

TIPPERARY ATHLETES



Martin Egan

by Michael O'Dwyer

Martin Egan was born on 23 September 1920 at Attifineen, Shanaglish, near Gort, County Galway. He was the fifth son of Martin Egan, a farmer, and Margaret Egan (née Campbell). His parents got married on 12 September 1912 in Shanaglish church. In the 1930s the family moved to Cregboy, Shanaglish, which is a mile from the home place, and Martin and his siblings attended the local Lurga National School. Martin Egan won his first national senior medal at the age of nineteen when he was a scoring member of the Clare-based Feakle Athletic Club that won the Irish inter-club cross-country championship at Greenpark Racecourse, Limerick in 1940. The winner was clubmate Patrick 'Pato' O'Halloran, and another of the scoring six was Liam Loughnane, uncle of hurling man Ger Loughnane. There was no championship held the following year due to an outbreak of foot and mouth disease in the country. In both 1942 and 1943 not only was Martin Egan the winner of the national cross-country championship but he led Feakle Athletic Club to win as first club. From then on he ran with Galway athletic clubs, and in early 1946 shortly after the end of the cross-country season he started working in Tipperary at the Ballingarry mines and he joined Coolquill Kickhams Athletic Club. He most certainly had a successful track season in his first few months with the Tipperary club by winning five Irish titles throughout that summer. On 4 August 1946 he competed at the Irish athletics championships, held in Dundalk, and won the 4 miles title by taking 5.8 seconds off Tommy Conneff's fifty-nine year-old Irish record with 19:38.6. Altogether, throughout his athletics career Martin Egan won thirty national titles on the track. Another national cross-country medal he won was when he was a scoring member of the Kilconieron Athletic Club team, from Galway, that won the Irish inter-club cross-country championship in 1952. Martin Egan died on 9 November 2006, aged eighty-six, and is interred in Shanaglish cemetery.

Titles Won at Senior National Championships:

National Athletic and Cycling Association Championships

1942	3 Miles	15:41
1942	Cross-Country (Inter-Club)	47:33
1943	10 Miles	56:09
1943	Cross-Country (Inter-Club)	46:40
1944	3 Miles	-
1944	4 Miles	20:05.6
1945	2 Miles	9:56
1945	3 Miles	15:15
1945	8,000 m	25:38
1945	5 Miles	26:02.5
1945	6 Miles	31:35
1946	2 Miles	10:32
1946	3 Miles	14:51
1946	4 Miles	19:38.6
1946	8,000 m	26:04.6
1946	5 Miles	24:22.4
1947	3 Miles	-
1947	10 Miles	55:15
1948	4 Miles	20:09.6
1948	6 Miles	31:59
1948	10 Miles	54:43
1949	2 Miles	9:38
1949	4 Miles	19:51.4
1949	8,000 m	26:26.6
1949	5 Miles	-
1949	6 Miles	-
1949	10 Miles	55:06.2
1950	2 Miles	9:32.4
1950	4 Miles	20:14.6
1950	10 Miles	56:08.2
1951	4 Miles	19:59.5
1951	8,000 m	26:20.4