

Wicklow Trail

April 6

The Wicklow Trail Race took place on Saturday, 6th April from Glencullen to Lough Tay, Co. Wicklow. With ideal weather, the boggy section at White Hill had dried up leading to fast times. Gerry Brady lived up to pre-race billing by covering the 33 miles in 3hrs 44mins., with Javier Odriozola twenty minutes behind. Frank Martin came home in 4:07. Ray McConnell, Bobby Mitchell, Dan McDonald and Matt Hicknott followed in that order. There were 23 runners and all broke six hours. Everyone paced themselves well. There were no dropouts. Mary Hickey just broke five hours, with the only other female competitor, Jane Watt, taking 5hrs. 16mins. In the 25K (1/2 distance) race from Lough Tay to Glencullen, Bill Porter was first home in 1:36.40, two minutes ahead of Jimmy Synnott, with Kevin Grogan third and first veteran. The last man home was sub three hours.

Some of the best performances of the day were by Tommy Tracey and Paddy Lennon. They started to mark the trail at 7.00 a.m., stayed at Lough Tay until the 25K runners took off and then walked the 16 miles back, removing all the tape they had put up in the morning. What a performance.

1. Gerry Brady 3.44.03; 2. Javier Odriozola 4.04.34; 3. Frank Martin 4.07.01; 4. Ray McConnell 4.20.54; 5. Bobby Mitchell 4.27.22; 6. Dan McDonald 4.28.57; 7. Matt Hicknott 4.37.24; 8. Fergus Brien 4.48; 9. Jack Fahey 4.54; 10. Cormac MacDonagh 4.58; 11. Peter Wirtzfeld 4.59; 12. Mary Hickey 5.00; 13. Justin Keating 5.00.30; 14. David Brady 5.06.13; 15. June Watt 5.16; 16. Brian Byrne 5.23; 17. Maurice Mullins 5.27; 18. Willy Smith 5.28; 19. Dave Forshaw 5.41; 20. Richard Flynn 5.43; 21. Colm McFadden 5.53; 22. Peter Ferris 5.53; 23. Holly Corbitt 5.53.

25K

1. Bill Porter 1.36.40; 2. Jimmy Synnott 1.38.45; 3. Kevin Grogan 1.41.50 (V); 4. Colin Dowling 1.46; 5. A.N. Other 1.51.25 (V); 6. Fred Hammond 1.58.03 (V); 7. Paul Dodd 2.00.29; 8. John Stone 2.01 (V); 9. Des Feeley 2.02.40; 10. Noel Coldrick 2.06 (V); 11. Tim Wallace 2.07; 12. Joe Lawlor 2.07 (V); 13. Kevin Murray 2.07.30; 14. John Bell 2.07.45;

15. Brian Bell 2.09; 16. Diarmuid O'Colmain 2.10.58; 17. Gavin Doherty 2.12.45; 18. Rodney Forde 2.15; 19. Joyce Mitchell 2.15; 20. Hugh Kinsella 2.15; 21. Mick Kennedy 2.24.30; 22. Tommy Martin 2.27; 23. Mary Joyce 2.27; 24. Brendan Doherty 2.36; 25. Gerry Smith 2.37; 26. A.N. Other 2.55.

New Balance Easter Sunday

4 Mile R.R.

Dunboyne

Co. Meath

April 7

1. Noel Cullen, Clonliffe 18.20; 2. R. Mulligan, Clonliffe 18.43; 3. G. Healy, C. Service 19.03; 4. J. Kiernan, Clonliffe 19.20; 5. L. Doyle, Raheny 19.22; 6. C. Gallagher, Finn Valley 19.26; 7. Z. Byrne, Raheny 19.27; 8. E. McGrath, Liffey Valley 19.37; 9. G. Carr, C. Service 19.49; 10. D. Clarke, Dunshaughlin 19.50; 11. P. Hegarty, Finn Valley 19.51; 12. D. Kerr, Armagh 19.58; 13. W.

