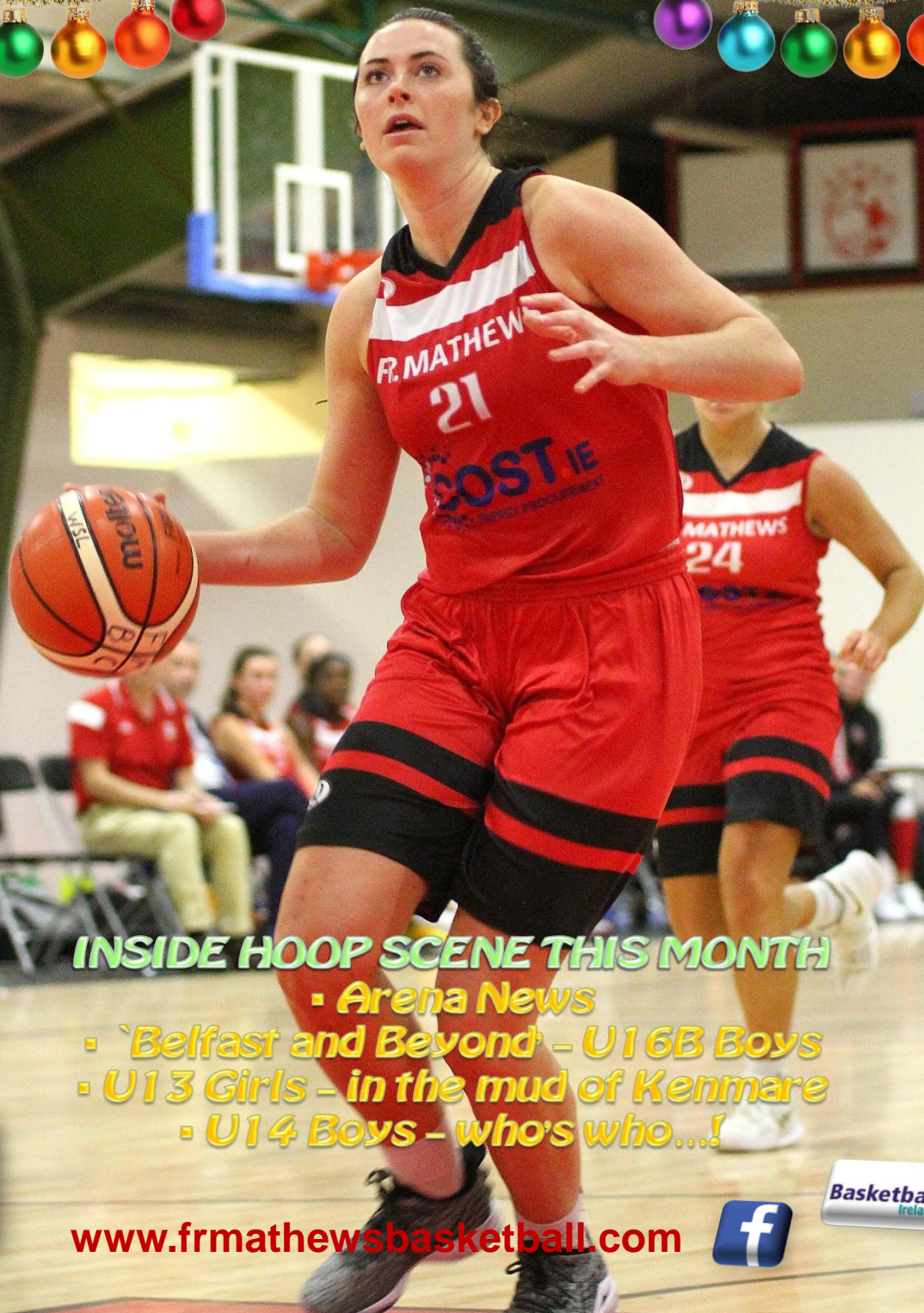


# Hoop Scene

Volume 6 Issue 2

Fr Mathew's Basketball Club's Magazine



## INSIDE HOOP SCENE THIS MONTH

- Arena News
- 'Belfast and Beyond' - U16B Boys
- U13 Girls - in the mud of Kenmare
- U14 Boys - who's who...!



