

MIDLETON AC

Tom Houlihan

Midleton AC has figured prominently over the years on the Cork County athletics scene since its formation on Monday October 17th, 1966.

The first cross-country fixture hosted by the club was the FCA/Army Championships on Sunday November 20th of the same year, on the lands of Noel Hales at Bilbery, Midleton. Over the years cross-country championships and road races have been regularly organised and promoted by the club.

Over the years many top class athletes have donned the club singlet, not only over cross-country and on the roads, but also in track and field competition, and at both BLE and BLOE level. Many club athletes have represented Ireland at international competition in both juvenile and senior grades. Our most recent juvenile representatives at international level were Laura Hegarty and Kenneth Treacy, both of whom won their respective events - Kenneth the high jump and Laura, the sprint hurdles. At senior level the best known former club member must be Liam O'Brien who competed in the steeplechase at the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles. Liam has also competed for Ireland at cross-country, and he has won the Irish steeplechase title on no less than ten occasions.

Kathleen Glavin was also another well known International competitor, specialising in the long jump and in the sprint hurdles. Kathleen set Irish records in both these events on several occasions. Joe Brice was yet another club athlete who set Irish records in the shot putt and discus, the event for which he is best remembered. His record for the discus stood for a good number of years. Other former top athletes in the club include Mary Fleming, Linda Barrett, Mary and Rosemary Dunne, John Curran, Kenneth P. Horgan, Kenneth L. Horgan, and Tom Walsh. The well known athletics figure, Fr Liam Kelleher, was with the club for many years and did much to promote Midleton AC at county, regional and at national level.

The first chairman of the club was Paddy Hartnett, who later became chairman of the Cork County BLE Board. Another former chairman, Phil Glavin, was for several years chairman of the East Cork BLE/BLOE Board.

Each year the club promotes an open five mile road race on the first Thursday of May, an open juvenile and novice sports on the second Sunday of August and an open juvenile and novice cross-country meeting on the second Sunday of September. There is also a series of four two-mile fun runs in March and April, which is always very well supported even by athletes outside of the club.

Some years ago a synthetic floor was laid on our indoor track. This is a straight track some fifty metres in length on which athletes can train for sprints, hurdles and such like during the long and bleak winter months. There is also a long jump pit at the end of this track and there are also facilities for high jump training.

The club at the moment has a good number of good 'up and coming' athletes with a bright future ahead.