

# St. Peter's AC Malcolm Cup Senior Race Report

## 27/11/2022



Sunday 27th November saw another huge turnout of St. Peter's runners at the annual Malcolm Cup at the Dub playing fields in Belfast and organised by Annadale Striders. This was the first outing for the new club Gazebo which will hopefully shield lots more St. Peter's runners from the elements as the years go on. Tricky start though for said Gazebo who broke a couple of legs as a result of sporadic gusts on Sunday but will return stronger for future events.

Yet again, it was the St. Peter's ladies who stole the show with another masterclass of pack running to ensure victory and leaving every other NI club in their collective wake. First through the line was Kate Mulholland who produced a storming run in the relatively flat and fast Dub course. The in-form Kate finished 3rd overall in a highly competitive race.



Not far behind and working brilliantly as a team were Orlagh McKavanagh, Patricia O'Hagan and Emma Mulholland who took 6th, 8th and 9th positions respectively.

Pushing these 4 on and 5th for St. Peter's was Jourdan Baird in her second ever XC race after Comber last week. Scoring more crucial finisher points in the Athletics NI XC league we had Fiona Toman, Linda Farquhar, Grainne Crilly, Bernie Austin, Gillian Colan O'Leary and Sarah McGeough. All ran strongly throughout with those that hadn't done cross country before this season taking to it like ducks to water. The win and maximum participation points takes the St. Peter's ladies to within a point of Willowfield Harriers who currently top the league.



Inspired by their female counterparts, the St. Peter's men produced their best team performance of the season to finish 6th in another highly competitive race and as the highest finishing team from outside the greater Belfast area. The team were led ably by Marathon Man Stephen Cochrane who now surely has to be considering a change of tact to focus on XC given his performance on the softer surface.



Stephen was closely followed by Caoimhín Robinson who was sharp on his return from a calf injury with Mark Willis and Matthew Mulholland completed the scoring 4 for St. Peter's. As it turned out, every finishing position gained was vital as a tie on points with Coalisland based Keep er Lit meant that Matthew finishing ahead of the 4th Keep er lit runner made all the difference on countback. There were strong runs from every other St. Peter's runner with again more finishing points in the league gained from Gary McNally, Colin Armstrong, Sean Farquhar, Martin McCracken, Mervyn Molyneaux, Dom McGeough, Patrick Conwell and Dwyer O'Connor. Michael Wheavil bravely started the race too but wisely pulled out with a bad leg injury to live for another day. Sean Montgomery was the early bird, representing the black and whites in the Masters only race and finishing well up the field as 8th M35.



Next up for St. Peter's in the Acorn Ac Irwin Spiers Memorial XC in Cookstown on Sat 10th Dec where our ladies will have an opportunity to overtake Willowfield and top the table as we go into a Christmas break.



If anyone who hasn't yet tried XC wants to give it a go then please let one of the other team members know. Having a big a squad as possible is vital on the quest for league glory and we can ensure you'll have a great time too.