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# Hoop Scene

Volume 6 Issue 2



## Editorial

Welcome back to **Hoop Scene**. Where have the last few months gone? It seems like only yesterday we were all like kids at Christmas time...looking forward to the opening of our new Basketball Arena. Now that Christmas is actually nearly upon us we are still like kids...still playing with our fantastic new toy that is Fr Mathews Arena...

It's fair to say our new Arena has seen plenty of action since we opened the doors in September. We've witnessed some fantastic games in the Women's Super League and Men's National League, our camps have had huge numbers in attendance and teams from all over have come to play either competitively or in friendlies at our new venue. It's been brilliant to see. Make sure you come along in the New Year and take in a few games. Further highlights have been the official opening of the Arena by An Tánaiste Mr. Simon Coveney with special guest Theresa Walsh, President of Basketball Ireland. One of many 'Firsts' for the club was the 'derby' game between our two Division I men's teams (both teams pictured below) – the first time we have had two teams compete in the top men's division in Cork.

The 6<sup>th</sup> December was a very special date for our club. On that Thursday night at Triskel Christchurch Karen & Christiana Underwood held a fundraising concert for Fr Mathews. It was quite an extraordinary and emotional night as we remembered our dear friend Erbie while listening to his mum and sister perform so incredibly on stage. Erbie holds a very special place in our hearts at Mathews and his memory will never be forgotten. Thank you Karen and Christiana...you are true friends of our club. Looking ahead to 2019, we have so many exciting events to look forward to so keep an eye on all our updates on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram as well as our website. A special note on our Premier & Super League ladies who play in their National Cup semi-finals on January 11<sup>th</sup> at Neptune Stadium. Let's all get up to Neptune to cheer them all the way to Tallaght.



Enjoy the issue – enjoy the basketball.

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# Hoop Scene



## Acknowledgements



### **Hoop Scene** Volume 6, Issue 2 – Christmas Edition 2018

#### **Acknowledgements:**

Thanks to everyone for providing photo's and news for this latest edition. In particular I would like to thank the following contributors: **Diarmuid Nolan (P 4), Fr Mathews (P 5), Declan Cahill & the U14A Boys (P 6&7), U13 Girls (P 8), Diarmuid Nolan (P 8), Grainne Carroll (P 9), Basketball Ireland (P 9), Fr Mathews (P 11), Nojus V (P 12&13), Paul Manning (P 14),**

**Hoop Scene** is produced and edited by Pat Connolly (Fr Mathew's Basketball Club – Cork).

All photographs (with the exception of those acknowledged above) are taken by and are the property of Pat Connolly (Fr Mathew's Basketball Club).



# Hoop Scene

## Chairman's Address

It's hard to imagine we are at the mid-way point in the 2018-19 season and only a week away from Christmas – time flies when you are having fun!

It's been an incredible few months for our 20 teams and 2 Academies since the season kicked off back in early September, with many of the highlights on and off the court featuring in this fine edition of Hoop Scene. A huge thanks to Pat Connolly for all his efforts in reviving the Hoop Scene publication and to everyone that contributed articles and photographs.

We are settling in well at our new home in the Fr Mathews Arena with all the substantive construction works now complete. The many benefits of being “under the one roof” are very evident, most notably the vibrant engagement and interaction taking place between teams, coaches, players, parents and supporters with a strong club ethos emerging.

The Club's fundraising efforts continue to deliver an important revenue stream for the Club, with the primary focus being the “50 Friends” and “100 Patrons” initiatives. Please get in touch if you would like to find out more about these initiatives and how they are helping build a strong foundation for the future success of Fr Mathews Basketball Club.



A strong volunteering ethos is the lifeblood of all successful clubs, and we are greatly appreciative of the fantastic support and commitment of all volunteers in the Club – coaches, team managers, table officials, committee members, and volunteer parents. Thank you sincerely for all you do and the positive contributions you make to Fr Mathews Basketball Club.

