



Sean Hehir, Sharon Woods and Lizzie Lee taking part in the Charleville International Half-Marathon. GARY LEE

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Winners pick up the pace at Charleville Half-Marathon

Mighty Quinn holds off Moran threat

Martin Quinn of Dunleer AC came home a winner in the closely contested Rathfarnham 5k road race — an event that attracted a record entry of over 1,100 runners.

Quinn, a native of Tallinstown, won in 15.00, but he had to fight all the way to hold off the challenge of Thomas Moran of Dunshaughlin AC who finished one second adrift on Sunday.

Cillian O'Leary of Raheny Shamrock AC was third in 15.04 with Thomas Hayes (KCH) clocking 15.05 and Barry Minnock (Rathfarnham/WSAF) in 15.10 finishing fourth and fifth.

Eoghan McGinley of Belpark AC was sixth in 15.10 followed by Dermot McDermott (Sligo AC) with 15.18, Paul Fleming (Rathfarnham/WSAF) in 15.20, Louis McCarthy (Rathfarnham/WSAF) in 15.22 and Brian McMahon (Clonliffe Harriers) in 15.29.

There was a close contest too in the women's race, with Olympic marathon runner Linda Byrne of DSD taking top spot in 16.16 ahead of Orla Drumm of Crusaders AC in 16.24 and Barbara Cleary (Donore Harriers) in 16.32. Teresa McGloin (Finn Valley AC) was



fourth in 16.40 and Lorraine Manning (Raheny Shamrock AC) finished fifth in 16.43.

This was the second victory of the weekend for men's race winner Martin Quinn, who also won a 5k event in Monaghan on Friday.

The 33-year-old is only back running in the last few years after being out of action for nearly a decade with a cruciate ligament injury he sustained while playing football.

"I'm delighted with my weekend's performances and I am now looking forward to my next race, which will be the Galway Bay Half-Marathon on October 6," said Martin.

Byrne was pleased to win the Rathfarnham 5k for a

second time, but she now plans a change in tack. "I have decided to race this cross-country season for a bit of variety and then look at running another marathon next spring," she said. "I think that Ireland can have a strong women's team in the European Cross-Country Championships at the end of the year, and I hope to be able to contribute to this team."

Rathfarnham 5k race director PJ Claffey was delighted with the record entry for this year's event.

"We received great support from our sponsor — énergie fitness clubs," he said. "It is heartening to see our entries swell, and we received a big surge of late entries on the day. A lot of work goes in to putting on a club-organised event like this and it is important that we can keep the entry levels up."



Runners set off in the Rathfarnham 5k on Sunday (above); Aisling Coppinger (inset) from Runworx hits the road; Alex Cunningham (centre) from Brothers Pearse AC strides out; and Elif Dibek and sister Ayse, from Turkey but living in Dublin, in action. TOMAS GREALLY

Sergiu Ciobanu of Clonliffe Harriers posted a fast time of 1:04.52 to win the Charleville International Half-Marathon, which attracted an entry of more than 600.

Ciobanu, who came agonisingly close to achieving the Olympic A marathon standard that would have seen him compete for Moldova in London, finished comfortably clear of 2011 National Half-Marathon champion Sean Hehir of Rathfarnham/WSAF AC, who posted 1:05.18.

Paddy Hamilton (Annadale Striders), finished third in 1:06.48, and Gary O'Hanlon (Clonliffe Harriers) was fourth in 1:08.14. Sandis Bralitis (West Waterford AC) was fifth in 1:08.36, followed by Chris Harrington (Leevale AC, 1:09.27), David McPherson (1:09.32) and Michael McDiarmada (Clonliffe Harriers, 1:10.07).

Maria McCambridge of Letterkenny AC was also in sparkling form when winning the women's race in a lively 1:12.52 — well clear of Barbara Sanchez (Raheny Shamrock AC, 1:15.53) and Lizzie Lee (Leevale AC, 1:17.54).

Julie Turley (Dromore AC) was fourth in 1:17.59, ahead of Angela McCann (Clonmel AC, 1:20.08) and Ailish Malone (Clonliffe Harriers, 1:21.31).

This Charleville Half-Marathon has in just two years gained a big reputation for an exceptionally fast course and top-quality organisation. The event also attracts many of the top Irish road runners, as can be seen from Sunday's results.

It is good to see an event like this that delivers some good, in-depth quality up front at a time when many road races are being won in what can best be described as mediocre times.

Charleville International Half-Marathon race director Michael Herlihy puts a lot of focus on assembling a quality field up-front in the men's and women's events, and his approach appears to be paying dividends.

CRUSADERS MARK 70 YEARS

Crusaders AC in Dublin will be hosting an anniversary dinner next month to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the club and the 50th birthday of its ladies' section.

The dinner will be held on Saturday, October 13, at the Alexander Hotel in the city centre at 7.30pm.

All former and current members of the club are hoped to attend.

Tickets, priced at €35 each, can be obtained from club president John O'Connor. For more information email crusadersathleticsclub@gmail.com.