



## A message from **John Treacy**



Welcome to the latest edition of the new look newsletter of the Irish Sports Council. This is an important edition for us as it contains the details of our new strategy Building Sport for Life.

We developed the new strategy in 2005 in consultation with you, the sports partnerships, governing bodies, athletes, and other sports organisations. I want to thank everybody for their contributions to the strategy and for the high approval ratings you submitted on the work of the Council.

We will be focusing on two key areas; increasing participation in sport, and improving performance at world class level. Increasing participation in sport is central to all of the Council's work. The complete national roll-out of the network of Local Sports Partnerships is crucial if we are to provide opportunities in sport in every community in the country.

All sports organisations have their part to play and we are committed to working in partnership with all relevant agencies to continue the development of sport in Ireland.

In the high performance sport the establishment of the new Institute of Sport this year is a major development. We will see significant developments with the Institute over the coming months.

For our elite athletes it proved to be a very successful summer season with particular highlights at championship level in athletics, boxing, rowing and Paralympic athletics. What is especially encouraging is that in each of these sports there are squads with a depth of young talented men and women who can look forward to representing Ireland for some time to come.

This is the fifteenth edition of the newsletter and, to coincide with the launch of our new strategy, Building Sport for Life, it was time to give it a new look. We are going to feature more colour images from our growing library of photographs. We welcome any addition to that growing library and will consider any new photos or articles for publication in the newsletter.

I hope you enjoy the new newsletter and wish you all well for the winter ahead.

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The ISC newsletter is compiled and edited by Sinéad McElroy of the ISC. As ever you can contact Sinéad on [newsletter@irishsportsCouncil.ie](mailto:newsletter@irishsportsCouncil.ie) or 01 860 8800 with news or comments, any such feedback would be most welcome.

**Contributions in this issue from:**  
Matthew Canning; NSAI and  
Paul McDermott; ISC



# Building Sport for Life

**We officially launched our new strategy for the three year period 2006-2008; *Building Sport for Life* to the media on the 28<sup>th</sup> of September at a reception in Dublin. We did not launch the strategy until this stage as we wanted to ensure one of its key components; the Irish Institute of Sport, was up and running.**

The development of the Strategy took place in 2005, largely based on extensive consultation with our client organisations e.g. NGBs, LSPs, athletes etc. This consultation took place in order to evaluate work done to date and to inform the future strategic direction of the Council.

The Council decided at the outset of this process that the foundations of the previous strategies remain very relevant and will continue to underpin the actions of the organisation.

Building Sport for Life reviews the Council's performance since 2003, reflects the critical developments since Sport for Life was published such as the Athens Review, the World Anti-Doping Code, and our research programme, and sets out the key targets of the organisation for the next three years.

In 2006 the Council budget is €40.9 million and the staff establishment stands at 25. In order to successfully implement and complete the strategy the Council requires an annual budget of €50 million and a staff establishment of 34.

The Council will pursue two high level goals over the life of this strategy;

- The Council will focus its efforts on increasing the number of people participating in sport and physical activity.
- The Council will work to ensure Ireland's performances in elite international sport improve.

*“The Council decided at the outset of this process that the foundations of the previous strategies remain very relevant and will continue to underpin the actions of the organisation.”*

The following are the stated objectives of the strategy which we will measure to determine the success of our work over the next three years.

1. Increase the number of people participating in Sport in partnership with governing bodies, sports partnerships and other relevant agencies. The target is to increase adult participation rates by 1.5% over the life of the strategy.



This increase will be sub-divided along the following lines; Firstly, a reduction of 1.5% in the number of totally inactive adults. Secondly, an increase of 1.5% in the number of adults meeting the recommended minimum level of health-enhancing physical activity.