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year!

Diarmuid Nolan  
Chairman – Fr Mathews Basketball Club



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# Hoop Scene Arena News

If any of you are film buffs you will be familiar with the Kevin Costner movie, Field of Dreams. One of the abiding memories from this movie was the famous catch phrase “If you build it, they will come”.

I’m sure Mr Costner and his ‘Field of Dreams’ team won’t mind if we at Fr Mathews borrow that catch phrase this season because it certainly applies to our new Arena. Since we opened for business at the start of the season it has been truly phenomenal to witness the energy, the action, the enjoyment and the huge numbers of people who have come to play or just watch basketball at Fr Mathews Arena.

We have had numerous clubs come to Cork to play friendly games and experience the new facility. In conjunction with this our Boys & Girls Academy’s are packed every Sunday. It truly is fantastic to see.

So as we head into 2019 It’s nice to take a moment and step back, take a breath and enjoy what has been an incredible few months for our club...



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# Hoop Scene



## U14 Boys - Season Update

### Season Recap:

The guys are really developing massively this year. Everyone is learning loads and have a great attitude in training, a real pleasure and joy to coach. This team has great potential and is working to fulfill it. We currently have 3 players on the regional academy.

So far this season we have won 4 games in the league and lost 1. Most memorable was a one point win in Limerick and 3 point win versus Ballincollig. We also competed in the U14 tournament and had a great experience and can see how and where we can improve on.

By Christmas time we hope to be competing in the Cork Cup final and have booked a place in the All-Ireland tournament.

We wish everyone a happy holidays with your loved ones - **Coach Declan**

### Player Bios

#### Enan #10

Favorite team: Bulls

Favorite Player: DeMar Derozen

Nickname: Ginger Ninja

Best moment: Every training

#### Ryan #15

Favorite team: Boston Celtics

Favorite Player: Kyrie Irving

Nickname: Diarmo Junior

Best moment: Scoring 22 points against Ballincollig

#### Adam #7

Favorite team: the Los Angeles Clippers

Favorite Player: Tobias Harris

Nickname: Albino

Best moment: when I backward blocked Enan

#### Tuan #21

Favorite team: La Lakers

Favorite Player: Antony Davis

Nickname: Renny

Best moment: 6 layups one game

#### Pranav #22

Favorite team: Golden State Warriors

Favorite Player: Steph Curry

Nickname: Piranha

Best moment: Learning your 1&2 for layups

#### Donnacha #11

Favorite team: Celtics

Favorite Player: Lavar

Nickname: Dribbles

Best moment: When I blocked Favour

#### Favours #23

Favorite team: Golden state

Favorite Player: Kevin Durant

Nickname: Favour Flavour

Best moment: Scores the free throw against lions

#### James #12

Favorite team: Lakers

Favorite Player: Lebron

Nickname: Butler

Best moment: when Favour almost dunked



# Hoop Scene



## U14 Boys - Season Update

### Oscar #8

Favorite team: Boston  
Favorite Player: Chris Paul  
Nickname: The big O  
Best moment: Limerick Lions game

### Sam #14

Favorite team: Lakers  
Favorite Player: Lebron  
Nickname: karate kid  
Best moment: I played good against Ballincollig

### Zach #4

Favorite team: Cleveland  
Favorite Player: Kyrie  
Nickname: Big Zac  
Best moment: my 3 pointer against Celtics

### Francois #13

Favorite team: Golden State  
Favorite Player: DeMarcus Cousins  
Nickname: Fresh Swish  
Best moment: Finding out I could play with the U14s



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## Club News

Our U13 Girls certainly know how to enjoy themselves. At the start of December they made the journey to Kerry to play Glenbeigh Falcons in a challenge match. After some great basketball they went on a Team Building event at the Eclipse Centre in Kenmare and had a blast. There's nothing like some mud and water on a hardy winter's day. Well done to the coaches for organising such a great event.



