

The Munster Novice and Even age Juvenile Cross country championships were held in Carrigadroichid, Co. Cork on Sunday last with solid underfoot conditions along a scenic but undulating course. Kerry athletes as always fared well taking individual titles and top ten medal placings along with club and county team titles and top three medal placings.

Ed Murphy Gneeveguilla showed huge improvement on last seasons cross country form when he battled hard to take third place in the novice mens 6000m event and helped the Kerry mens team to bronze with James Doran An Riocht also medaling in 8th, Simon Mangan Gneeveguilla 26th, Tim O Connor An Riocht 26th with Fergal Barry and Jonathan Leniston both Gneeveguilla making up the final two places. In the womens equivalent Anna Meria Costello Gneeveguilla was the best of the women finishing in 7th place with the womens team finishing in 5th place.

Cillian O Donovan Iveragh was once again the star performer in the juvenile sections when he won the U16 4000m a year out of age and leading the Kerry team and his club team both home in first place. On the Kerry team he was backed up with Conor O Mahoney in 3rd place, David O Keeffe Gneeveguilla in 5th, Andy Quigley Iveragh 13th, Liam O Connell Iveragh in 14th and David Kavanagh Tralee Harriers in 18th; this will be a tough team for any county to beat come the All Irelands in Derry next month. Iveragh AC also won the club section here with Cillian, Andy and Liam ably assisted by Brian Sugrue in 24th.

The Kerry boys U12 team finished in a very tight 2nd place overall with some fine individual performances and medal placings for Adam O Donoghue An Riocht in 4th, Michael O Leary Iveragh 5th and Patrick Warren Gneeveguilla in 9th with Fiachra Clifford Star of the Laune in 13th, Sean Galvin Lios Tuathail in 18th and David Kenny Farranfore MV in 24th making up the other scoring positions on the team.

Other fine performances came from Aaron Quigley Iveragh who finished 10th in the U18 6000m a year out of age and up against some experienced international athletes; Grace Lynch also Iveragh was involved in a fantastic battle in the U18 5000m where she eventually finished an excellent 2nd with Niamh Clifford Star of the Laune finishing 7th in the same race. Kevin O Donoghue An Riocht was 12th in the U14 3000m, Muireann McKenna Lios Tuathail 10th in the U14 3000m, Helena O Sullivan Kenmare 12th in the U12 2000m and Kaitlyn Moriarty Kenmare 12th in the U10 1500m. All the above athletes from U12 upwards will now go forward to represent Munster at the All Irelands in Derry next month with the two Kerry boys teams also going forward to represent their county. Well done to all.

Niamh O Sullivan An Riocht took part in the Gerry Farnham open cross country on Sunday and easily won the masters section but also finished in 12th place overall in the senior section.

Dates-

Oct 24th-Kerry Distane Squad-An Riocht-12pm

Oct 31st-Kerry Senior/Junior/Masters & Juvenile Relays XC-Currow 12pm