Morris, West Dublin 20.00; 14. M. Carney, C. Service 20.04; 15. D. Byrne, S.O.H. 20.10; 16. D. Galvin, Sparta 20.20; 17. D. Corcoran, C. Service 20.25; 18. P. Mangan, Dunshaughlin 20.26; 19. E. Keville, Rathfarnham 20.42; 20. D. Murray, Finn Valley 20.43; 21. L. Williams, Sports World 20.44; 22. C. Coyne, Newbridge 20.44; 23. R. Mulvaney, C. Service 20.45; 24. L. Campion, C. Service 20.47; 25. B. Ryan, Clonliffe 20.50; 26. E. Byrne, Dunleer 20.56; 27. M. Lacey, S.O.H. 20.57; 28. J. Donnelly, Naas 21.00; 29. C. Crowley, Raheny 21.03; 30. P. Gleeson, S.O.H. 21.04; 31. C. Shum, Clonliffe (W) 21.13; 32. B. Brady Raheny 21.16; 33. B. Sherlock, Monaghan P. 21.17; 34. O. Murray, DCH 21.18; 35. D. Noonan, Clonliffe 21.19; 36. B. Nolan, Rathfarnham 21.19; 37. T. Hickey, Donore 21.20; 38. M. Nugent, Sports World 21.22; 39. M. Heerey, S. Brigids 21.25; 40.

J. Fleming, Clonmel 21.26; 41. J. Tyrrell, Sports World 21.27; 42. R. Lambe, Knockbridge (W) 21.31; 43. K. Young, Metro St. Brigids 21.40; 44. C. Rennicks, Royal 21.41; 45. M. McCartin, C. Service 21.43; 46. A. Jones, Rathfarnham 21.45; 47. G. Byrne, Unatt. 21.45; 48. D. McGann, C. Service 21.50; 49. J. Brady, Dunboyne 21.54; 50. J. Gill, Fr. Murphys 21.57.

BLE National Marathon

Mallow

April 21

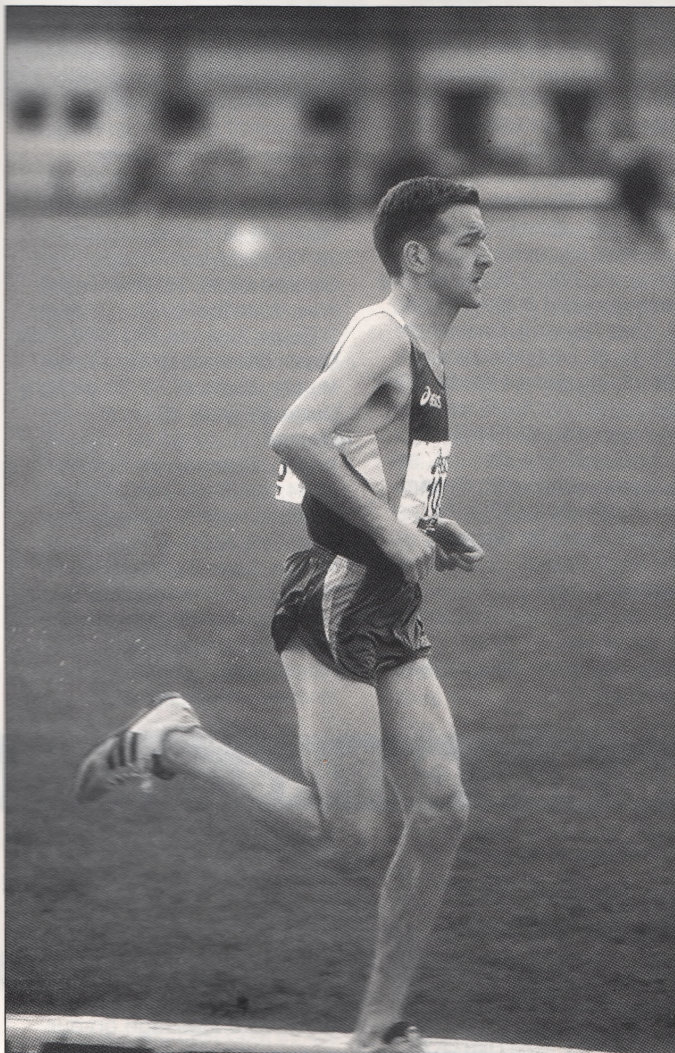
With the proximity of the Boston and London events, entries were, as expected, on the small side for the BLE National Marathon at Mallow. The weather was also in complete contrast to London on the same day (where heatwave conditions prevailed), with an incessant and cold rain throughout.

