

Awards Presentation by Patricia Britton

Welcome to the 3rd Annual St. John Bosco Athletics Club Awards Evening. A special welcome to all of the new members of our club, who are with us for the first time and to all the rest of you, who have loyally attended club training, week after week, and who go on to compete in local, county, provincial, national and even international competition.

We are making presentations this evening to athletes who have medalled at National and Ulster Competitions as well as those who represented the club at County Cross-Country Championships and the Childrens Games in Monaghan. Fifty five Athletes, were presented with awards in this category. The first of our three awards this evening is the Coaches Award. The task of picking recipients for a Coaches Award is never easy. We look for athletes that show club loyalty and who work hard to achieve personal goals. We look for athletes who have the qualities we admire in young people. The coaches choice award this year goes to a pair of athletes that are as different as chalk and cheese.

The boy is dedicated to the club and has over the years attended training and competition with only the very rare lapses when it came to competing for the club. Maybe a 'rugby match' or a 'GAA match' might sometimes steal him away but we have great hopes that he will continue to mature into a good athlete and a great competitor.

The girl is, to say the very least, one of the most sincere athletes within the St. John Bosco Club. She is dedicated to the sport and conscientious to coaches and other athletes. She shows promise as a middle distance runner and provided she stays the course she has a great future.

It is with great pleasure that the coaches and committee of the St. John Bosco Athletic Club present the 'Coaches Award' for 2007 to Ciaran Cornyn and Rose McCauley.

Overall Athlete – Boy

Next on the agenda is the penultimate award, that of Overall male athlete. This years winner is a real all rounder, he works hard at becoming the athlete that he believes and that we believe he can be. He has attended training every week, even throughout the long summer months when most young men his age are taking a well earned rest. He has returned to a training regime that has seen him begin to push the boundaries of his capabilities and on top of all of this he has 3 all Ireland Medals to his credit and he qualified for a Celtic international team.

To list the achievements of this athlete would take some time but I can mention some of the highlights. At the National Indoors in Nenagh this athlete was 3rd in the Shot Putt with a throw of 12.93 metres. At the National Track and Field Championships in Tullamore, he took gold in the under 17

mens Pole Vault and third in the Shot putt with a throw of 12.85m. At the All Ireland schools competition competing at U17 he was 4th in the 400m hurdles in a great race and a time of 58.8 secs

He was also a member of the Celtic international team competing for Ulster against the finest athletes in Ireland, Wales and Scotland. It is with great pleasure that the coaches and committee of the St. John Bosco Athletic Club present the award for Overall athlete of the year for a boy to **Jarlath Ruane**.

Overall athlete - Girl

After all that has been said about Jarlath, I think the winner of the overall girls athlete of the year award will think she pales in comparison but this she most certainly does not. This years winner is also a real all rounder, she has perhaps the misfortune to be born into one of the most athletic families in the country. A family where if you did not run you would be the odd one out. But needless to say this athlete could only be described as the odd one out because she shows such outstanding athletic capability.

She has attended training every week, in good weather and in bad. She has never refused a request from a coach and has even albeit with perhaps a little reluctance competed over cross country this year. I am quite sure she will see the benefit of those laps around Fintra and Milford next June or July.

To list the achievements of this athlete would like the previous winner take some time but I can mention some of the highlights. At the National Indoors in Nenagh she was 2nd in the U15 Hurdles. And at the National Outdoors in Tullamore later in the year she took a silver medal in the 250m hurdles and a bronze in the 80m hurdles

She posted a credible 4th in National Indoors Multi events competition and was a Member of the winning 4 x 100m relay team at the Irish schools along with team mates Aoife O Connor, Amie Bogan and Kitty O Kennedy.

To finish off what many would regard as an outstanding season she took silver as part of that same winning team at the National Community Games in Mosney It is with great pleasure that the coaches and committee of the St. John Bosco Athletic Club present the award for Overall athlete of the year for a girl to **Louise Harvey**.

Club Award

The St John Bosco Athletics Club is very fortunate in having a large group of coaches who, week in week out, coach and encourage our young athletes. As you are aware they guarantee that our Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday morning training sessions are well planned, structured and enjoyable and when the athletes go to competition they are well prepared and supported. The voluntary contribution the coaches make to our club and community is impossible to quantify. We all owe them a great deal of gratitude and

thanks.

Tonight we would like to honour one of our coaches. The recipient has been coaching in our club for a long number of years. He cajoles, encourages, organises and at times even annoys some of us. Over the years, he has constantly up skilled his coaching expertise and now possesses a Level 2 National Qualification. During the summer he attended a week long course at the British Athletics Association HQ in Birmingham where he gained a lot of knowledge and expertise which he now imparts to our young athletes. He is involved, organises and supports all aspects of our club. He finds time to be a main player in our new development project at the Abbey Voc School and currently acts as Co Secretary of the Donegal Athletics Board and Development Officer for the Ulster Athletics Council. He also is a Coach Education Tutor in the very successful Athletics Ireland 'Little Athletics Leader' programme.

On behalf of the St John Bosco Athletics Club I would like to thank you and recognise all your work on our behalf. **David Doherty** is the recipient of the Coaching Hall of Fame 2007.

I would now like to ask our Chairman who is club Head Coach, and Regional Development Officer for the Athletics Association of Ireland, coaching co-ordinator of the Donegal County Athletic Board, Coaching Officer with the Ulster council, and coach to a number of Olympic Athletes and Olympic hopefuls Mr Eamon Harvey to close proceedings.