



2015 Louth Juvenile Championships

Date: 24th May 2015

The sun shone brightly in the garden county for the Leinster juvenile relay championships which took place on Saturday last May 23rd at the shoreline track in Greystones. Two teams from Dundalk St Gerard's AC and their families, supporters and coaches made the journey to county Wicklow to take on the provinces best. Representing the club were the girls U9 squad of Meabh O'Connor, Lucy Mahon, Enya Silkena, Tara O'Connor & Grainne Moran and the U14 girls team of Emily Moran, Maria Smith, Ellen Murphy, Patricia Jumbo-Gula & Fyne John.

Having shown up really well in Louth competitions recently the U9's were full of optimism going into their first taste of provincial competition. Right from the gun they showed their intent winning their heat to qualify for the final beating some of the biggest clubs on the province on the way. The final was another tough having to take on the might of Kilkenny City Harriers amongst others, whose memberships would dwarf ours. Blissfully unaware of this the girls never read the script and went to the line in the final beaming with confidence. Meabh got them Off to a good start and handed over to Tara who ran a stormer down the back straight to put them in first, Enya absolutely flew the bend to deliver a fantastic lead to Grainne who held off the fast finishing Kilkenny team all the way for a brilliant victory. The girls couldn't contain their excitement (albeit they were calmer than some of the adults) and were joined by their fellow team member Lucy Mahon in the celebrations.

The U14 girl's team had a daunting task ahead of them in a very competitive age group. Being drawn in what looked the strongest heat, it was going to be very tough to qualify. Against the odds they ran absolutely brilliantly to finish in 3rd place in what appeared to be a very fast heat, but had to endure a wait and see approach having to wait on the other heats to finish. After a long and agonising wait they were announced as one of the fastest losers to gain qualification for the decider. In the final once again the girls did us proud and left nothing behind them giving every last drop of energy for the cause. Unfortunately they weren't able to make the podium positions but nonetheless performed brilliantly in making the fina. The experience was a good one for Emily, Ellen, Fyne, Maria & Patricia who will no doubt improve for it.

This was a great day for the club, for while only 2 teams took part, to have both qualify for their finals and have one team winning was a fantastic achievement of which we are all very proud. It is a testament to all the hard work the athletes and coaches put in and just reward for the loyalty they show our club.

Training continues every Tuesday & Thursday at Young Irelands GFC Hoey's lane 6:30pm to 7:45/8:00pm.

New members welcome.

Follow us on Facebook "<https://www.facebook.com/StGerardsAthleticClubDundalk>" and on our web-site "<http://www.stgerardsac.org/>".