

## LUGNAQUILLA

Crusader's **Paul Nolan** emerged from the mist shrouded Lugnaquilla to score a surprise victory in the opening race of the Irish Championship. Nolan who has stepped up his training during the winter and finished impressively in the BHAA cross country series was thought by the local pundits to be a dark horse for the honours. However the former Junior winner of this race in 1990 made light of the water logged 10K course up and down Leinster's highest mountain to pull ahead of Ajax's **Colm Rothery** and the 1996 champion **Francis Cosgrave** in the final slippery dash down to the finish.

The late withdrawal of the current Irish champion **John Lenihan** left the race wide open. The Kerryman's knee flared up during the week and he was reluctant to aggravate it on the testing course. The injury was expected to benefit Cosgrave, but he failed to capitalise on former World Champion Lenihan's absence. Rothery led Nolan by 150 metres at the rain drenched summit cairn with Cosgrave, nursing a sore hamstring, a close third. On the steep descent, Nolan powered away from the former champion to catch Rothery who made a poor route choice at a critical point.

"I wandered off course a little and found myself up to my knees in bog; Paul took a better route option" A disappointed Rothery said later. Despite this, the Irish Orienteering champion was still ahead of Nolan at the summit of Camara Hill with one mile of steep descent to go. However, the Crusaders runner had the bit between his teeth, used his fearsome descending skills, and made a brave passing move on Rothery in the slithery underfoot conditions. The race was won in that moment, and, despite renewed efforts on the run in, the Ajax runner had to give best to the younger man.

In the women's race, Irish Champion **Majella Diskin** had an easy victory over the much improved **Nina Philips** (Crusaders) who got the better of Irish international **Kim Ging** in a close battle for second. The 1988 Irish champion **Brian O'Reilly** took the veterans race from **Denis Reidy** and **Joe Lawlor** with Limerick's **Bernard Collins** first in the over 50 supervet category. In the Junior men's race which went to the top of Camara Hill and back, Donore's **Mark Doyle** stormed away to win from **Kevin English** (TOCAC) and **David Simpson**.

## LUGNAQUILLA - IRISH CHAMPS Rnd 1

**Sunday 19/4/1998 Wet Windy**

| POS | NUM | NAME                   | CLUB      | TIME  | CAT |
|-----|-----|------------------------|-----------|-------|-----|
| 1   | 407 | Paul Nolan             | Crusaders | 54.14 |     |
| 2   | 401 | Colm Rothery           | Ajax      | 54.28 |     |
| 3   | 402 | Francis X.<br>Cosgrave | Blackrock | 57.15 |     |
| 4   | 436 | Matt Hickmott          |           | 64.52 |     |

|                                   |     |                  |                         |        |     |
|-----------------------------------|-----|------------------|-------------------------|--------|-----|
| 5                                 | 426 | Michael Walters  | Ajax                    | 66.18  |     |
| 6                                 | 427 | Brian O'Reilly   |                         | 67.57  | MV  |
| 7                                 | 434 | John Brennan     |                         | 68.15  |     |
| 8                                 | 404 | Denis Reidy      | Ajax                    | 68.39  | MV  |
| 9                                 | 445 | Simon Walters    | A.I.B                   | 68.57  |     |
| 10                                | 423 | Andy Illidge     | Mersey Fellrunners      | 70.15  |     |
| 11                                | 443 | Paul Smyth       | Ajax                    | 74.49  |     |
| 12                                | 403 | Majella Diskin   | Riocht                  | 75.23  | FV  |
| 13                                | 444 | Adrian Hayes     | Bray Runners            | 76.19  |     |
| 14                                | 440 | Bernard Collins  | Limerick                | 77.22  | MSV |
| 15                                | 421 | Mick Saunders    | Mercia Fell Runners     | 77.34  |     |
| 16                                | 405 | Henny Brandsma   | Sportsworld             | 77.42  | MV  |
| 17                                | 424 | Joe Lalor        | GEN                     | 80.11  | MV  |
| 18                                | 425 | Thomas Galvin    |                         | 80.47  |     |
| 19                                | 435 | Larry Callaghan  | Liffey Valley           | 81.11  |     |
| 20                                | 428 | Vivian O'Gorman  |                         | 81.59  | MV  |
| 21                                | 431 | Brian Bell       | Bray Head Ridge Runners | 83.17  | MV  |
| 22                                | 432 | Noel Coldrick    | Bray Head Ridge Runners | 86.28  | MV  |
| 23                                | 447 | Nina Philips     | 3ROC                    | 90.29  | F   |
| 24                                | 422 | Frank Murphy     | Glenasmole              | 90.41  | MV  |
| 25                                | 437 | Kim Ging         |                         | 90.48  | F   |
| 26                                | 439 | Tom Cahill       |                         | 93.13  |     |
| 27                                | 430 | Nigel Creighton  |                         | 93.18  |     |
| 28                                | 441 | David Cronin     |                         | 94.54  | MV  |
| 29                                | 438 | Eva Mulleady     | Crusaders               | 101.09 | F   |
| 30                                | 433 | Jimmy O'Brien    | Ajax                    | 103.22 | MSV |
| <b>SHORT COURSE - CAMARA HILL</b> |     |                  |                         |        |     |
| 1                                 | 406 | Mark Doyle       | Eagle M.R.              | 15.41  | MJ  |
| 2                                 | 442 | Kevin English    | Tallaght A.C.           | 18.47  | M18 |
| 3                                 | 488 | David Simpson    | Rathfarnham             | 20.38  | M16 |
| 4                                 | 429 | Alan Bell        | Bray Head Ridge Runners | 21.25  | M14 |
| 5                                 | 446 | Kieran O'Donovan |                         | 25.22  | M16 |

Times:- Pat Donlon, Douglas Barry

Entries:- Pat Donlon, Vivian O'Gorman

