

## HEHIR AND RYAN SET TO BATTLE IT OUT ON THE STREETS OF TUAM

THE eighth running of the Tuam Athletic Club 8km Road Race takes place on Sunday at 2.30. This race started back in 2005, when 130

entrants took to the streets of Tuam in County Galway. The race entry has grown steadily every year since and last year just over 400 completed the

traditional two-lap course around the town.

Major road works in and around the town of Tuam has resulted in a new single-lap, fast, flat course being designed for this year's event and a record entry of more than 500 is expected.

**Sean Hehir** (Rathfarnham WSAF

AC), who recently won the Fields of Athenry 10k, will be taking part, as will three-time race winner **Gerry Ryan**.

The women's race should also provide an interesting contest and it is expected that **Veronica Collieran** will return to defend her title.

The first 300 entrants into

Sunday's race will receive a 3-pack of top-quality Kelanji running socks. Entry fee is €15 and there is a €1,200 cash prize fund, including all age category winners and team prizes.

Online entry is available via [www.runireland.com](http://www.runireland.com). Late entries will be taken on the day. For further info visit [www.tuamac.com](http://www.tuamac.com).

# UP AND RUNNING

**FRANK GREALLY** WITH THE LATEST NEWS FROM THE LOCAL RUNNING SCENE



The award winners at the Athletic Association of Ireland Leinster Star Awards dinner in Carlow last Saturday

## Top events filling up fast as huge demand swells entry numbers

IT looks like there is a busy season ahead on the Irish road-running scene as events like the John Treacy Dungarvan 10 on January 29 and the Ballycotton 10 on March 4 are already closed for entries.

The RTE Operation Transformation 5k in the Phoenix Park on February 18 is also full to the 5,000 entry capacity after only three days of promotion. The 1,500 entry limit for the John Treacy Dungarvan 10 was reached during Christmas week. The annual Ballycotton 10 was sold out before Christmas.

Another top road race that is fast filling up is the annual AXA Raheny 5 Mile, which takes place on Sunday, January 29. The online entry for this event is now open at [www.rahenyshamrock.ie](http://www.rahenyshamrock.ie). Race director Pat Hooper can be contacted at 086 8158052.

Meanwhile, European Cross-Country champion **Fionnuala Britton** this week helped launch the annual Great Ireland Run 10k, which takes place in the Phoenix Park on Sunday, April 15. This is the 10th anniversary of the event in Dublin and the organisers have an entry target of 12,000 for this year's race.

RTE2 will again show the race live. The Great Ireland Run will also incorporate the Athletics Ireland National 10k Championships.

This year's nominated charities are the Marie Keating Foundation and the Jack & Jill Foundation.

The online entry service is now open at [www.greatirelandrun.org](http://www.greatirelandrun.org). The hotline for the event is: 1890-930-139.

# Brilliant Britton tops Leinster honours list

THE Athletic Association of Ireland Leinster Star Awards Dinner took place on Saturday night in the Seven Oaks Hotel in Carlow.

It was a most enjoyable social occasion and honoured high-level achievers in athletics from each of the Leinster counties, as well as four great long-standing volunteers to the sport.

This was the 21st anniversary of the Leinster Star Awards and the overall Outstanding

where I first discovered my love for cross-country," Britton wrote in her message.

"I would like to thank the people in both organisations that helped, encouraged and supported me along the journey to winning a European Championship."

There was special cheer too for the recipients of the 2011 Outstanding Service to Athletics Awards - **PJ McGrath** (Meath), **Mick Hayden** (Offaly), **Sean**

Muldowney (Castlecomer AC).

**LAOIS** - Nessa Millett (St Abban's AC), Conor Daly (St Abban's AC), Aidan Kelly (St Abban's AC).

**LOUTH** - Amy McTeggart (Boyne AC), Mark Rogers (St Peter's AC), Geraldine Finnegan (Dunleer AC).

**MEATH** - Alison Daly (Na Fianna AC), Garrett Kelly (St Andrew's AC), Darragh Rennicks (Bohermeen AC).

**OFFALY** - Eileen Rafter (Tullamore Harriers), Dean Power (Tullamore Harriers), Joseph Multigan (Tullamore Harriers).

### Fixtures

#### TOMORROW

**Art O'Neill Challenge**, trek start 11.59pm; Ultra run starts 2.0am. From Dublin Castle to Glenmalur Valley: 25km road. 30km off-road. C: 086-3997278.

[www.artoneillchallenge.ie](http://www.artoneillchallenge.ie)

#### SATURDAY

**Orienteering: Dublin by Night**. Phoenix Park, [www.orienteeing.ie](http://www.orienteeing.ie)

## Fitzpatrick cruises home

**THOMAS FITZPATRICK** (Individual) was a clear winner of Saturday's South Dublin County Council 4-mile Cross-Country race at Tymnion Park. Fitzpatrick hared into an early lead and finished strongly in 21:36, comfortably clear of **Mick Clohisey** (SPAR, 21:43) and **John Eves** (UCD, 22:09).

**Niamh Devlin** (UCD) took the women's race over two miles in 11:49, ahead of **Catherine Devitt** (Research Consultant, 11:57) and **Fiona Mahon** (Primary Teachers, 12:16).

The next BHAA race is at Firhouse on Saturday, January 21, when the Eircom/