Race 2 McGrady Financial Services 2015-2016

Dromore Community Centre

Sunday 18th October 2015.

C’mon Ireland!

by The Non-runner

I begin the report with a special mention for Nigel McKibben and all at Dromore AC and 3 Ways AC who were involved in hosting their first ever event as part of the McGrady Financial Services junior cross country series. They managed the impressive double whammy of not only organising the race on the same day as Ireland’s Rugby World Cup quarter final match, but also managed to start the races at the same time as the match. Well done!! I’m sure many parents had serious second thoughts about attending the races, I know I did.

Another special mention to our sponsor’s representative, PJ McCrickard, who wasn't there to represent McGrady Financial Services. Again. That’s two races in a row; however a special mention to him for all the trophies he won while away dancing last month. Although I’m not entirely sure he’s to be believed about his dancing prowess. This month he has another valid excuse/reason. Himself and several other NAC coaches were busy representing NAC at a mountain relay. Well done to all of NAC senior runners!

I suppose I should get to the actual races, my preamble has probably lasted long enough. We had a new venue which turned out to be quite handy for me, Oran O’Connor’s mum Mandy and any others from our neck of the woods. Our event was held in Dromore Community Centre, across two pitches, cleverly linked to form a short lap and a long lap. The race conditions were perfect, calm, dry and we anticipated some fast finishes on the flat terrain. We were not to be disappointed! Supporting our runners was easy as the runners were in sight at all times.

Congratulations are due to the many people who remembered to bring their race number, give yourselves a pat on the back and a gold star on the chart. Please note-we kindly remind all parents/guardians that in order to allow the races to go smoothly we need **all** runners to turn up in good time for the races. Anyone attending any other athletics event will know how strict running competitions are with cut off times for registration. With this in mind we have decided to strictly adhere to the cut off time for registration and all runners must be registered by at least 15 minutes prior to the start of the races. Anyone arriving after this time WILL NOT BE RACING. There will be NO exceptions to this. We hope that parents and guardians understand and comply with our request and help all involved to continue to make our series run smoothly, pun intended. I still haven't got to the races yet. Stick with me, I’m getting there.

The Races!

P4 boys were the first to race and it was an exciting finish with only 3 seconds separating the first 3 boys over the line. 1st was Kieran Trainor EDAC, 2nd Leo Madine EDAC and 3rd Niall McCauley NAC. P4 girls race was won comfortably by Lyndsey Kelly of 3 Ways, 2nd was Jodi Foster of EDAC and 3rd was Eva Shields EDAC.

P5 boys race also had a nail biting finish with Oliver Robinson EDAC making it across the line first, a close second was Tiernan O’Hare of 3 Ways and in 3rd was Connor Fearon on Burren AC. P5 girls race was won by Amy McCartan Dromore AC, 2nd was Laura Hanna of NAC and 3rd Anna McPolin of Burren AC.

P6 boys saw NAC’s newest Daniel Shiel get 1st place, just one second ahead of NAC regular Cathaoir King, 3rd was Eoin Cunningham of 3Ways. P6 girls saw Laura Madine of EDAC storm in with 7 second to spare from Anna Gardener EDAc in 2nd, Aoibheann Mynes of Burren AC was 3rd.

P7 boys race saw Caolan O’Hare of 3 Ways win comfortable ahead of Mackenzie Murray EDAC, closely followed in 3rd place by Brian Watters of 3 Ways. P7 girls winner was Lara McCarthy of Burren AC, just ahead of 2nd place Hannah Owens of 3 Ways and in joint 3rd place was Caitlin Valentine and Orla Fitzsimons, both of NAC.

Year 8 boys had another tight finish with Odhran Hamilton of 3 Ways winning just one second ahead of Calum McDonagh of Burren, closely followed by Oisin Lennon of 3 Ways. Year 8 girls saw a 3 Ways 1-2-3, with Caitlin Coffey win comfortably ahead of Olivia Hall and in 3rd place was Siofra McAteer. Year 9 boys race nothing separated Ryan Mc Dowell Dromore AC and Cathal Farrelly Burren AC as they sprinted across the line together in joint first place, 3rd place went to Christopher Neill NAC. Year 9 girls winner Eve Kenneally won comfortably followed by Leah Donnelly Dromore AC and 3rd went to Lucy Bradshaw Dromore AC. Year 10 boys only had 3 runners and first across the line was Andrew Elwood of Dromore Ac, 2nd was Darragh Connolly 3 Ways and 3rd Adam Morgan EDAC. Year 10 girls race was won by Edie Carroll EDAC, 2nd Hannah Gilliland EDAC and 3 Kiara Cairns NAC. The last race of the day saw an exciting finish with year 11+ Ethan Dunne Dromore AC sprinting to win ahead of James Smyth EDAC who had been putting in a determined effort through the race in 2nd and 3rd John Farrelly Burren AC. Year 11+ girls saw Laura Gardiner who was running so fast she finished 40 seconds clear of Rachel Collins Dromore AC and 3rd was Aoife Cochrane EDAC.

In these races there are also individual battles, it’s not just the podium placed runners who had to sprint for the finish, the near perfect conditions and flat course produced some exciting races!

Thanks

Nigel McKibben perhaps now understands the benefit of lying down in a dark room after organising one of our races! Brian of Burren AC was excellent on the mic as usual. Thanks to all the volunteer marshalls from Dromore AC/3 Ways AC and to the coaches for doing the warm ups, thanks to Ethan Dunne who was drafted in to run the other High Schoolers around the course for a warm up. Thanks to all the clubs, to our NAC volunteers Gwenda, Eve, Collette, Kathryn and chief Ireland Rugby supporter Pauline. Thanks to Frank Cunningham and Frank Morgan at the finish line and to everyone involved in the event. Congratulations to all our brilliant runners and their families, we are proud of you all.

Our next race is a Burren AC organised event and is on Sunday 29th November at 1:00 pm at Kilbroney Park. Please arrive early if you want your child to race and remember to bring the race number.

The NAC round-up

Parents if your child is running in any event please contact us and we will include it in our new exciting feature, the imaginatively titled, “The NAC round-up”

Orangegrove Club held a junior race in Victoria Park Belfast on 4th October , Eve was the only Newcastle AC junior to take part Under 13th race and finished 9th. In the Comber Cup Lucy, Chloe and Eve took part in the Junior race. Eve ran in the under 13 race and finished 4th, Lucy and Chloe ran in the under 15 race, Chloe finished 9th and Lucy 10th. Well done girls!