

Swim Ireland News

Issue - March 2013

Welcome....

Welcome to the March Issue of the Swim Ireland Newsletter. It's been a busy month with lots happening and we are delighted this month to feature our Education Team . We also feature Water Polo, Masters and we prepare for our AGM, Congress and Awards Night on the 13th April. If you have any news for our E-Zine please send it to pr@swimireland.ie. The next Newsletter will issue in April 2013.

Swim Ireland Coaches Clinic 2013 in association with the American Swimming Coaches Association (ASCA)

Registration for the Swim Ireland Coaches Clinic 2013 is now CLOSED. We are delighted that the course which includes speakers from the American Swimming Coaches Association is full to capacity with over 125 Coaches from Ireland, USA, UK and other European countries. All those registered to attend please be aware that due to the large number of attendees on Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th April, Swim Ireland has moved the conference venue for these days to Westmanstown Sports and Conference Centre.



The Conference is just one of many areas that our Education Team deal with including numerous courses, in a number of different categories including qualifications, Continuing Professional Development and Coach Development. For further information please visit -

www.swimireland.ie/education-development

Education Team Staff Members



Director of Education
Charlotte Parker



Education Manager
Jemima Coates



Awarding Body Officer
Louise O'Toole



Delivery Body & Learn to Swim
Paolo Di Paola



Women in Sport Officer
Geoff Massey

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Olympic Gold Medallist Gergely Kiss Visits Water Polo Under 14 Cup

Young Water Polo players in Ireland were delighted this month when 3 time Olympic Gold Medallist and World Champion Gergely Kiss from Hungary visited them at the Irish Water Polo Association Under 14 Cup in Galway. The Hungarian idol brought along his Olympic medals and got into the pool to give the players and spectators some tips. Congratulations to Corrib WPC who were the Gold Medal winners on the day. The Water Polo Executive did a fantastic job bringing Gergely across and putting a new format for the event in place allowing maximum participation for teams.



Under 14 Cup Results

Semi - Finals

Clontarf 6—9 Drogheda

St Vincents 6— 10 Corrib

Bronze Medal game

St Vincents 9 - 8 Clontarf



Final

Corrib 10 - 6 Drogheda



Inaugural Irish Schools Interprovincial Championships

Swim Ireland and the Irish Schools Swimming Association (ISSA) have announced that the inaugural Irish Schools Interprovincial Championships will take place on Monday 6th May in the National Aquatic Centre, Dublin.

This new meet in the swimming calendar has been introduced as a part of the on-going merge of Swim Ireland and the ISSA. One of the aims of this merger is to provide swimmers with increased opportunities and a higher level of experience within our sport.

Swimmers have been selected by their Regional Schools Committees based on the results of their Regional Senior Schools Championships and will be informed of their selection in the coming weeks by the relevant committee. Congratulations to all swimmers on their selection.

For anyone wishing to come along and support their province, the event will run from 12 noon to 4.30pm approximately.

Teaching or Coaching? Have you got your Swim Ireland Licence?

A reminder for all members that there is a requirement that all SI teachers and coaches have a SI licence for this year as of January 2013. Having a licence means that you have the relevant qualifications, have completed Child Welfare requirements and are continually updating your knowledge of the sport. We would urge all teachers and coaches in clubs to ensure that they have completed their Licence applications in time for the October 2013 renewal process. Qualifications and Continuous Professional Development opportunities can be discussed for you and your club with our education team through the following email addresses.



education@swimireland.ie edmanager@swimireland.ie eddelivery@swimireland.ie

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Awards Night 2013—Galway Bay Hotel

REMINDER!! The Swim Ireland Awards Night will take place on the 13th April at the Galway Bay Hotel. We are delighted to be joined by RTE Radio Presenter John Kenny, who will compere the event which will be followed by music from Galway's "The Lewd Tunes".

Tickets are still available at just €40/£35 through the

Swim Ireland shop on www.swimireland.ie/shop or by calling the Swim Ireland office on (01) 6251120.



Swim Ireland AGM/Congress



The Swim Ireland AGM and Congress will take place on Saturday 13th April at the Galway Bay Hotel.

We are delighted to announce that our main Congress Speaker on the day will be Gerry Duffy of "32 Marathons in 32 Days" fame.



A copy of our Annual Report is now available on the Swim Ireland website to download.

Job Vacancies—Club/Regional Support Officers

Swim Ireland is delighted to announce that the recruitment process has started for the employment of 3 club/regional support officers for the regions of Connacht, Leinster and Munster (A Development Officer is already in place in Ulster). The support officers will each be based within a region, visiting clubs on a regular basis and working particularly closely with the relevant regional management committee. They will be on hand to provide assistance/advice on development issues (technical and administrative) and be the key relationship manager for all Swim Ireland Club and Regional matters.

The need for the officers has come from the consultation that has taken place with clubs and regions in respect of the new 4 year Swim Ireland Strategic Plan 2013-2016. Clubs have strongly identified the need for a more visible presence on the ground, providing support and guidance. Despite recent funding cuts from the Irish Sports Council it has been decided to address this issue without delay and early on in the life of the new strategic plan to ensure the voice of the membership is heard. Swim Ireland wants to fully support clubs and regions in their day to day operations and feels this is a huge step forward in helping develop and support clubs/regions and thereby deliver positive results for the Swim Ireland membership.