Karen Underwood (below) meets some members of Fr Mathews after her wonderful concert at Triskel Christchurch in December. The concert was a fundraising event for our club. What incredible singers both Karen and her daughter, Christiana, are. We are so grateful for their continued support of our club.



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# Hoop Scene



## Club News

Friday, January 11<sup>th</sup> 2019 is a date for all of us to mark in our calendars as all roads lead to Neptune Stadium for the start of the National Cup Semi-Finals weekend which is being held once again here in Cork. And what better way to open proceedings than with Mathews playing in the first two games – and two Cork derby's to add to the excitement.

The opening game sees our Premier Ladies take on Glanmire at 6:30pm followed directly afterwards by our Super League Ladies who go up against Brunell at 8:30pm in the 'Hula Hoops' National Cup.

We have seen in the past what fantastic supporter Mathews have so we are hoping we have another huge turnout for both these games as we seek another National Cup Final day at the National Basketball Arena in Tallaght.



Our U16 Girls team have been playing some great basketball this season. While they have been working so hard at practice they were probably the first Mathews team to get into the whole Christmas spirit as can be seen from the photo below taken at a training session 'early' in December. Well done girls...

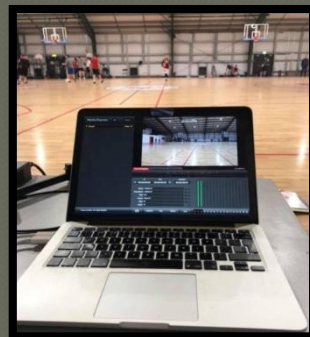


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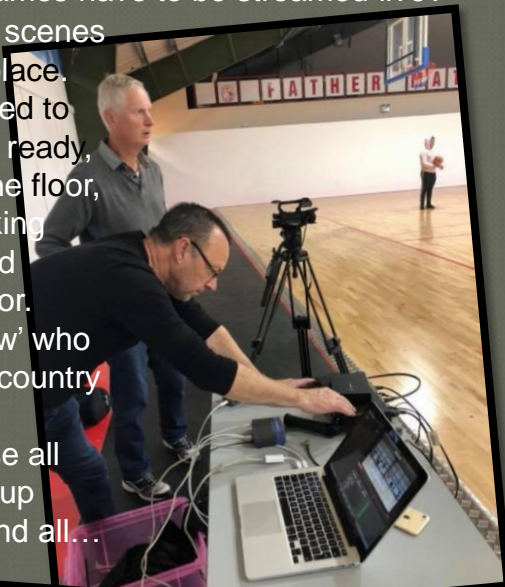
# Hoop Scene

## Club News



Match night at Mathews Arena – it really is a great way to spend an few hours, watching our senior teams compete against some of the best players in the country. It's also a great way for our younger players to learn more about the game. But while you watch proceedings on the court have you ever thought about what is required to ensure these games actually go ahead. Playing at the top level of basketball in Ireland requires much more than just two teams taking to the floor. Basketball Ireland have very strict rules and requirements for all clubs. For instance, did you know that all Super League games have to be streamed live?

So much goes on behind the scenes to ensure each game takes place. Just some of the jobs that need to be done are getting the court ready, setting our chairs, cleaning the floor, running the officials table, taking care of the Commissioner and referees and manning the door. Special note for the 'tech crew' who broadcast the games for the country to see...our very own 'Inside Broadcast Unit'. And of course all the above has to be cleaned up afterwards. Thank you one and all...



# Hoop Scene

# History in the making...



Some key milestones since the beginning of the season have been the official opening of our new Arena by An Tánaiste, Mr Simon Coveney (seen here with our Chairman Diarmuid Nolan), our first competitive match (Men's National League v Ballincollig) and our thriving Boys & Girls Academies which run every Sunday mornings at 12:00 noon.



