

Circuit of Glencree Report

by Douglas Barry

"Two and a half hours, and still no sign" I said to Michael Kelly who had retired dispiritedly from third place on the top of the fourth mountain - of seven - in the 20.8 kilometre course. "It's hard out there" the international boxer replied. A blanket of mist had descended on the trickier parts of the course and the 22 hardy souls who had set out at the start had vanished without trace. Michael had been in the leading trio which included Irish champ John Lenihan and Irish orienteering champ and mountain running international Colm Rothery as they emerged from the trickiest part of the course on Tonduff and headed up the access road to Kippure - the highest mountain in Dublin.

John who had travelled up from Kerry after his win on Lugnaquilla, has his eyes set on winning Munster, Leinster and Irish titles in the same year. He and Colm had been swapping the lead and pulled out a hundred yard lead on Michael by the top. The inexperienced Louthman found himself on the top of a windswept summit in thick mist. He had 360 degrees of options and the possibility of getting lost on 359 of them. "I thought of my fight next Saturday with the Ulster Champion and decided enough for today" Michael who hopes to fight at light welter for Ireland in the Sydney Olympics headed back down to Joe Lalor and the sweeper car.

Colm and John meanwhile had taken a pair of wrong options coming off Kippure, and Rothery benefited with a useful lead as they relocated beneath the cloud cover. Lenihan chased after him and caught back up as the climbed to the 525 metre outlying top of Glendoo. As they approached summit marshal Joe Bent together after over two hours of running, John and Colm both were hit by the hunger knock. Colm was still able to descend, but John fell rapidly adrift. Colm was reduced to a crawl going up the very slight inclines of the next couple of tops and looked anxiously behind to see a distant Lenihan suffering even more than himself.

An exhausted Colm Rothery swept in to the finish at Curtlestown Wood and collapsed at the line. Food and water revived him in time to see John Lenihan finish in an even worse state. The Irish champion fell weak and dizzy and only recovered slowly after food and liquid. "At least I got second, I'm suspect after two hours running" the former world champ admitted. Eighteen minutes later Hugh McLindon finished saying "That's the toughest race I've done!!" Joan Flanagan took the women's race after a couple of diversions from a similarly troubled Roisin McDonnell who finish just 4 minutes ahead of Nina Philips.

Circuit of Glencree 13/06/99

Misty with rain on tops

1	Colm Rothery	Metro	157.44	record
2	John Lenihan	Riocht	168.32	
3	Hugh McLindon	Crusaders	186.36	

4	Eoin Keith		198.51
5	Peter Dalton	DSD	202.49
6	Justin Keatinge		212.30
7	Joan Flanagan	Crusaders	214.34
8	Paul Cullen		224.19
9	Vivian O'Gorman		224.35
10	Brian Bell	BHRR	228.30
11	Paul Boothman		230.30
12	Colin Burns		238.02
13	Roisin McDonnell	Crusaders	243.10
14	Nina Philips	Crusaders	247.24
15	Henny Brandsma	Sportsworld	247.30
16	Brian Byrne	Crusaders	251.20
17	Tommy Galvin		259.29
18	Richard Flynn	SET	259.44
19	Gordon Douglas		261.20
20	Caitlin Bent	SET	315.19
	Michael Kelly	North East Runners	Retd
	John Allard	Riocht	Retd

Entries: Vivian O'Gorman, Joe Lalor

Finish: Douglas Barry

Marshals: Joe Bent, Joe Lalor, Douglas Barry

Marking: Joe Lalor, Vivian O'Gorman, Pat Donlon, Joe Bent

Refreshments: Denise O'Gorman

Web: Douglas Barry