The jobs have been advertised as of Wednesday 27th March. For a more detailed job description please see our website www.swimireland.com/job-vacancies

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Update on Vetting—Northern Ireland and Ireland

Important update on vetting legislation in Ireland and the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Adults) Act 2012



All clubs will shortly be receiving information on the changes to the vetting process based on the new legislation due to be operative this year. The new Act – the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Adults) Act 2012 – was signed on the 26/12/2012. **BUT** the Act will not be operative until such a date as decided by the Minister of Justice and Equality. The information being sent out to clubs will explain the changes in advance of this legislation becoming operative so Clubs can ensure they are operating within the legal requirements. If you have any questions please contact the National Children's Officer (children@swimireland.ie)

Update on Vetting Applications – Access NI

There has been a new form issued by Access NI for all standard and enhanced applications. The new application and ID is available on the Swim Ireland and Swim Ulster websites to download, all other versions of application form should be destroyed.

Anyone affected by this should note that there is a deadline for submitting applications on the old Access NI form and therefore we have set a deadline of **5pm 10th June 2013** by which all applications completed on the old form must be submitted to Ruth McQuillan in Swim Ulster. Applications on the old form submitted after this date will be returned. This will allow the Swim Ulster office adequate time to process these old application forms before the Access NI deadline (30th June 2013).

Please contact Ruth McQuillan (ruth@swimulster.net) if you have any further questions or require help.

Swim Ireland CEO addresses European Conference

Swim Ireland's Chief Executive Officer Sarah Keane was a guest speaker earlier this month at a European Sports Conference, hosted by Ireland as part of the Irish Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

The Conference, which was held in Dublin Castle was attended by representatives from all over Europe and Ireland and included speakers such as Minister Michael Ring, Derek McGrath, CEO of the European Rugby Cup, Prof Stefan Szymanski, Professor of Sports Management at the University of Michigan and Irish athletes Olive Loughnane and Eoin Rheinisch.



Pictured: Keith Wood, Sarah Keane, Eugene Hillick (SI Chairman)

The conference focused around Economic and Financial Models for Sport and Sarah along with Keith Wood (W2 Consulting & former Irish International Rugby player) gave Perspectives from Irish Practitioners. Sarah spoke about the need to have proper structures, people and plans in place in order to be successful.

"We need to be always looking for the right balance, from board room to poolside among people who remain enthusiastic but who are willing to learn along the way and make positive contributions."

Masters Swimming—for swimmers aged 19 and over

It's been a story of races, records, and rankings this month for the masters swimmers. First came the races in Crawley, Limerick and Swansea.

Bangor masters swimmer Alan McMullan would agree that sometimes its better getting older. Moving up to the 60-64 age-group he had his best day ever when he took part in the **SE England Masters Championships** in Crawley, West Sussex. He set four Irish masters records in the 50, 100 and 200 backstroke events and in the 200 individual medley, as well as new provincial times.

IRISH OPEN LIMERICK 2013 AWARDS

Club Award: Aer Lingus SC

Overseas Team: Potters Bar SC

Best Male Swimmer: Paul Emmet (Half Moon SC)

Overseas Male Swimmer: Ian Bays (Potters Bar SC)

Best Female Swimmer: Claire O'Dwyer (Dublin SC)

Overseas Female Swimmer: Irene Allen (City of Glasgow)

Limerick 1500 Trophy: Norma Cahill (Ennis Masters)

Limerick 50 Trophy: Mark Battelle (Limerick Masters SC)

Next came a very successful **Irish Open Long Course** (50m) weekend in Limerick on 01/02 March, with many first time masters taking part. The youngest entrants this year were 20, and the oldest 78. Some highlights included four members of the Hardy family taking part in the opening event; Tony O'Brien (Aer Lingus) breaking the 200, 400, 800 and 1500 records during one swim, Norma Cahill (Ennis) winning the Limerick 1500 Trophy, and Mark Battelle (Limerick) winning the Limerick 50 Trophy. The trophies were pre-

sented to those swimmers closest to a World Masters Record in their age group.

The increasing importance of Masters swimming on the Swim Ireland agenda was recognised by the presence of Sarah Keane and Peter Banks. Sarah addressed the clubs on the research into the popularity of swimming for adults, and how Swim Ireland will be targeting the development of adult swimming from participation through to Masters.



Picture: Swimmers at the Irish Open Long Course in Limerick

Just one week after Limerick John McCarthy (Glenalbyn) competed at the **Welsh Open LC Masters in Swansea**, and broke two further national masters records in the 50-54 age group for the 200 backstroke and butterfly.

Finally came the eagerly awaited FINA 2012 'top ten' rankings which are published annually each March. 10 swimmers were individually world ranked, over 29 swims (Botond Solymossy, Carol Cashell, Claire O'Dwyer, Dan Golden, David Graham, Dymphna Morris, Helena McGrath, John Cunningham, Sara English and Tony Morris). A further 9 relay teams recorded top ten times (Aer Lingus, Belfast Masters, Dolphin, and NAC).

What to look out for in April: In the next issue we'll be reporting on the Kingdom Munster Masters (Tralee) and Sliabh Beagh Distance Gala (Monaghan) which are both taking place towards the end of March. Also look out for the European rankings which are just out.

The driver for masters swimming is the **Development Plan** which was first adopted in 2010. It has been recently revised to reflect progress over the last three years and the latest version is now available. A programme of clinics is being developed for Masters of all abilities, so look out for these too in the coming months. Clubs are encouraged to provide feedback on all things Masters at meetings held during swim meets or through their representatives on the Masters committee. Further details are available online www.irishmastersswimming.com.

Irish Masters Record Summary 2013:

January: 20 short course (25m), Derry

February: 4 long course (50m), Crawley

March: Almost 60 long course individual and 16 relay records broken subject to ratification, Limerick