

Noel leads team to Borneo jungles

Fitness

Clarins Eco Challenge

COULD you run a mile cross country in under eight minutes? Or are press-ups more your thing?

What about swimming in sheer blackness through insect infested waters while carrying a rucksack of 20 kilos on your back? Or cycling over rough terrain with wild animals crossing your path?

These are just some of the amazing adventures ahead of a team of athletes representing Northern and Southern Ireland who will make their way to the remote jungles of Borneo in August to compete against 80 international teams in Eco Challenge 2000.

Led by Dromara man Noel Hanna, the team of one woman and three men, are currently putting themselves under extreme conditions as they prepare to take on

the world at the international event in August.

Other members of the North South team are Alison Morris (24) from Saintfield who works as a fitness instructor and has the potential to become a top multi-sport endurance racer. Timmy Flavin from Co Kerry, and Ian Cummings from Co Louth.

Eco Challenge is the world's premier expedition race attracting the best adventure athletes from around the world and which is held in a remote region of the world each year.

TRULY WILD PLACES

The 2000 Eco Challenge in Sabah, Malaysian Borneo will offer



Lynne Stark, General Manager of Clarins, with Dromara athlete, Noel Hanna and Alison Morris from Saintfield.

competitors a chance to explore one of the last truly wild places on Earth. With over 2,000 species of animals on the island of Borneo, the theme of the 2,000 race will be Malaysia's wildlife.

The disciplines involved will include jungle trekking, caving, mountain biking, fixed ropes, paddling in Murut canoes, sailing in Perahu outrigger canoes and scuba diving. All members of the team must take part in and complete all disciplines which will take them through jungle rivers, tropical rainforest, jungle

mountains, caves and pristine ocean.

Team leader Noel has great experience in many endurance events. In November 1997 he became the first British person to win the Himalayan 100 mile stage race. In last year's Eco Challenge his team finished 25th.

Several local companies have contributed towards trip expenses, however, the cost of undertaking the trip in the region of £13,000 is met by the team members themselves. Anyone who is interested in lending their support to Noel and his colleagues can contact him on 0411 216612.