

Celbridge Paddlers in Lower Liffey Marathon

CELBRIDGE Paddlers had a very strong presence at the Lower Liffey Marathon race held on Sunday, 8th September.

The race ran from the Salmon Leap Canoe Club in Leixlip and finished 14 Kilometres downstream in Palmerstown. Competitors had to navigate several weirs, sluices, portages, low water, some obstacles, rocks, and rapids along the way.

This year the race ran through the Lucan Festival with many coming along to watch us at the local weir.

Our club took away all medals in the K2 Divisions, Callum Browne & Aidan O'Donohoe taking Gold, Danny (our youngest competitor on the day) and his father Morgan Cooper taking Silver with the final spot on the podium taken by Simon Hearn and Fergus Cooper. A terrific

result for the club. Navigating a K2 down the Liffey is as challenging as it gets and not for the faint hearted.

Not to be left out the final Cooper brother Aisa, took 1st place in K1 Division 3. On her maiden river race, Gemma Corr took Gold in Division 7, an excellent result where she had to overcome some tricky conditions at the Sluice in St Catherine's Park. A very brave and strong performance.

Taking home other medals in the divisions for the club were Cillian Butler (2nd), Daniel Dziwrek (2nd) and Naoise Heneghan (2nd). Darren O'Donohoe took his first Liffey Medal coming home 2nd and Carol O'Donohoe (3rd) backing up her recent Liffey Descent success.

Also taking part were Matty Corr, Eavan Cawley, and Sean Heneghan.

LEFT: Eavan Cawley and BELOW, Danny and Morgan Cooper at Lucan Weir.



(l-r) Sean, Naoise, Callum, Aidan, Carol, Darren, Matty, Gemma, Danny, Aisa, Morgan, Fergus, Simon, Cillian and Daniel.



Naoise in action at Lucan Weir.



Danny and Morgan Cooper followed by Callum Brown and Aidan O'Donohoe.



St Conleth's on course to open for County Finals

by Colin O'Donnell

THE newly developed St Conleth's Park in Newbridge is on course to open on budget for the County Football Final on 27th October.

County Chairman Mick Gorman informed this month's meeting of the County Board in Hawkfield that 'grass is even growing' at the famous site in the centre of Newbridge.

In two weeks time on Friday, 20th September the developers (Elliot's Construction) will hand it back to Kildare GAA.

"That doesn't mean it will be ready for use on the 20th September," explained Kildare Chairman Mick

Gorman.

"It means that there are a lot of things still to be done and Louise Conlon our Operations Manager is working hard on it," he added.

"There's things like signage, services, the fit out, they all have to be done

"Niall (Sheridan, Safety and Facilities Officer) is also working on the safety side of things so there's an awful lot of things that have still to be sorted out.

"We're still totally on track for the County Finals on the 27th October and I just think it's very important to highlight the work put in by Padraic

McMamus and his committee of Pat Molloy, Enda Murphy, Tony Jones, Ger Donnelly who've been involved in

it over the last however many years and it's not to be underestimated."

Cedral are sponsorship partners with the new grounds.

"I think we're going to come in on budget or very near it and to me Gorman had the new sponsors Cedral over there the other day and it's looking fantastic and the grass is even growing.

"So it's looking good for St Conleth's Park," Gorman added.

Meanwhile, calls have been made for a second scoreboard on Pitch 2 Manguard Park in Hawkfield.

It's understood the old scoreboard at St Conleth's Park is to be erected at Hawkfield so that supporters matches on the first two fields keep updated with the scoring.