

### Celtic International Success for Munster Athletes



*Irish Boys U/17 Celtic Cross Country International Team with John McGrath, Team Manager*

3 Munster athletes competed on the Boys U/17 Irish team at the Celtic Cross Country International in Cardiff on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2013. All were selected from their outstanding performances at National level this season. **Kevin Mulcaire, Ennis Track A.C** won silver in the Boys U/17 National Cross Country Championships & placed 4<sup>th</sup> in the Boys U/16 Championships, **Fearghal Curtin, Youghal A.C.** took the National title in the Boys U/15 Championships & also won an individual medal for 5<sup>th</sup> place in the Boys U/16 race while **Luke Horgan, Leevale A.C.** was 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Boys U/16 National Cross Country Championships.

In the Boys U/17 race in Cardiff, the three Munster boys competed very well contributing hugely to the success of the Irish team. Kevin Mulcaire followed his team-mate Pierre Murchan (Celtic DCH) closely throughout and narrowly passed him before the finish line with both boys clocking a time of 19.47 but with Kevin attributed 9<sup>th</sup> place & Pierre 10<sup>th</sup> place. In close pursuit was Fearghal Curtin (Youghal AC) who finished 14<sup>th</sup>, 20 seconds behind in a time of 20.13 & Luke Horgan of Leevale A.C. finishing 24<sup>th</sup> in a time of 20.46. The Irish team beat Scotland by two points to win the Team competition. The Girls U/17 team was also victorious with Siofra O' Flaherty also having another fine win and great performances from Isobel Odlum, Eimear Fitzpatrick and Aoife Mulroy. **Aoife Hamilton, West Waterford A.C.**

was selected to compete for Ireland on the Girls U/17 team following her bronze medal wins in the National Juvenile U/15 & U/16 Championships but had to withdraw because of illness.

### **Report Taken from AAI Website dated Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2013.**

“The Irish under 17 teams had great success when they travelled to Cardiff last weekend taking both the girls and boys team golds.

On a difficult snow covered course, the Celtic International was incorporated in the U17 McCain Cross Challenge series. First race of the day was the girls over a distance of 4.290m, Siobhra O’Flaherty of SLOT AC took up the running from the start and was leading at the first bend. She held this position for the whole race despite a strong challenge at the start of the second lap from the top Scottish athlete Gillian Black who got to within a couple of meters of the Irish athlete. Undeterred Siobhra upped the pace and put 10 meters between herself and the Scottish athlete within a hundred meters. She extended this lead and finished 5 seconds ahead of her Scottish rival.

Next Irish girl home was Isabelle Odum, DSD. Isabelle had only been called up to the team on the previous Thursday as Aoife Hamilton of West Waterford had to withdraw due to ill-health. Isabelle looked very comfortable over the distance and finished very strongly in 7th position followed home by her DSD team mate Eimear Fitzpatrick in 8th position. Aoife Mulroy, Swinford AC ran a strong race finishing well in 25th place.

Next up were the under 17 boys racing over a distance of 5.650m. Pierre Muchan Celtic DCH, and Kevin Muclaire, Ennis track took off with the leading group for the first lap but the superior class of Jac Hopkins from Wales soon came to the fore as he extended his lead away from the rest of the field, finishing 30 seconds ahead of his nearest rival. Kevin and Pierre had a great battle on the finishing straight with Kevin just getting the edge on the line to finish in 9th with Pierre in 10th position. Ferghal Curtin, Youghal AC ran an excellent race this being his first time over the longer distance and he is still only 14 years of age. Ferghal finished in 14th place and Luke Horgan, Leevale completed the team positions finishing in 24th.

With both the team honours and an individual golds, they travelled home on Sunday evening delighted with their performances in their first international competition. Well done to all involved.”

### **Background to Celtic Cross Country International**

*“Report Taken from Athletics Ireland Website, dated Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2013”.*

The McCain Cardiff Cross Challenge will incorporate an U17/U20/U23 Celtic International for 2013 on the 20th of January. Athletics Ireland will be sending a strong U17 boys and girls team to Cardiff to battle it out against the Scotland, Wales and Ulster teams. The team have all shown impressive form this cross country season snapping up the top spots at the Woodie’s DIY Juvenile Cross Country Championships in November to secure their place at the Celtic Cross Country International.

**St Laurence O'Toole's Siofra O'Flaherty** showed excellent form while winning the Girls U-15 and U-16 races at the Woodie's DIY Juvenile Cross Country Championships. **Aoife Hamilton (West Waterford AC)** also turned out great performances to double up and finish third in the U15 and U16 events, as did **DSD's Eimear Fitzpatrick** who finished 5th in both races. **Swinford AC's Aoife Mulroy** sealed her position on the team when securing the 4th place spot in the U16s race at the Woodie's DIY Juvenile Cross Country Championships in Tattersalls.

The boys U17 team will be spear headed by **Celtic DCH's Pierre Murchan** who stormed to an impressive victory at the recent All Ireland Cross Country Championships and will be looking to replicate such form at International level. Munster athletes make up the remainder of the Boys U17 contingent with **Leevale AC's Luke Horgan** in line to battle it out at the Celtic International after coming 3rd in the U16's race at Nationals. Munster team mates **Kevin Mulcaire** from **Ennis Track AC** and **Youghal AC's Fearghal Curtin** will also be aiming for top positions at the International after placing fourth and fifth respectively in the U16 race at Nationals with Mulcaire also impressively securing the 2nd place spot in the U17 race and Curtin also taking home the under 15 title.

### **2013 Team**

#### **Under 17 Team Girls**

Siofra O'Flaherty St Laurence O'Toole AC  
Aoife Hamilton West Waterford AC  
Eimear Fitzpatrick Dundrum South Dublin AC  
Aoife Mulroy Swinford AC

#### **Under 17 Team Boys**

Pierre Murchan Celtic DCH AC  
Luke Horgan Leevale AC  
Kevin Mulcaire Ennis Track AC  
Fearghal Curtin Youghal AC



*Munster athletes (Fearghal Curtin, Youghal A.C., Kevin Mulcaire, Ennis Track A.C. & Luke Horgan, Leevale A.C) who represented Ireland on the Boys U/17 Celtic Cross Country International*



*2013 Irish Girls & Boys U/17 Teams at the Celtic Cross Country International in Cardiff with Team Managers, John McGrath & Evelyn O'Reilly*