

1998 MANGERTON RACE REPORT

Irish Mountain running champion John Lenihan (Riocht) was given a close race by DSD's track star Noel Berkeley on Mangerton on Sunday 1st August. A confident Berkeley who intends to make an impact on the Irish team for September's World Mountain Running Championships at Ile de Reunion, had recently won three Leinster League mountain races in a row prior to retaining his Irish 10,000 metre track title the previous weekend at Santry.

The DSD runner was keen to test himself against the former World Champion on the tougher Kerry terrain with its steeper climbs and rougher descents. However, Lenihan trains regularly up and down the tricky Mangerton route and proved impervious to the Dubliner's efforts to head him on the 550 metres climb up to the Devil's Punchbowl lake just below the summit. When the Kerryman reached the narrow, airy ledge that separates the Punchbowl from the 300 metre drop into the Horse's Glen, Berkeley decided discretion was the better part of valour on this occasion, and let Lenihan go.

The Riocht runner set a new record of 45 minutes 37 seconds for the modified 10 kilometre course and ensured that he took the Munster championship title. Berkeley eased back on the steep descent to finish an untroubled fourth behind Willie Guiney (Desmond Currans) and Cork's John Feehan. All Ireland Champion Majella Diskin won the women's race. A bemused Berkeley said afterwards, "I was only pushing it on the climb as the Worlds are uphill only this year, but John's strength surprised me. However, a bit more preparation, and I'll take him on the Brandon selection race in three weeks"

A feature of the race this year was the walk section which had 24 entries. This section threw up an amazing performance by former Olympian Pat Murphy from Castleisland. The Riocht race walker burned up the mountain to reach the grassy summit in 40 minutes, a time that would be respectable for many runners. Despite falling a few times on the tricky descent, Murphy blitzed down to finish in a time of 76 minutes 43 cseconds.

1	John Lenihan	45.37
2	Willie Guiney	52.19
3	John Feehan	53.39
4	Noel Berkeley	53.55
5	Mike McAuliffe	54.03
6	Willie Reidy	56.33

Womens

1	Majella Diskin	67.24
2	Ann Mangan	80.43
3	Kathy Chambers	81.52

Walk

	Pat Murphy	76.43
--	------------	-------