*\*The percentage change in participation will be measured against the baseline rates published in our 2004 ESRI research study; Sports Participation and Health Among Adults in Ireland.*

2. Increase by 3% in the numbers of children taking part in some level of extra curricular sport and extra school sport combined.
3. The sports partnerships are charged with increasing participation and ensuring that the experiences in sport are positive. Essential to the achievement of objective one will be the complete national roll out of the Local Sports Partnerships. *Sixteen Partnerships are currently operational and the remainder will be established based on the recommendations of the DAST commissioned Fitzpatrick Report of 2005. Recently three more partnerships have come on board in Monaghan, Offaly and Carlow bringing the total number in existence to nineteen.*

4. Measurably improve the performance of elite sports people in world-class sport through the implementation of the Athens Review, and meeting the Athens Review targets of six finalists at the Olympic Games, and twelve finalists at the Paralympic Games.

*The much welcomed establishment of the Irish Institute of Sport is an integral element of the Council's plans to pursue our high performance objectives as set out in the strategy.*

5. Improvements in elite sport will also be measured by performances at European and World championships as well as developmental and junior levels. Targets will be set in Performance Plans agreed with the sports bodies.

6. Continue to publish research on sport that contributes to the understanding of the sector, and that will inform effective policy and decision-making. The target is to publish four pieces of research each year.

7. Build stronger understanding of the role of the Council, higher public profile and greater awareness of the outcomes delivered by the Irish Sports Council's work.

8. Further strengthen the internal organisation so that it can deliver on the strategy.

*An internal reorganisation has created a Participation Unit in the Council which is working with the governing bodies and sports partnerships implementing the Council's plans to increase participation in sport.*

9. Protect the integrity of the sport through a world class anti-doping programme.

*The service of sample collection in this programme will be carried out to a high quality standard under a revised system implemented fully from within the Council, thereby protecting the integrity of the core business of the unit. This service is being brought in-house. It has been decided that the Programme will ultimately move out of the Council into an independent agency, provisionally scheduled for 2009.*

10. Strengthen key relationships so that they are delivering to the Council Strategy and meeting the objectives of the partner organisations.

The actual strategy document was printed in early June and a picture of the late Caroline Kearney competing for Ireland was featured in the document (page 3). Her father Frank and her sister Edith expressed the wish that her picture remain in the document and the Council would like to extend our sincere thanks to them both for their co-operation, and generosity in this regard.

“The much welcomed establishment of the Irish Institute of Sport is an integral element of the Council's plans to pursue our high performance objectives as set out in the strategy”.



John, Minister John O'Donoghue and Ossie share a joke at the strategy launch.

# Just Sport Ireland



## Federation of Irish Sport establish new arbitration system for Irish sport

**The ISC funded Federation of Irish Sports (FIS) has announced a major new initiative on behalf of Irish Sport. A new dispute resolution authority, called *Just Sport Ireland (JSI)*, is being established by the FIS.**

Just Sport Ireland will provide an independent, accessible, efficient and affordable dispute resolution system for sport, away from the glare and potentially crippling costs of the courts and is in the final stages of formal incorporation.

*“Just Sport Ireland will provide a major service to Irish sports bodies and the personnel involved bring huge expertise and commitment to the task. I am delighted that Finbarr Flood who, amongst other roles, is well known for his involvement in Soccer and a past Chairman of the Labour Court, has agreed to act as Chairman of the Panel of Arbitrators.”*

Derek Brennan, President, Federation of Irish Sports

The Directors of Just Sport Ireland will be Ercus Stewart S.C. (Chairman), Sinéad O'Connor (Camogie), Debbie Massey (Basketball), Paddy Boyd (Sailing), Jim Glennon (Rugby), and Derek Brennan (Cricket).

The announcement of Just Sport Ireland was made on the night in September when the FIS hosted a seminar titled *‘Irish Sport – the Political Agenda’*. Over 80 people attended, representing almost 40 NGBs, FIS partners and the media.

Chairman John Bowman introduced the expert panel which included the Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism, Mr John O'Donoghue T.D., Jimmy Deenihan T.D. (Fine Gael), Jack Wall T.D. (Labour), and Stephen Martin, Chief Executive of the Olympic Council of Ireland.

