going in this game and were deservedly beaten on a 32-54 scoreline.

The girls will have to show massive improvement if they are to overcome Maree in the quarter finals of the National Shield. The club are confident that the girls will rediscover their best form in Galway next week.

They follow this game up with a North Munster league encounter away to UL Huskies. Our U14 girls will be hoping to put their experience from last weekend to good use as they also play UL Huskies, for a place in the North Munster Cup Final.

24th February 2014

Congratulations to our U18 Girls who qualified for the semi finals of the National Shield with a win over Maree in Galway last week.

The girls settled the better of the two teams, and led by the triple scoring threat of Ciara O' Halloran, Lynsey Purcell and Caoimhe Gleeson led 22-11 after the first quarter.

The girls mindful of the outside shooting of the Galway girls switched their zone defence. At the other end of the court, the girls continued to work inside with Eimear Dollard especially scoring some nice baskets.

This tactic allowed the girls to slowly extend their lead and also allowed all 12 players get plenty of minutes on the court.

The girls maintained focus throughout and despite some late consolation baskets by Maree, closed out the game for a comfortable 57-47 win.

The girls will now play Malahide in Dublin for a place in the final.

Top scorers for Colms were Caoimhe Gleeson 15, Ciara O' Halloran 14 and Lynsey Purcell 12. They were well supported by Fiona O' Connell who is improving with each game, Sarah Murray and Ciara Stapleton.

Congratulations also goes to our young U14 girls who qualified for the final of the North Munster Cup with a hard fought win over UL huskies. The first quarter was a tight affair with only a point separating the sides. St Colms second quarter five proved to be crucial to the outcome of this game, as they suddenly opened up a 16 point interval lead. UL came right back into the game in the third quarter reducing the deficit to 7 going into the final quarter. Two early baskets in the final quarter had the deficit now down to 3. However this was as close as UL were to get. Our girls upped their game for the final few minutes, particularly in defence, to score 10 unanswered points to win out cosily in the end 32-19.

Top scorers for Colms were Megan Haugh and Aoife Morrissey on 8 points apiece.

U12 player Ciara Griffin had a superb game which she capped with a fine score. Others to play well were Caoimhe Hogan and Emma McDonnell.

Next week our U15 girls are away to Glanmire in the Cork League, while all our underage teams are in action against Celtics in the North Munster league.