

1998 Christmas Flash Report

In the absence of the record holder Gerry McGrath and a 'flu sidelined Paul Nolan, Blackrock's Francis Cosgrave blasted away to an easy win in the annual Christmas Flash race on the 27th December. The Dubliner powered ahead of Wicklow's Mick Byrne to win by 1 minute and 17 seconds in very slippery underfoot conditions.

However, Cosgrave's time of 14 minutes dead was 45 seconds outside the former Belfast marathon winner McGrath's record. Behind him, former Irish Orienteering champion Justin May revelled in the treacherous going to close rapidly on Mick Byrne on the tricky descent from the summit cross. He finished just 12 seconds behind in third place and took the veteran's prize.

Justin's wife Una made it a family affair with an easy win in the women's race to head Jane Watt and Mary Dawson. Jane also took the veteran's category. In the men's vets sections, Brian Byrne won the Over 50s category with Sean Swords getting the better of Mike Gomm to win the Over 60s section. Peter Dalton beat Diarmuid O'Briain and Niall Davis to win the Junior race.

1st	Francis Cosgrave	M	14.00
2nd	Mick Byrne	M	15.17
3rd	Justin May	Vet	15.29
4th	Alan Cox	M	16.33
5th	Terry McConnon	M	16.40
6th	Peter Dalton	Jun	16.44
7th	Nigel Bailey	M	16.45
8th	Billy Porter	M	16.55
9th	John McCullough	Vet	17.19
10th	Joe Lalor	Vet	17.48
19th	Una Creagh	F	18.57
29th	Jane Watt	FV	35.25
33rd	Mary Dawson	F	21.31