Following presentations by each speaker there was a lively debate and a question and answers session which covered a wide range of topics affecting sport in Ireland. The success of the event prompted FIS President Derek Brennan to invite the speakers back again for another review of the politics of sport in Ireland next year.

*“Just Sport Ireland will provide an independent, accessible, efficient and affordable dispute resolution system for sport.”*



# Women in Sport Initiative Grows and Grows

**The details of the 2006 ISC Women in Sport Initiative were unveiled by Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism Mr. John O'Donoghue T.D. at a reception at Irishtown Athletics Stadium in Ringsend recently. Double European Boxing Champion Katie Taylor was the perfect guest of honour on the day.**

The Women in Sport Initiative was born in 2005 when Minister O'Donoghue made a special budget allocation of €750,000 to the Council to encourage more women and girls to become active in sport. In view of the success of the first year of the programme the Government decided to increase the level of funding three-fold to €2.25 million this year.

One new exciting programme made possible by the funding is Athletics Ireland's *Fit4Life* programme, which was featured at the launch. The new mass participation running programme is based on the very successful West Waterford AC winter league.

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Minister John O'Donoghue T.D. pictured at the Irishtown Athletics Stadium in Ringsend where the WIS launch took place.

The West Waterford league began in 1994 and boasts an average of 350 participants per week, with the social aspects one of its winning features.

The *Fit4Life* leagues will be run in fourteen locations around the country. The participating clubs will run two eight week long leagues from October to February, and will work with the Local Sports Partnerships and the AAI Development Officers to ensure the events' success. While the emphasis is on getting women of all ages involved in *Fit4Life*, men are most welcome to take part also. The fourteen locations can be found on the AAI website [www.athleticsireland.ie](http://www.athleticsireland.ie)

In total €1.43 million is going to 35 Local Sports Partnership and National Governing Body projects that emphasise innovation, and are designed to provide access to sport and remove the barriers that prevent women taking part as participants, coaches or officials.

€620,000 was awarded to Basketball Ireland, and Cumann Peil Gael na mBan specifically. This funding was directed in Basketball Ireland to build on their Regional Development Officer network, and to support their

activities as part of the European Year of Women's Basketball. Cumann Peil Gael na mBan were awarded the additional funding to assist the successful implementation of their strategic plan, and the build on the success of their 2005 pilot programmes. The funding will enable Ladies GAA to run three programmes; *Ladies, Grab Your Whistle, Ready...Steady...Play*, and *Gaelic for Girls*; their participation programme in disadvantaged areas.

Of the 35 programmes, there are many that catch the eye. Irish Gymnastics took on the challenge of reintroducing Ireland to the discipline of rhythmic gymnastics with their hugely successful *Reviving Rhythmic* programme last year and are now in a position to build on its success by employing a full time development officer.

The Badminton Union of Ireland are new to the Women in Sport Initiative this year and are employing their own Women in Sport officer and running their own *Women in Leadership* and *Women in Management* programmes.

The Irish Hockey Association's mini-hockey initiative was particularly successful last year largely due to the prominence it was given at key club and international games. Irish players came along and coached the participants before these games and the girls then attended these big matches at the national hockey stadium which created a buzz and a great atmosphere around the mini-hockey programme.

The Local Sports Partnerships are running a number of innovative programmes. Sligo LSP ran a very successful and well received Women in Sport Conference last year and a number of themes were identified in relation to Women in Sport in the locality. As a result twelve projects put forward by Sligo LSP have been funded this year across three themes; Information provision for Women in Sport, Active Women in the Community, and Club Development for Women.

Clare LSP are running programmes for immigrant women, and traveller women which aim to integrate them into the local community through sporting activity. Limerick City LSP is expanding its Street Stepping programme which aims to capture and harness interest in walking and running around the time of the Mini-marathon and maintain it year round. Laois LSP are running a hip hop dance programme for local girls to encourage them to be physically active.

