

# Clonliffe Harriers Victory in the National C.C.

Report  
and Pics  
KEN HARRIS

## "The Inside Story"

It was last year, after the team, and National Cross Country Championships in Tipperary, that Paddy Marley, captain of Clonliffe Harriers said to the late great Frank White, Hon. Secretary, Clonliffe, that they would win back their National team crown in their centenary.

Not alone would they win it back, they would do it at Santry, their home ground. There would have to be a lot of hard work done to beat a very strong Limerick side, which was the quote from Marley.

When the cross country season came about, Marley got the team together for the Dublin Cross Country Championships in Santry. They won decisively. At this stage hardly any speed work was being done and the team only met once a week in Santry on a Sunday morning. The idea was to get the spirit into the team, and to regain the hunger to win the Nationals. Harvey had just come back from injury but was going quite easy at this stage.

After the Christmas period and the celebrations of the start of Clonliffe's Centenary Year, Marley got the lads, including Intermediate and Novice men to do some speed work on the track on Tuesday nights. One week he would get them to do repetitions of 800m and the next he would have them doing 1200m. Slowly but surely Clonliffe were getting there. Their hunger, strength and speed were showing stronger as each week and training session went by.

Saturday mornings on "Munich" saw the Clonliffe team bear fruit from their consistent training as a team. "Munich"



Training on "Munich"



John O'Leary in charge  
of the course for the  
Nationals.

was the brainchild of the one and only Gerry Farnan R.I.P. (Metropolitan Harriers), was a tough and very testing session. It was designed to give you strength and speed at the same time.

The majority of the team went to the Eastern Region Cross Country Championships in Trim. This was to be a slight setback for Paddy Marley and the team. Slaneyside beat them but it did not dishearten or effect the team. They were more determined to win the Nationals now. They had worked nearly a year to regain the title and nothing but nothing would stand in their way.

Marley decided to run the team the following week in the Raheny 5 Mile Road Race. It was to be the boost the team required at the time, to put them back on their feet. Noel Harvey who had just come back into some sort of form, tore the field apart after 3 miles and won handsomely. There was four Clonliffe men in the first nine places which was pretty good, taking into consideration the calibre of the Raheny Race.

The Tuesday following the Raheny race, Dave Taylor arrived home from the U.S. Dave had promised the late Frank White that he would return and assist Clonliffe retain their title.

On the following Saturday Taylor joined the team in the Phoenix Park, over "Munich" and looked all go and with a lot of speed in his legs. On that Sunday afternoon, the teams competed in the Liffey Valley relays. The womens section had a first and second and the mens team with Noel Harvey, Eamonn Tierney, Denis Noonan, Tim Cleary, Dave Dunne, Gerry Wise, Padraig Keane and Jim McGlynn to name but a very few, walked away with a 20 seconds margin at the

Paddy  
Marley  
keeping  
tabs.



finish. Marley reckoned with one more track session and the team would be as ready for the Nationals as ever.

The last session of 800m reps. showed just that. Kiernan, Taylor, Harvey, Redmond, Curran were flying like eagles in the sky. It was now up to the lads to put the pieces together on the day, to show that the team was the one to beat.

The day before the Nationals while the course was being prepared in Santry, on the other side of town Gerry Kiernan was doing some easy strides in Leopardstown race course, but tragically Kiernan went over on his ankle. The ankle was swollen up like a balloon and Kiernan had to pull out. It was a major blow for Clonliffe.

To show how good a captain Marley was he got the lads together and told them that they could still win. No team was unbeatable not even Limerick or Clonliffe or anybody.



Ready for action.

When the team saw Mary Donohoe take the womens event they knew that it was going to be Clonliffe's day and Clonliffe's day it was. With Harvey taking the bull by the horns with 200m to go and kicking away from Woods, Mulligan and Dooney, he made it an historic double for the black and amber. The team which included Harvey 1st, Taylor who had fallen on the 3rd lap finished 5th, an inspirational run by the red headed Curran in 15th and making the team complete Dermot Redmond having a gutsy determined run in 20th saw the team do what they set out to do 12 months ago—win the national title.

It was back in the Morton Stadium once again. It was a pity Frank White was not here to see it. but I know from being a Clonliffe Harrier that everyone was thinking of him on the day. This one was for Frank. Here's to potbelly.

Ken Harris