On the six mile loop around the town, the field was led by Colin Deasy from Coventry Godiva (his father comes from Cork), and Ted O'Flynn of Leevale. Heading out the Cork Road, O'Flynn pushed on and at the 10 mile mark (54.57) was well clear of Deasy (55.42) with John Kearney from East Cork coming into the picture (56.20).

The half-way mark saw O'Flynn through in 72.40 with Kearney over a minute back, and Seamus O'Donnell from Galway City Harriers (winner in '93, and silver-medallist last year) now ominously in third, as Deasy dropped back. Kearney slowly closed on O'Flynn, and took the lead just past the 20 mile mark. He continued to lead up to 25 miles and seemed destined for victory. But as so often is the case in the marathon, the drama unfolded in the last 1000m as O'Donnell, using his vast experience at the distance, came storming through to take his second national title in 2.25.41. Kearney, in his debut at the distance, finished second in 2.26.28, and O'Flynn improved by over 2 minutes to finish in the bronze position (2.27.03).

Brendan McNulty in fourth led his Foyle Valley club to the team title (they also won the Vets team), while Billy Gallagher, a prolific marathon winner in the past, took the veterans title in sixth place.

Brid Murphy of Leevale, was a convincing winner of the women's race, her time of 2.52.52 giving her a margin of almost 20 minutes over Mary-Beth Dillon from



Noel Cullen

Photo: Eoin Clarke

the USA. A native of Mallow, Brid Murphy decided not to travel to Boston, and her decision proved to be correct as she took her third national crown, a remarkable achievement at 43 years of age. Third overall was another vet, Eileen Kenny from St. Finbarrs.

The promoting club, Mallow AC, came in for a lot of compliments for their excellent organisation of the event, with stewarding, refreshments and so on of the highest order. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said of BLE who disappointed many by not having the veteran medals available for presentation, and, just as important, failing to provide the finishers' T-shirts on the day. After completing 26 miles in difficult conditions, the runners deserved better.

1. Seamus O'Donnell, GCH 2.25.41; 2. John Kearney, East Cork 2.26.28; 3. Ted O'Flynn, Leevale 2.27.03; 4. Brendan McNulty, Foyle Valley 2.34.42; 5. Michael Hannon, Sligo 2.35.42; 6. Billy Gallagher, Unatt. 2.35.48 (1st O/40); 7. Patrick McMahon, Palmerstown 2.37.58; 8. Michael Mulligan, Monaghan Phoenix 2.39.50; 9. Michael Delahunty, St. Catherine's 2.39.56; 10. Derek O'Carroll, Blackrock 2.40.17; 11. Ciaran McDowell, Foyle Valley 2.40.27; 12. Sam McAnaney, Foyle Valley 2.40.43 (2nd O/40); 13. Kevin Kelly, Foyle Valley 2.42.23; 14. Kieran O'Dwyer, St. Catherine's 2.45.09 (3rd O/40); 15. Pat Dempsey, Leevale 2.46.12 (1st O/45); 16. Damien McSharry, Sligo 2.47.50; 17. Garry Clarke, TOC 2.47.59 (2nd O/45); 18. Tom Meehan, Sligo 2.48.07; 19. Vincent Flannery, Sligo 2.48.31 (3rd O/45); 20. Kevin McGuillan, Monaghan Phoenix 2.48.42; 21. Derek Quinn, TOC 2.49.52; 22. Jim St. John, St. Catherine's 2.50.07; 23. Gabriel Bell, Foyle Valley 2.51.17 (O/45); 24. Brid Murphy, Leevale (1st W & 1st O/40) 2.52.52; 25. Tony Duff, TOC 2.53.29 (O/40); 26. John Quigley, Leevale 2.54.05 (O/40); 27. Ray Flynn, Sligo 2.54.50 (O/40); 28. Colin Deasy, Coventry Godiva 2.57.10; 29. Joe Murphy, Eagle 2.57.56 (O/40); 30. Liam

