

1998 Howth Winter Race report

Crusaders' [Paul Nolan](#) took a easy win in the 9 kilometre Howth race on Sunday (20/12/98). The Irish international sped away from the start and was never troubled by the opposition. He pulled out a long lead over the two laps of the undulating route which only takes in a small height difference of 183 metres but makes up for it with its narrow and tricky trails. The route starts at the GAA club and wends its scenic but torturous way over the small hills on the top of peninsula that guards the entrance to Dublin Bay.

On a crisp clear day with wet underfoot conditions that made the going difficult, Nolan's time of 29 minutes 41 seconds missed the record held by former national 10,000 track champion Gerry McGrath. However he finished over 3 minutes ahead of Rathfarnham's Terry McConnon who himself had a 20 second advantage over another former international John O'Connell (Metro). Ennis's Tom Casey took 4th place and the Vets prize. Simon Walters was 5th and Kevin Grogan 6th and second vet.

Una May (nee Creagh) won the women's race in a time of 37 minutes 17 seconds from Mary Jennings the winner of the 1998 National Marathon championships. Una was just under a minute clear of Mary, but Mary had the satisfaction of being first veteran woman and breaking Jane Watt's record by 55 seconds. Kirsten Ambler was 3rd with former vet recordholder Jane Watt 4th. The junior race was won by Crusaders' Alan Dolan in 40 minutes 51 seconds.