

European Junior T&F Championships 2017



The European Junior Track & Field Championships took place in Grosseto, Italy from 20th to 23rd July 2017. 7 athletes represented Munster on the Irish team & although no medals were won by our Munster group, lots of valuable experience was gained on the international stage. The Munster athletes were **Charlie O'Donovan, Leevale A.C., Darragh McElhinney, Bantry A.C., Ciara Neville, Emerald A.C., Jamie Mitchell, Emerald A.C., Sharlene Mawdsley, Newport A.C., Alex O'Neill, St. Cronan's A.C. and Miriam Daly, Carrick-On-Suir A.C.**

Ciara Neville, Emerald A.C. ran very well placing 2nd in her 100m Heat (11.73) to reach the Semi-Final where she finished 3rd (11.79) eventually finishing 7th in the final in a time of 11.98. **Sharlene Mawdsley, Newport A.C.** was 2nd in her 200m heat in a time of 24.12 & 4th place in SF (23.98) but did not progress to the final. In the middle-distance races, **Charlie O'Donovan, Leevale A.C.** was 10th in his 1500m heat (3.50.72), **Darragh McElhinney, Bantry A.C.** was 11th in his 1500m heat (3.53.15) & **Alex O'Neill, St. Cronan's A.C.** was 5th in her 800m heat (2.12.42), all being outside a qualifying spot for their finals.

On the relay front, there was a 4th place finish in the final for the Irish Women's 4 x 100m Relay team which included Munster athletes, **Ciara Neville, Emerald A.C. and Sharlene Mawdsley, Newport A.C.** (Molly Scott, SLOT & Gina Akpe Moses). The same team also set a new National U/20 record of 44.42 in their heat. **Miriam Daly, Carrick-on-Suir A.C.** was part

of the Irish Women's 4 x 400m team that finished 5th in their heat in 3.47.48 while **Jamie Mitchell, Emerald A.C.** was part of the Irish Men's 4 x 400m quartet that also finished 5th in their heat in 3.14.97 with neither team progressing to the finals.



Medal winners for Ireland over the Championships were Gina Akpe Moses, Blackrock A.C. who won gold in the 100m, Michaela Walsh, Swinford A.C. who won bronze in the Hammer and John Fitzsimons who picked up a bronze medal in the 800m.



Fitzsimons crowns brilliant championships for Irish with bronze

POSTED: July 23 2017

Fitzsimons caps brilliant Irish championships

John Fitzsimons crowned a superb European U20 Championships for Ireland in Grosseto, Italy with a sensational bronze in the men's 800m today (July 23).

Fitzsimons (Kildare) was ranked 20th going into the championships and scored a surprise bronze in 1:49.15. The Kildare man ran a personal best of 1:48.68 seconds to qualify for the final as a fastest loser and ran brilliant tactical race in the final to win bronze.

The women's 4x100m relay team of Molly Scott (St Laurence O'Toole), Sharlene Mawdsley (Newport), Gina Akpe-Moses (Blackrock-Louth) and Ciara Neville (Emerald) were a battling fourth in the final in a time of 44.47 seconds.

The men's 4x100m relay team of Mark Smyth (Raheny Shamrock), Cillin Greene (Galway City Harriers), Paul McDermott (Donore Harriers) and Joseph Ojewumi (Tallaght) put in a spirited display to finish 7 in their heat in 40.89 seconds. After some slick changeovers McDermott pulled a hamstring mid-race to hand over to Ojewumi on anchor.

Nadia Power (Templeogue) finished 11th in the women's 1500m final in 4:28.60.

Ireland have won 12 medals previously in the history of this championship and won a brilliant three medals along with multiple finalists, national records and personal bests.

Championship by numbers

Medals

Gina Akpe-Moses (Blackrock-Louth) gold in the 100m

Michaela Walsh (Swinford) bronze in the hammer

John Fitzsimons (Kildare) bronze in the 800m

Finalists and top 8s

Gina Akpe-Moses (Blackrock-Louth) 100m - 1st

Ciara Neville (Emerald) 100m - 7th

Nadia Power (Templeogue) 1500m - 11th

Women's 4x100m relay (Molly Scott, Sharlene Mawdsley, Gina Akpe-Moses, Ciara Neville) 4th

Christopher O'Donnell (North Sligo) 400m – 6th

Elizabeth Morland (Cushinstown) and Kate O'Connor (Dundalk St Gerard's) heptathlon – 5th and 8th

Mark Smyth (Raheny Shamrock) 200m – 6th

Michaela Walsh (Swinford) hammer and shot put – 3rd and 7th

James Edgar (City of Lisburn) 5,000m - 11th

National Records

Elizabeth Morland (Cushinstown) heptathlon - 5,801 points - senior,
U23 and U20

Christopher O'Donnell (North Sligo) 400m - 46.54 - U20