

**ULSTER SPORTS COUNCIL**  
**WAR MEMORIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Promoting Club Finn Valley AC, Stranorlar  
Sunday, 16 Feb 1986

By Ollie Thomas  
Archive: Ollie Thomas

**Athletics in South Donegal**  
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Sunday last, the 16 February saw an end to the Cross Country Season for the majority of athletes in South Donegal, many of whom I am sure are happy to see an end to it all for another year. The venue was Stranorlar and the event was the 'Ulster Sports Councils Vets, War Memorial Championships and Junior Ladies'. The going was firm with good underfoot conditions, a far cry from the course the previous Sunday at Navan.

In the Vets 3000m Jim Boyle finished a splendid 8th place while Sean Keenaghan and Oliver Thomas (Snr) both ran with great determination to make up the scoring team which finished a very credible 4th place.

In the main event of the day, the War Memorial for Senior Men we saw our own Pat Burke out there in front stringing them along in the early stages. South Donegal Harriers had nine athletes on the starting line with some notable absentees due to illness or injury. We wish them a speedy recovery. Pat Burke and Andy Stevens showed well for the first couple of laps. Pat suffered from his unusual fast start but settled down nicely to run his usual composed race. Andy suffered from knee problems drifting back on the fourth lap but still finished comfortably. Who would have predicted this time last year that these two men would be competing and training so well after a relatively short apprenticeship in senior athletics. Ollie Thomas (Jnr) and Paddy Donoghue ran elbow to elbow for the first lap and a half or so, before the former decided he was running in a race and then proceeded to make up some ground. This young man as with some more of our younger men has got tremendous potential, only to realize this.

The remainder of the team were a mixture of youth in the shape of ever consistent Charlie McGrane and Damien Thomas, and experience in Damien Gallagher the improving Charlie McCafferty.

**South Donegal Harriers Results Vets**

8th - Jim Boyle  
20th - Sean Keenaghan  
25th - Oliver Thomas (Snr)

**South Donegal Harriers (War Memorial) Results**

18th - Par Burke  
20th - Ollie Thomas (Jnr)  
33rd - Andy Stevens  
46th - Paddy Donoghue  
52nd - Charlie McGrane  
55th - Damien Gallagher  
60th - Damien Thomas  
65th - Charlie McCafferty