## Date for your diary

**Tuesday  
21st November 2006**

**ISC Women in Sport  
Networking Event in the  
Kilmurry Lodge Hotel  
in Limerick.**

The topic up for discussion at this, the second networking event, is PE and Girls Sport. There are a limited number of places at the event so if you're interested in coming along email: [womeninsport@irishsports council.ie](mailto:womeninsport@irishsports council.ie)



  
**women in sport**  
Supported by the Irish Sports Council

The ISC's women in sport website showcases all these initiatives and stories of interest, provides information, advice and support for women in sport, and links to related sites. To find out more visit [www.womeninsport.ie](http://www.womeninsport.ie)



# Women in Sport Initiative

## NGB grants summary 2006

National Governing Body	Grant (€)
Athletics Ireland	100,000
Badminton Union	128,000
Fai	250,000
Irish Hockey Asso.	77,600
Irfu	106,200
Special Olympics	96,000
Junior Golf Irl	7,000
Swim Ireland	111,000
Camogie	49,100
Amateur Boxing Asso.	9,000
Amateur Rowing	15,000
Irish Gymnastics	40,000
Ladies Golf	60,000
Irish Squash	16,070
Irish Surfing	12,500
Table Tennis	4,000
Cumann Peil Gael Na Mban	64,606
Mountaineering	30,000
Volleyball	56,000
Olympic Handball	6,485
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,238,561</b>







## LSP grants summary 2006

LSP Name	Amount Recommended (€)
Clare	11,700
County Cork	6,100
Donegal	9,000
Fingal	12,000
Kerry	23,615
Kildare	14,500
Kilkenny	7,414
Laois	11,600
Limerick City	10,000
Mayo	16,000
Meath & Westmeath	14,950
North Tipperary	10,000
Sligo	37,275
Waterford	9,370
<b>Total</b>	<b>193,524</b>

In total €1.43 million is going to 35 Local Sports Partnership and National Governing Body projects that emphasise innovation, and are designed to provide access to sport and remove the barriers that prevent women taking part as participants, coaches or officials.

## Summary of special awards in 2006

National Governing Body	Grant (€)
Basketball Ireland	250,000
Basketball Ireland <i>European Year Of Women's Basketball</i>	120,000
Cumann Peil Gael Na Mban	250,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,20,000</b>



# Flying the Flag

Right: Fabian Connolly in action. Fabian, of Kinlough, Co. Leitrim, took overall Bronze medal in the 7th IMSSU Metallic Silhouette Shooting World Championships in Bloemfontein, South Africa, at the end of September.

## Paralympic Athletics

The Irish team enjoyed remarkable success at the 5<sup>th</sup> Paralympic World Athletics Championships in Assen, Holland in September. The final tally of three gold, two silver, and two bronze exceeded pre-Championship predictions. Three world records, one European record, two Irish records and a number of personal bests underlined the quality of the Irish performances at the Championships.

The star of the show was Jason Smyth from Derry. Jason, who is a contracted athlete under the ISC's International Carding Scheme won two gold medals in the T13 200 metre (21.83 seconds) and 100 metre (10.86 seconds) events, smashing two world records on his way to the podium.

Michael McKillop from Belfast, secured a silver in the T37 1500 metres and then delivered an exceptional performance to win the 800 metres in a new world record time of 2.02.13.

Lisa Callaghan from Meath delivered another great performance with a throw of 22.75 metres in the F27 javelin to win a silver medal. Not to be outdone experienced campaigners John McCarthy (club F51) and Garrett Culliton (discus F52) secured bronze medals to bring the final tally to seven medals.

The team comprised of 14 athletes (ten men, four women) from three disability groups. The significance of the event is that the IPC World Championships are now firmly established as the most prestigious event for disability athletes outside the Paralympic games. There was an added bonus in that the performances at the Championships secured Ireland four competition places for the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games.