O'Riain, TOC 2.59.50; 31. Martin Farrell, St. Catherine's 3.02.01 (O/40); 32. Tom Mackey, Kilmurry-Ibrickane 3.02.25; 33. William McTiernan, Kilkenny 3.03.33 (O/40); 34. Aidan Brickley, Limerick 3.04.03; 35. Andrew Neenan, Mallow 3.04.38 (O/45); 36. Harry McNulty, Foyle Valley 3.05.35 (O/45); 37. Donal Dunne, Foyle Valley 3.07.27 (O/45); 38. Gary Morale, TOC 3.08.04; 39. Tony Hanley, Roscommon 3.10.35 (O/45); 40. Paul Strain, Foyle Valley 3.10.55; 41. Philip Farrissey, North Cork 3.11.38 (O/45); 42. Mary-Beth Dillon, US 3.12.01 (2nd W & 2nd O/40); 43. Don McDonald 3.12.14 (1st O/50); 44. John Milne, Portmarnock 3.13.37; 45. Eddie Coyle, TOC 3.15.02 (2nd O/50); 46. James Murtagh, Clondalkin 3.15.37 (O/40); 47. Edward Harrison, Portmarnock 3.17.45 (O/40); 48. John Leahy, Ballymore-Cobh 3.19.21; 49. Eddie Walsh, KCH 3.19.45; 50. Barry Lenihan, Mallow 3.20.04; 51. David Brady, Rathcoole 3.21.10 (O/45); 52. Noel McNerney, Portmarnock 3.21.35 (O/50); 53. Eileen Kenny, St. Finbarrs 3.23.08 (3rd W & O/45); 54. Joe Malone, Castlecomer 3.26.09; 55. Michael Carroll, Redgate 3.26.31; 56. Stephen Roe, Portmarnock 3.27.16; 57. Tim Finnegan, Mallow 3.28.00; 58. Joe Hourigan, Midleton 3.30.37 (O/60); 59. Mary Joyce, Mullingar 3.31.21 (4th W); 60. Eileen Buckley, St. Finbarrs 3.33.08 (5th W); 61. Michael Sheehan, Emerald 3.35.52; 62. James Pearce, Redgate 3.38.22; 63. Tom Fitzpatrick, TOC 3.39.31; 64. Pat Doran, Emerald 3.39.43 (O/50); 65. Chris Rush, St. Catherine's 3.50.37; 66.-; 67. MartinHawe 3.55.18; 68. Victoria Wade, KCH 3.55.20 (6th W); 69. Eugene Kavanagh 3.58.12 (O/55); 70. Martin Tyrrell 4.14.50; 71. Bernice Glavin, St. Finbarrs 4.31.27 (7th W & O/35); 72. Denis Browne, St. Michael's 4.34.44 (O/70).

Teams

1. Foyle Valley 27 points; 2. Sligo 39; 3. Leevale 44; 4. St. Catherine's 45; 5. Tallaght-Oisín-Cuchulainn 73;

Vets

1. Foyle Valley; 2. Tallaght-Oisín-Cuchulainn 87; 3. St. Catherine's 110.

Women 1. St. Finbarrs 15.

