

NORTH CORK AC

Maura Doyle

The North Cork Athletic Club was formed in 1981 and since then has known many successes in both track and cross-country and on the roads.

The club won the trophy for the best cross-country BLOE club in 1988 and 1989 and successes over the years at this level of competition has been continuous. Several of these juvenile athletes have come through the ranks and have gained equal success at senior level. Kieran Stack, Garret Barry and Geoffery Sheehan all won the National junior steeplechase between 1983 and 1987, quite some run in the one event. Garret has of course more recently been one of the premier middle distance runners in the country, being then National indoor 1,500 metres Champion. He also won the 1992 outdoor Championship at this level as well as having taken gold in the 1992 National indoor 3,000 metres.

At the 1988 Seoul Olympic Games the club was represented through Barbara Johnson. Having qualified through a great run at the National Championships, Barbara duly took her place for the Olympic 400 metre hurdles. Kieran Stack narrowly missed the qualifying time for the 3,000 metres steeplechase which was very unfortunate both for himself and indeed the club.

However there was another Olympian in the form of Peter Maher who ran for the North Cork AC when he lived in Ireland during the mid 'eighties. Peter represented Canada in the Olympic marathon last time and of course has since competed in the World Championships for his adopted country.

At National level there have been many successes. Back in 1984 Sheila Curtin won the ladies section of Cork City Marathon. Geremiah Twomey won the National senior cross-country and added the 5,000 metre schools' track title for good measure - both in 1988. Anita Philpott won All-Ireland cross-country championship at under 14, under 15, under 16, under 17 and at under 18 level - quite some achievement. Among her main rivals was none other than Sonia O'Sullivan and in no less than twenty five meetings between the two the balance is with Anita - 23 to 2! Anita is the current National 1500 metre Champion.

Michelle Moloney won National junior championship cross-country at 14 years. In 1988 John Murray won the national under 16 and under 17 cross-country championship. The talent continues to the present day with Annette Quaid among the better prospects. She is the current National under 16 800 metre indoor Champion. Another to the fore at the present is Maria Madigan, the under 16 high jump silver medalist.

At the present the club is busy preparing for the 3rd annual Charleville 10 mile road race. John Lenihan of Riocht won the event in 1991 in a time of 50;50 and the following year Roy Dooney of DCH won in 49;52. Brid Murphy of Leevale won the women's race in 1991 in 59.53 and last year Ursula Noctor won in 57.21. It was with great sadness that we heard of the loss of this great athlete in March this year. The club intends to put forward the "Ursula Noctor" perpetual trophy in this year's Charleville 10 mile race in memory of this great athlete.