The team was supported by a staff complement of nine coaches and officials, led by Team Manager Noel Brennan who said: "We are delighted with the outcome the Championships. It was built on solid preparation and I want pay tribute to each athlete, their personal coaches and the support staff who each contributed to an excellent team result".



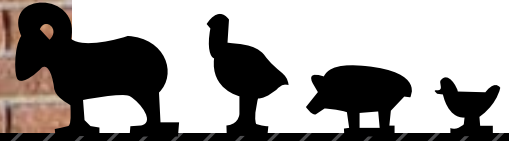
"The Irish team enjoyed remarkable success at the 5<sup>th</sup> Paralympic World Athletics Championships in Assen, Holland in September. The final tally of three gold, two silver, and two bronze exceeded pre-Championship predictions."



Left: Jason Smyth at the World Championships; Above: Michael McKillop on his way to winning the 800 metres at the World Championships; Below: Lisa Callaghan.

The future looks bright for Ireland as the squad that travelled to a special junior event in Assen produced a number of outstanding performances which resulted in two gold and four silver medals for the ten Irish competitors.





## Rowing

An achievement inadvertently omitted in the last issue of ISC06 was the gold medal winning performance of the Irish heavyweight men's four (M4-) of James Wall (NUI Galway), Daniel Barry (Limerick IT), Paul O'Brien (NUI Maynooth), and Paul Murray (NUI Galway) at the Rowing World University Championships in Lithuania over the Summer.

Coached by Katie Foulkes the Irish four lived up to expectations as they repeated their heat victory to secure the gold medal. With almost a three second lead after the first 500m, the Irish were in total control of the race for the remaining 1500m, pulling up before the finish line to win comfortably ahead of the French and Italian crews who took second and third place respectively.

The four will now face into the grueling winter training with next year's World Under 23 Championships firmly in their sights.

## Silhouette Shooting

Ireland's Fabian Connolly of Kinlough, Co. Leitrim took overall Bronze medal in the 7th IMSSU Metallic Silhouette Shooting World Championships in Bloemfontein, South Africa, at the end of September.

The 30 year old electronics engineer set his sights high in all four smallbore rifle shooting events held over four days of competition. On the first day of competition a gale blew up with winds exceeding 66kph as Fabian and his fellow competitors that included the

reigning World Champion Cathy Winstead, Montana, U.S.A, battled hard to hit their targets. It was truly a game of man versus nature where any and every lull in wind was taken advantage off to get a shot on target.

In a still wind many shooters find it difficult to hit a target but with a strong head wind beating on both the competitor and up range, conditions were truly difficult, a true test of skill for any sports person.

All competitions are timed, and Fabian had 2 minutes 30 seconds to take his 5 shot strings. At one point with hits on 5 targets Fabian gained valuable points that would favour his overall aggregate score and secure his Bronze Medal position. As the conditions improved on the second day it was an open competition where any of the top marksmen and woman could have taken top honours, but Fabians persistence prevailed as he put in an excellent score.

After the match Irish Team Manager and fellow shooter Matthew Canning said: *"Fabian has what it takes to become World Champion. This result will keep him motivated to achieve top honours in the European Championships to be hosted by Germany in 2007 and the next World Championships to be hosted by Finland in 2008. Prior to the World Championships, we held our own Irish National Championships where Fabian secured 1st place overall, providing him with the focus to take on the World here in Bloemfontein, South Africa."*

## Background of the Sport

Silhouette Metalicas, is a sport in which steel silhouettes shaped like game animals and birds are used as targets. The sport was introduced into the United States from Mexico in the 1960's. The sport came into being in Mexico during the 1950's evolving from the old "shootin match" of pioneer times. The introduction of Smallbore Mexican Silhouette shooting to Ireland was in 1979.

The Mexicans had worked out a set of regulations for conducting Mexican Silhouette competition to achieve uniformity of conditions in their various range locations. The size of the silhouettes types and size of stands, range distances, shooting equipment allowed and match operation procedures, were all spelled out before any match was shot in the USA. When Silhouette shooting started in the USA, the Mexican rules were adopted with very few changes

Mexican Smallbore shooting has been enjoyed for many years here in Ireland, the attraction and spectator appeal of the sport is very evident at matches. Families and friends of shooters attend and applaud as the targets fall to the ground. It is a sport where women do compete on the same level as men.

