



2015 All Ireland Championships

Date: 11th and 12th July 2015

The final weekend of the 2015 All Ireland championships took place on Saturday & Sunday last 11th & 12th July. Making the trip to Tullamore to represent the club were Patricia & Patience Jumbo-Gula, Kate O'Connor & Maria Smith. As usual the competition was tough with the best young athletes in the country in action at the Co Offaly venue.

Patricia was first into action on Saturday in the U13 girls 80m. Despite an interrupted preparation she took her place on the line in her semifinal. With a very slow start she all but put paid to her chances but showed great resolve to finish strongly. No doubt the experience of getting to compete at this level will stand to her in future. Maria was also making her debut at this level and had the misfortune of being drawn in a very strong heat. Brushing off the nerves she proceeded to run a brilliant race to finish in 4th place and grab a fastest loser spot in the final. In the decider she ran another magnificent race coming 5th in a blanket finish for the minor places. With another years' experience and improvement behind her there is no reason why she can't make the medals next year. In the 200m on Sunday once again Maria ran another fine race to finish 3rd in the heat just missing out on the final.

Patience Jumbo-Gula was in action in the U15 girl's category. In the 100m she qualified from her heat winning narrowly in a strong encounter. In the final she once again showed brilliant speed to prove best in another close finish in a time of 12.1 seconds. In the 200m on Sunday she was ready to make amends for her defeat in the Leinster championships. Despite being drawn in lane 1, a very unsuitable lane for a tall athlete, she qualified in 1st place with a time of 26.29 seconds, the 4th fastest time overall going into the decider. Drawn in a much more preferable lane 5 in the final she stepped it up a level, running a great bend and coming home strongly down the straight to take another brilliant win, clocking a new PB of 25.33 seconds and complete a fantastic sprint double.

Kate O'Connor was taking part in the girls U16 javelin. With a strongly headwind to contend with the throwers had a difficult days work ahead of them. Despite the elements, Kate produced another great performance throwing solidly throughout with a best of 41.78 breaking the old championship best in the far from ideal conditions.

The performances of our young athletes had made everyone in the club tremendously proud. To compete at this level is a great honour and each and every one of them has given their all. Training will resume after the summer break on Tuesday 21st July in Young Irelands GFC.

Training continues every Tuesday & Thursday in Young Ireland's GFC on Hoey's lane near DKIT at 6:30pm
New members welcome.

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