

Kippure - John Downes Benefit Race Report



Former Irish orienteering champion Colm Rothery emulated his brother Eoin's previous success when he won the 10k Kippure race on Wednesday 5th August. The race was held to raise funds for former Irish Cross Country champion John Downes (picture). Rothery scored a surprise win over Irish 10,000 metre champion Noel Berkeley who turned out, despite a wonky ankle, along with sixty one others to support his troubled friend ([see background](#)).

Rothery, Berkeley, Paul Nolan, and Aenghus O'Cleirigh spearheaded the leading group on the frenetic charge on the dirt road that leads into the main soft peaty climb up Kippure. Rothery and Berkeley pushed on ahead, detaching themselves from the others, and reached the summit transmitter at the top of Dublin's highest mountain (757 metres) with little between them.

Rothery whose parents were out to watch him and his brother Eoin - returned on holidays from Australia - powered away on the descent from the more circumspect Berkeley. "I had to watch it as my ankle was niggling me" Noel said later. Colm romped home followed by Berkeley and a further two minutes later by Aenghus O'Cleirigh. Former Belfast Marathon winner Gerry McGrath who started over six minutes late wound up with the third fastest time.

A good performance by Carey Edge (formerly May) made her fastest of the women on the day, but her time of 50 minutes 23 seconds was some way off Beth McCluskey's record. The former Irish marathon record holder who only lost her record to Catherina McKiernan last year was another back home from the USA on holidays. In the men's race Tommy Payne's eight year old record remained inviolate. A combination of wind and the muddy underfoot conditions ensured that Tommy's 1990 time of 37 minutes 27 seconds was not going to be troubled on this occasion.

While the turn out was good considering the holiday period, the IMRA are keen to push the level of funds raised for John Downes up higher. Anybody who couldn't make the race is urged to send a cheque or postal order to IMRA c/o 26 Sidmonton Court, Bray, Co. Wicklow, Republic of Ireland. Make your cheque payable to the IMRA please.

Men

1	Colm Rothery	39.46	
2	Noel Berkeley	40.01	
3	Aenghus O'Cleirigh	42.40	
4	Brendan O'Brien	46.05	
5	Adrian Tucker	46.28	
6	Kieran McDonald	47.27	
7	Paul Nolan	47.42	
8	Gerry McGrath	47.47	Late Start 41.17
9	John McDonnell	48.23	
10	Gerry Lalor	48.50	

Women

1	Carey Edge	50.23	
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