

St. John Bosco Athletics Club

Presentation night 7th Dec 2007

Chairman's Address

Firstly let me express a sincere thanks to the clubs sub committee that organised this function so professionally here tonight. Well done Geraldine O'Connor, David Doherty and our excellent M.C. Patricia Britton.

The support, we as a club, receive in so many ways from you the parents and the community at large I would like to recognise. Sponsors are a vital support group for the ongoing running and success of our club. Tonight's awards were funded by Paul O'Gara of Tir Conaill Damp Proofing Ltd and by Gareth Britton of All Sports – thank you very much.

As you are aware the St John Bosco Athletics Club in partnership with the Abbey Voc School Parents Committee and the Donegal Voc. Education Committee are about to embark on a major development at the Abbey Voc School. I am delighted to inform you that the contractor will move onto the site early in the New Year. When we come back here for our '2008 Presentation Night, we will be talking about a floodlit multi purpose training and competition facility that includes a synthetic tartan surface incorporating all track and field events, a 75x50m all weather pitch and a 600m jogging /walking track.

As you will appreciate to provide such a community sports facility demands finance and fund raising. Eighteen months ago a sub committee led by Pauline O'Gara and Angela O' Kennedy drew up a fundraising plan and with the support of numerous club members and the wider community have raised over 60,000 euros in the last twelve months. I would like to thank the community for its generous support for numerous fundraising initiatives and Pauline and Angela for their very important work on our behalf. The following who spear headed fundraising projects – Adrian Ruane and Anne McGowan our club draw, Mary Doherty and her twenty volunteers who ran the Women's Mini Marathon on our behalf and to Michelle Harvey who organised two sports camps – one at Easter and one in the summer on our behalf a sincere thank you.

The St John Bosco Athletics Club has over 160 members. We use the facilities at the Abbey Voc School to whom we are also indebted. We run a Little Athletics programme for the 8 to 11 year olds and an Introduction to athletics for the 12 to 17 year olds. To run such a wide ranging and inclusive coaching and competition programme demands a lot of volunteers. I would like to sincerely thank all our coaches and administrators for giving of their time and expertise during the past twelve months. Your input guarantees

that our young athletes develop not alone physically but equally and as importantly social and developmental skills. Thank you very much for your contribution

The St John Bosco Athletics Clubs main aim is to assist in the development of young people. The vehicle we use is athletics. To you, the young athletes, we say thank you for a great and fun filled year. Believe it or not we the coaches, administrators in the club get huge satisfaction from the Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday morning sessions. We are delighted for you when you do well, whether that is in an obstacle relay in the gym or in an All Ireland competition. So far as we are concerned you are all winners.

I would like to thank you the parents for encouraging your children to join our club and for your continued support in so many ways throughout the year, whether it be in transporting athletes to competition, fund raising and so many of you getting involved in coaching.

Finally to the award winners tonight, a special word of congratulations. We are proud of you and your achievements. As highlighted by Patricia during the presentations you have represented the St John Bosco club all over Ireland in a variety of competitions and disciplines with great success. Good luck to you all in 2008 when we hope you will continue to enjoy and be part of our club.

Eamon Harvey