

## GLENDALOUGH RACE - Report by Douglas Barry

Colm Rothery (Ajax) showed a muddy pair of heels to the rest of the field for a brief period before disappearing into the dense mist on a tricky Glendalough course. At the start, the winner's mantle seemed, on a sunny warmish day, to belong to any one of Rothery, Cnoc's Aonghus O'Cleirigh or the speedy road runner Gerry Healy (Raheny) who had easily won the second round of the Leinster Championship on Round Mountain.

However, as the leading pack who had been joined by Gorey's Albert Mulhall topped the Spink, overlooking the Upper Lake, two significant things happened. O'Cleirigh and a small group took what appeared to be the more direct line towards Lugduff, and drops of rain began to spatter from an ominously glowering sky. The recordholder Rothery who had been conservatively tracking the leaders decided to take the longer but easier route. As the leaders waded through rough heather further on, a disconsolate O'Cleirigh and Healy looked up to see the pony tailed Rothery with a 400 metre advantage at the top of the mountain.

Healy, an inexperienced navigator, broke away in frenetic pursuit, only to be enveloped by the rolling billows of a rain sodden mist. Disorientated, the unhappy Raheny runner lost sight of Rothery and only after some considerable time managed to attach himself to a chasing group. O'Cleirigh a superb navigator and a former Irish orienteering champion chased across the peat hags to try and locate the key way point Lough Firrib.

Now Lough Firrib hardly deserves the grandiose title Lough. A muddy pond in a wilderness of heathery peat hags, it is notoriously difficult to locate. In swirling mist with visibility intermittently down to 10 metres, so it proved. O'Cleirigh when he emerged some time later on the summit of Camaderry found himself alone sans Rothery with only a view of the 1998 Tour de France Wicklow Gap stage far below him to cheer him up. He chased on down to end up second some 10 minutes behind the winner Colm Rothery at the exposed finish point with its spectacular views.

Rothery had had a relatively untroubled run and wiped nearly 8 minutes off his own record. Australian Mike Walters finished third two minutes behind O'Cleirigh with a bunch which included the luckless Healy a further 20 minutes back. Crusader's Roisin McDonnell finished first woman, while Joe Feeney took the veteran's prize. I personally took the frozen, soaked, and cheesed off official award as bedraggled finishers were still coming in two hours after Colm Rothery.....

### GLENDALOUGH - Leinster Championships Round 3

Sun. 07/06/98 Wet Misty on top

POS	NUM	NAME	CAT	CLUB	TIME
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1	401	Colm Rothery		Ajax	88.35	Record
2	677	Aenghus O'Cleirigh		Cnoc	98.04	
3	426	Michael Walters		Ajax	100.49	
4	563	Cormac MacDonnchadha		Ajax	120.30	
5	457	Joe Feeney	MV	Dunboyne	120.43	
6	848	Philip Brennan		Setanta O.C	121.11	
7	424	Joe Lalor	MV	GEN	121.12	
8	539	Gerry Healy		Civil Service Harriers	121.13	
9	614	Damien Courtney		Kerry O	121.30	
10	675	Mick Mangan		Setanta	122.16	
11	509	Roisin McDonnell	F	Crusaders	122.49	Record
12	676	Albert Mulhall			123.04	
13	441	David Cronin	MV		123.21	
14	690	Dominic Lynskey			123.58	
15	553	Eddie Casey			123.58	
16	482	Dave Weston		Setanta	125.43	
17	519	Ciaran Donaghy		GEN	126.34	
18	425	Thomas Galvin			131.16	
19	498	Gerard Cahillane	MV		134.15	
20	431	Brian Bell	MV	BHRR	136.26	
21	455	Aidan Fitzpatrick			136.32	
22	850	Gerry Lalor			136.33	
23	405	Henny Brandsma	MV	Sportsworld	137.38	
24	437	Kim Ging	F		141.08	
25	613	Colin Dowling			141.09	
26	565	Justin Keatinge		Ajax	147.58	
27	504	Kevin Murray	MV		181.25	
28	506	Gordon Douglas	MV		182.25	
29	479	Michael De Burca			182.38	
30	487	Paul Dodd		AIB	193.00	
DNF	634	Johnny McElhinney			retd	

**Entries:** Douglas Barry, Henny Brandsma

**Finish:** Douglas Barry

**Results:** Douglas Barry