Midleton '5'

May 2

The 13th Midleton '5' - one of many races at the distance in the East Cork area - took place in cold, blustery conditions. John Kearney, less than two weeks after finishing second in the National Marathon, showed he was well recovered by coming home a comfortable winner in a time of 25.35. Runner-up, 40 seconds behind, was young Philip Harty, with Jim Fleming justifying his journey from Clonmel, taking third spot.

Mary Sweeney was the women's winner, breaking 30 minutes in the process. The organising club, Midleton AC, were well pleased with the turnout, the 104 finishers being up on last year.

1. John Kearney, East Cork 25.35; 2. Philip Harty, West Waterford 26.15; 3. Jim Fleming, Clonmel 26.18; 4. Paul O'Mahony, Leevale 26.19; 5. Thomas O'Rean, Leevale 26.33; 6. Eric Meade, East Cork 26.37; 7. Denis McCarthy, East Cork 26.44; 8. Martin Drake, East Cork 26.51; 9. Pat Kerrigan, Mallow 26.57; 10. Philip Weathers, Millstreet 27.05; 11. Dan Horgan, Midleton 27.15; 12. Frank Cashman, East Cork 27.36; 13. Paul Parker, Ballymore-Cobh 28.01; 14. Tom Cody, Midleton 28.13; 15. Myles McHugh, Clonmel 28.19; 16. Colin Lyons, West Waterford 28.25; 17. Brian O'Regan, Leevale 28.27; 18. Paul Dinan, Glanmire 28.39; 19. Pat Murphy, Eagle 28.43; 20. Anthony Quinn, Belgooly 28.44.

Women

1. Mary Sweeney, St. Finbarrs 29.54; 2. Mary Murphy, Mallow 30.43; 3. Helen O'Callaghan, East Cork 32.55; 4. Fidelma Kirwan, Eagle 33.14; 5. Eileen Kenny, St. Finbarrs 33.50; 6. Marion Lyons, St. Finbarrs 33.57; 8. Rebecca Harty, West Waterford 35.11; 9. Breda Morrissey, Eagle 35.17; 10.

Frankie Devlin, Midleton 38.30.

Ballyandreen '5'

May 3

It was definitely the end of an era as Liam O'Brien's amazing sequence of 15 victories in a row came to an end in the Ballyandreen '5', the opening event in the Nike/Ballycotton Summer Series. The East Cork man had picked up a hamstring injury when defeating Kieran Lambe in a 1500m the previous week, and he aggravated it in the steeplechase at the Southern Region Championships on the Sunday and was unable to finish.

At Ballyandreen he was with the leaders from the start, as John Kearney set a cracking pace. However, coming up to the mile mark, O'Brien had no option but to drop out, and so he leaves a lasting record that in all probability will never be equalled.

Kearney, the National Marathon silver medallist this year, went through that undulating first mile in 4.45 and was never troubled as he clocked 9.37 for 2 miles, reached the 3 mile mark in 14.47, and eased his way up the tough hills to reach 4 in 20.10. A 4.55 on the downhill last mile was sufficient to make him only the second winner of the race since its foundation in 1981. He seems well recovered from his marathon debut, and will now concentrate on the shorter road distances, plus a crack at the National 10,000m title.

In second position in what was, arguably, the performance of the night, was 17-year-old Philip Harty from West Waterford, improving again to 25.31, knocking 20 seconds off the junior record. Third was Thomas O'Regan of Leevale, a former winner of the series.

John O'Driscoll of Millstreet AC, who has just reached the veteran age, was first M40 in 8th position, his 26.30 giving him a half-minute margin over Pat Kerrigan from Mallow.

The winner of the women's race was Anna Collins from St. Finbarrs, who was having her first victory in the locality. Her time

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