The National Silhouette Shooting Association of Ireland is part of the Shooting Sports Association of Ireland, which is supported by the ISC.

## Siobhan Byrne

Ireland's top fencer; Siobhan Byrne; a scholarship student at Ohio State University, entered the fray at the 2006 Fencing World Championships in Turin, Italy at the beginning of October. The twenty two year old, who competes in the Sabre weapon category suffered a broken toe in June, missing out on the European Championships, but resumed training three weeks before the worlds and was aiming for at least a top 32 finish in Turin.

Byrne had climbed to 47 in the world rankings before her injury; a place that does not reflect her true standing as she must spend a sizeable portion of the season fulfilling her Ohio requirements on the American collegiate circuit.

Byrne had a strong showing in the pool stage winning four of her six matches to advance to the direct elimination stage seeded 32 of the 64 competitors to advance to that stage. Her best result in the pool stage came against Madoka Hisagae of Japan, 21<sup>st</sup> in the world rankings; Byrne defeating her 5-4 in a thrilling match on Italian Loreta Gulotta in her last 64 match and fenced confidently and shrewdly to take the match 15-10. An hour later she faced Kim of Korea (world ranking of 26) but the rankings rang true as Kim took the match 15-10 to advance to the last 16 and leave Byrne with an overall placing of 29<sup>th</sup>.

There will be 34 fencers in the Irish fighter's event in Beijing but 24 of these will qualify from next year's world championship team event. The remaining ten qualifiers will consist of a handful of top ranked fencers who have not qualified via a team, with the balance from zonal qualifying competitions. Byrne's best chance for qualification will come in the European zone qualifier (April 2008); the top three at this event qualify. Byrne was desperately unlucky not to qualify for Athens at this event in 2004; she was fourth by a mere two hits missing out on qualification by the very narrowest of margins.



Korea's Kim went on to have a great Championships finishing up with a bronze medal beating the number 22 and three seeds en route and was only beaten 15-14 by the eventual winner; Rebecca Ward of the USA, therefore putting Siobhan's result in a better light.

Funded under the Irish Sports Council International Carding Scheme, and Performance Planning Programme for the last number of years Byrne plans to take the next college year out to focus on Beijing qualification. Olympic Qualification in Fencing is particularly complicated and difficult.

After the match Irish team manager Nuala McGarrity said: "Siobhan realised her goal of reaching the last 32 here but she's disappointed at the same time not to edge into the top sixteen after her strong showing in the pool stage. However it's important to remember she only resumed full training three weeks ago after the injury she sustained. Siobhan earned valuable world ranking points here which will assist her on her journey towards her ultimate goal of Olympic qualification."



Siobhan in action (on the left)

# Flying the Flag

## Katie Taylor

Ireland's Katie Taylor is lightweight European Boxing Champion for the second year running after she stopped her Russian opponent, Tatiana Chalaya; reigning world champion, in the second round of their final bout in Warsaw, Poland in September (18-3).

The talented twenty year old from the St.Fergals B.C. in Bray scored an impressive semi-final win (18-15) over the reigning world silver medallist; Tatar Gulson from Turkey in yesterday's semi-finals. Significantly Gulson defeated Taylor earlier this year to win the EU Championships, where the Turk also won the best boxer award, so Taylor's win was particularly satisfying in that light.

The Wicklow native, who is part of the Irish Amateur Boxing Association's (IABA) high performance squad, put in her best ever performance to take the coveted gold medal and retain her title and will now have next year's World Championships firmly in her sights. Remarkably Taylor also plays senior international soccer for Ireland, winning the FAI's Under-19 Player of the Year award in 2005.