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# Hoop Scene



## U16B boys Belfast Trip 2018 - written by Nojus U.

On November 30th, 2018, the Fr Mathews U16B boys departed on their first team overnight trip to Belfast to see NCAA Belfast Basketball Classic. The teams participating in the tournament were the Albany Great Danes, Dartmouth Big Green, Buffalo Bulls, Austin State Lumberjacks, Milwaukee Panthers, San Francisco Dons, Brooklyn Blackbirds and the Marist Red Foxes. It was a long road trip up but we couldn't contain our excitement when we finally arrived at our Hotel. I learned I was rooming with Francois and Robert which wasn't too bad!! The hotel was next to the Arena, and after a quick turnaround we headed to the fan zone in the Odyssey where we met Fr Mathews superstar **Grainne Dwyer** who was an ambassador for the games. There was a basketball net set up and we ended up shooting and playing one on one games against each other before the first games. Hernan won a chocolate bar for his spectacular three pointer. Highlight of the tournament for Tom was seeing Chris repeatedly getting blocked by one of the senior ladies from DCU Mercy.

The first match started at 5pm and the matchup was Dartmouth and Albany with Dartmouth getting the victory. The Friday final was between Brooklyn and Marist Red Foxes with Marist running out easy winners. Liam got on the floss-cam (badly in need of some practice) and some team members got a picture on the arena twitter feed with the Fr Mathews banner that Shirley had given us. We were able to get some autographs with the Marist players and Oran got his hands on the trophy. Chris got a few photos with the Marist Cheerleaders who had travelled all the way from New York for the event. After the game while the coaches were ordering the pizzas from Pizza Hut in the Odyssey, we had an impromptu game at the basketball net under the watchful eye of a local security guard! Liam brought his ball and Coach Andrew is constantly telling us to practice so 10pm on a Friday night in a shopping Centre in Belfast is as good a time as any. Aironas helped the coaches bring the pizza's back to the hotel and set up in the dining area.

On Saturday morning most of the players struggled to get out of bed for 8am after forgetting about the concept of sleep – however we were still at breakfast before all the parents and coaches! After devouring our breakfast, we went out on a cultural expedition visiting the Titanic museum which was right next to the hotel in Belfast. It was quite interesting with the mini roller coaster that gave an idea what it would have been like to work in building the ship. We all loved the interactive diagrams with facts, but the most interesting part was the iPad with all the passengers who were on the ship that either died or survived. We spent a good twenty minutes just looking at the people from different countries and people with similar Irish names like Eoin. Emmet collected some German facts about the Titanic for his school project. After spending the morning in the Titanic Centre some of the lads decided to race each other in sprints along the quayside with Hernan winning again and beating Darragh C. narrowly.

The final two games were Austin State and Milwaukee and Buffalo against San Francisco. We were all trying to concentrate on the games, but we were all distracted by Darragh B's chanting.

Of course, Chris was trying to get a picture with anyone that stepped on the court – Dave Hoopla had to hold that smile for a long time!



# Hoop Scene



## U16B boys Belfast Trip 2018 - written by Nojus U.

Rory was also trying to get in on Chris's act. Charlie and Andrew won a pair of thongs each that were thrown to the spectators by some of the volunteers. Buffalo ended up winning a very tight final against San Francisco.



We headed back for the evening to the hotel where we all sat down for dinner as a team. Coach Andrew made us all propose our own toasts. After Liam's toast Darragh B encouraged Liam to drink a small shot of vinegar as a forfeit for some misdemeanour -but nobody's telling! We enjoyed a nice two course meal while discussing our own memorable experiences from the weekend.

On Sunday our trip was complete and after breakfast we headed on the long road home. As a team we want to thank the coaches who organized the trip and to the parents who travelled. We were all delighted with how the trip went and will no doubt remember the trip in the years to come



# Hoop Scene



Finally, don't forget to go to bed early on Christmas Eve...even Mathews Arena will be getting a good night's sleep that night...

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year to everyone

## ***Please SUPPORT our SPONSORS***

**Fr Mathew's** are very grateful for the backing each of our sponsors provide our club. Their continued commitment to our club ensures **Fr Mathew's** continues to develop and grow as a basketball club. Please support our sponsors



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