

Seven men inside four minutes in the Morton Mile at Santry

One of the legendary Billy Morton's great sayings was "everything will be fine on the night" and so it was in Morton Stadium last night as the early evening showers dissipated and the wind died down and the scene was set for a fine evening's track and field in the joint promotion by Dublin Athletic Board and Clonliffe Harriers.

Morton had a great affinity with the mile having once staged a world record and he would have been well satisfied with seven men breaking the still magical four minutes in the aptly named Morton Mile with American Will Lear leading the field home in 3.56.81 and West Waterford's David McCarthy dipping inside four minutes for the first time outdoors in sixth clocking 3.59.69.

Joe Warne took the field through the first 880 yards in 1m59 with the entire field tightly bunched a few meters behind. With 3m01 on the clock at the bell a fast last lap was inevitable and Craig Miller and Jack Bolas accelerated around the top turn and down the back straight as the field stretched out with McCarthy mixing it with the Americans down the back straight. Lear was second last year and was happy to move up a place this year and he moved to the front entering the straight and went on to record a fine win in 3.56.81 a brisk last lap of 55 seconds which gave him great pleasure." I am very happy to win. I knew at the bell it was down to a big kick and I am delighted to win and I will now continue the season with a few more races around Europe" was his post race reaction track side.

David McCarthy was pleased with his 6th and Sean Connolly, Dan Mulhare and Joe Sweeney all moved down in distance and ran faster than ever before with Liam Reale continuing his late season improved form with a 4.01.49 clocking.

James McIlroy was the fastest of the 61 800 meters men in action as he clocked an impressive 1.48.83 as he continues his search for a qualifying time for the Commonwealth Games in Delhi in October. Feidhlim Kelly took him through to 500 meters and James powered on from there down the back straight. "I am happy enough with the time in what is a comeback season for me and I feel confident that I can get the qualifying mark for Delhi "he commented after the race. Tommy Carroll, Andrew Connick followed McIlroy home in personal bests as did Brian Kelly of St. Abban's who continues to improve winning the second Development Race in 1.53.16.

Australians Liza Corrigan and Bridey Delaney dominated the women's 800. With Liza looking every bit the 4m05 1500 meters she is as she cruised to victory in 2.06.29 another athlete with Commonwealth games on her agenda. Raheny's Siobhan Eviston broke new ground with her 2.09.80 with Iseult O'Donnell and Becky Woods also running faster than before.

Amy Foster was an impressive winner of the women's 100 in 12.09 with national champion Jonathon Holmes the fastest of the men clocking 10.80.

Stuart Greene cleared 4.65 a new P.B. to win the Pole Vault.

Full results on dublinathletics.com Nick Davis