Ireland's fantastic double European Boxing Champion Katie Taylor displays her medal on her return from Warsaw.

Gary Keegan, the IABA's high performance director expressed his joy on hearing of Katie's unmatched achievement: *"Katie has proved in Poland that she is the top boxer in the world in her weight category and this win ranks up there with the great sporting achievements of Irish athletes in any sport. To put it into perspective not only did she successfully defend her European title, but she also beat the world champion to do it, and totally outclassed her into the bargain. We were expecting the final to be a tough close contest but Katie simply blew her opponent away. She has done her country so proud in Poland and we are absolutely thrilled with this victory."*

Keegan was also full of praise for proud dad Peter Taylor, who has coached his talented daughter to four outstanding victories on her way to this title; *"Peter has worked extremely hard with Katie and our other boxers over the last few years. This is a proud moment for him and everyone in the Irish Amateur Boxing Association shares in that pride and celebrates a truly remarkable victory."*

# A Year On

**We published our annual report for 2005 in early September; a weighty document that outlines our activities across all our functions, and details our accounts for the year gone by.**

There are many and varied highlights from last year's activities which you can explore in more detail by reading the document but some of these include;

- The publication of two major ISC commissioned ESRI research reports entitled the *Social and Economic Value of Sport in Ireland* and *School Children and Sport in Ireland*.

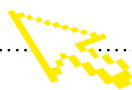
- The publication of the Athens Review and the subsequent development of proposals for the establishment of an Irish Institute of Sport, *which was realised in July of this year.*

- Approval from our parent Department; Arts, Sport and Tourism to proceed with the national roll-out of our Local Sports Partnership (LSP) initiative, following the completion of an independent review of the initiative commissioned by the Department. *Since the approval was granted three more sites have been announced; Monaghan, Offaly and Carlow to bring the total number to nineteen.*

- The successful piloting of Buntús Start; a comprehensive physical activity programme for children aged 2-5 years, through the Donegal and Sligo LSPs in partnership with the Health Service Executive and the County Childcare Committee. *Tutor training on the programme has just finished in the sixteen existing LSPs and the programme is now being delivered to local childcare providers, in conjunction with the local county childcare committees.*

“The report illustrates the enormous amount and range of work the Council undertakes in fulfilling our statutory mandate and delivering on our strategic objectives.”

The report can be downloaded in Irish and English on our website [www.irishsortscouncil.ie](http://www.irishsortscouncil.ie) or hard copies can be obtained by contacting the office on 01-8608800.



**Date for  
your diary**

**Saturday**

**December 16th**

ISC sponsored RTÉ Year in Sport 2006.



# ISC's Support for Gaelic Games

**The Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism, Mr. John O'Donoghue T.D. recently announced the details of the 2006 Irish Sports Council funding of €3.59m to the GAA in respect of its 2006 programmes under the Grassroots to National Programme (€1.34m), Hurling Development (€1.25m) and Dublin Gaelic Games (€1m).**

## Grassroots to National Programme

With this funding the GAA is supporting the appointment of Games Development Administrators in 25 counties to oversee the implementation of the Grassroots to National Programme. These positions will be charged with reporting on the monitoring and evaluation for projects at county level.

## Hurling

The hurling appointments already in place around the country, led by the Hurling Development Manager are running programmes that form part of the overall development plan for the game. All programmes and appointments will be closely monitored to ensure that they are achieving the aim of increasing participation in hurling.

This brings to €12.65 million the total invested in the GAA by the Irish Sports Council from 2001 to 2006 under the Special Budget Measure aimed at increasing participation in sport by young people.

For second level 2006 will see the implementation of the Super 7's, 9's and 11's, a participation programme based on providing students with the opportunity to play in blitz competitions rather than competitive school matches. The blitzes will have modified playing rules and can be played between schools or within schools. In 2006 provincial Féile will also be run to give a larger number of children the opportunity to participate.

Additionally, the GAA will continue its work in developing new coach education programmes and is currently exploring the possibility of linking with third level colleges in this regard. Also, a dedicated Games Development website and newsletter will be launched.

