



**138<sup>th</sup> AGM – Clonliffe Harriers AC**

**11<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

**Address by Sarah Bateson, Women in Sport Liaison Officer  
Clonliffe Harriers Annual Club Meeting**

It has been a privilege to serve as the Women in Sport Liaison Officer during what has been a remarkably successful year for the Women and girls of Clonliffe Harriers. This role, an initiative introduced by Athletics Ireland, was established to bridge the gender gap in sport and ensure our club continues to nurture female athletic development.

As the primary point of contact between Athletics Ireland and the club, I act as the liaison for women-specific news, initiatives, and policy updates. I regularly attend Athletics Ireland forums alongside officers from other clubs to share best practices and successful initiatives. Over the past year, I have facilitated access to various courses and schemes for both athletes and coaches. The objective is to provide our members with the most current research, allowing us to adapt training to better suit female athletes of all age.

Creating a comfortable and inclusive environment is a core priority of this role. Research from *Share The Dignity* indicates that 76.5% of girls who drop out of sport cite a fear of leaking during their period. To address this, we introduced complimentary sanitary products in the women's changing rooms. This initiative has been highly successful and well-received. These supplies are monitored and restocked regularly to ensure consistent availability.

I continue to work closely with Ciara to ensure our female athletes are fully supported and have everything they need to perform at their best on competition days.

The standout success of the year was our second Women in Sport Week held in March. This week-long celebration served two primary purposes:

1. **Visibility:** We promoted a daily showcase of different athletes and groups, highlighting the diverse talent and dedication within the club.
1. **Participation:** We hosted a club-wide track night catering to everyone from U-9s to Master's categories. The level of engagement and support from the club was exceptional.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the coaches and athletes who have engaged so enthusiastically with our new programs and courses. Finally, a huge thank you to the volunteers whose hard work made our Women in Sport events possible. Your commitment ensures that Clonliffe Harriers remains a leading environment for women in athletics.

**Sarah Bateson, Women in Sport Liaison Officer**