

Galway Success at Connaught Cross Country

Contributed by Michael Tobin
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This past weekend was a busy one for Galway athletes with championship competition in Sligo, Nenagh and Glasgow. Closest to home was the Connacht Senior and Junior Cross Country Championships held in Sligo race course on Sunday. Paul McNamara of Athenry AC claimed the Senior Men's individual title and in the process led his club, Athenry AC, to it's first ever inter-club team title.

Galway also claimed the inter-county team title to complete a clean sweep in the Senior Men's race for Galway athletes. Mayo athletes dominated the senior ladies race with Breige Blehein claiming the individual title. In the Junior Men's race Seaumus Gilhooley of Athenry AC was the first Galway athlete home with a strong run to pick up the bronze medal behind Tommy Carroll of North Sligo. The Junior Women's race was dominated by Sligo athletes with Emma Neary of North Sligo AC claiming the individual gold.

Kelvin Hall, Glasgow was the venue for the Scottish Indoor Championships over the weekend. The event is usually characterised by a strong Irish presence and this year was no exception. Galway were represented by Paul Hession in the 60m and Claire McNamara in the High Jump. Paul had a comfortable win in his heat with a 6.83 clocking. He was awarded the silver medal in the final despite clocking the same time as the winner with 6.78. McNamara finished 5th in the final of the ladies high Jump with a leap of 1.65m.

Nenagh was host to the AAI Masters Championships over the weekend. Mary Barrett of Loughrea AC, one of the countries finest track and field coaches, led the Galway challenge with three gold medals in the V3 category. The wins came in the high jump, long jump and shot putt. Pat Hannon, also of Loughrea AC, claimed the bronze medal in the V3 800m.