

8 National Medals for Munster Athletes

The Woodie's DIY AAI Juvenile Combined Events Championships took place in the newly built AIT Arena in Athlone on Saturday 26th January. It was an exciting & memorable occasion for the 21 Munster athletes who competed in Ireland's first International Standard state of the art indoor track taking home 8 medals in total (4 gold, 2 silver & 2 bronze). 4 Munster athletes had an exceptional day winning gold & National titles. Both Daniel Ryan, Moycarkey Coolcree A.C. & Vickie Cusack, Liscarroll A.C. & were clear winners of their events with Ryan taking the National title in the Boys U/15 competition on 3,261 points, 622 points clear of David McDonald, Menapians A.C. in 2nd place & Cusack finishing the Girls U/14 competition on 2990 points, 531 points clear of silver medallist, Zoe Mohan, Cushinstown A.C. Grace McKenzie, Belgooly A.C. won the Youth Girls title with a score of 3,253 points, just 46 points separating her from Shannen Dawkins, St. Joseph's A.C. in 2nd place. Second closest competition of the day was the Boys U/14 competition where David Ryan, Moycarkey Coolcree A.C. won the National title just 1 point clear of Pdraig Nash, Belgooly A.C. in 2nd place. Jack Fallon, Moycarkey Coolcree A.C. was 3rd on 1972 points giving Munster athletes a 1,2,3 in that event. Closest competition of the Championships was between Sam Healy, Belgooly A.C. & Mark Rodgers, St. Peter's A.C. when both athletes finished the competition on 3630 points each. Rodgers was given the edge as he earned the most points in one event so Healy was awarded the silver medal. Cormac McCann, Ferrybank A.C. won bronze in the Boys U/16 competition on 2763 points.

Jayne Pennefather, Belgooly A.C. was just outside the medals in the Youth Girls competition when she finished 4th on 2810 points with Rachel Clancy, St. John's A.C. in 5th place on 2336 points. Both Laura Cussen, Old Abbey A.C. (Girls U/16) & Deirbhile Ryan, Nenagh Olympic A.C. (Youth Girls) had to retire early from their competitions.

In the Girls U/14 competition, Mollie Hutchinson, Ferrybank A.C. finished 7th on 2001 points with her team-mate Emily Goff in 14th place on 1210 points; Kieran O'Doherty, Spa Muckcross A.C. finished 8th on 1662 points in the Boys U/14 competition; in the Girls U/15, Sinead O'Regan, Ferrybank A.C. & Molly Healy, Belgooly A.C. finished 9th & 14th on 2127 points & 1938 points; Dara Musgrave, Frankie Dolphin & Conor Giles Doran, Ferrybank A.C. finished in 7th, 14th & 17th places on 1887 points, 1594 points & 1499 points in the Boys U/15 competition & Gwyneth Blair, Waterford A.C. finished in 9th place on 1604 points in the Girls U/16 competition.

Congratulations & well done to them all. Full results can be found at www.munsterathletics.com.