## Dublin

In 2006 there will also be a slight increase in Games Promotion Officer (GPOs) numbers and a further rollout of the coaching assistance programme. Also, further development of the Dublin GAA website [www.dublingaagamesdevelopment.ie](http://www.dublingaagamesdevelopment.ie) will be undertaken. Dublin GAA will also continue with the Performance Appraisal System they have developed for GPOs.

At the announcement of the funding the President of the GAA Mr Nickey Brennan, paid tribute to the Minister and the Irish Sports Council, *"The Minister and the Council share the GAA's view on the importance of sport to our communities. The GAA is working closely with them in providing programmes that make a real difference to the quantity and quality of sporting opportunities provided by the GAA in every community in the country"*.

"At the heart of our policy is the aim of increasing participation in sport, particularly by young people. The GAA is uniquely placed in Ireland in delivering on this important objective. I am delighted with the results of the GAA's innovative and quality programmes for young people since the Special Budget Measure was introduced in 2001".

Minister John O'Donoghue



# Local Happenings



Laois LSP Disability Officer Garrett Culliton on the podium with his bronze medal at the recent World Paralympic Athletics Championships in Holland.



Alan O'Hanlon enjoying himself at one of the Laois LSP fishing days at Stradbally Lakes.

## Update on three new LSP sites

The three new LSP sites on board; Offaly, Monaghan and Carlow, are in the process of readying themselves for operation. Carlow have their co-ordinator in place; Martha Jane Duggan, Offaly's co-ordinator will be in post in the coming weeks, and Monaghan have just held their first public consultation meeting.

Plans are well progressed to have more LSPs on line in the early stages of 2007.

## NPAR Fund for LSPs

The sixteen established LSPs meet on a regular basis and recently they met with the Department of Justice in the context of the National Action Plan Against Racism (NPAR). We are delighted that following that meeting the Department, under the NPAR has made a fund of up to €400,000 available for LSP initiatives that encourage persons from migrant communities in Ireland to integrate into Irish society through participation in sporting organisations.

The NPAR acknowledged the important work that the Local Sports Partnerships are doing already to encourage greater participation in sport at local level. It sees the LSP structure, including its broad community involvement with Government agencies and community and voluntary interests, as being well suited to forwarding the aims of Government Policy on Integration.

All LSPs are now in the process of submitting their applications for funding. All of the projects must have the following objectives;

- Encourage the participation of these communities in games, local activities & events relating to sport;
- Involve these communities in the organising and planning of games, events and activities;
- Welcome participants and spectators with a view to their ongoing involvement into organisations.

The announcement of this fund demonstrates the value of the partnership and co-operative approach the LSPs champion. The projects that achieve funding will be featured in the next edition of ISC06.

## Dormant Accounts Fund

Following successful negotiations on behalf of the LSPs the Council has managed to secure a fund of €2million over two years from the Dormant Accounts Fund for the LSPs.

This considerable fund will be used to finance disability officers and programmes in each Local Sports Partnership. The majority of the LSPs are submitting their plans for funding at present but one Partnership already has their disability officer in place; Laois.

Laois LSP appointed Garrett Culliton as disability officer early last year; his role to improve opportunities

for people with disabilities in the locality to take part in sport. Garrett; himself an accomplished athlete most recently winning bronze in the discus at the World Paralympic Athletic Championships in Holland last month, has undertaken a number of activities this year aimed at increasing the number of people with disabilities participating.

They launched a twelve page booklet entitled *Sport for All – Guidelines for Inclusion* which provided practical tips for sports clubs, community groups and facility owners on how to communicate better with people with disabilities. Copies of the booklet can be obtained from the Partnership directly or downloaded from the site [www.laoissports.ie](http://www.laoissports.ie)

In February they ran an activities day; 45 people took part, in March another activity day took place and in May and June successful fishing trips were made to Stradbally Lake. Laois also plan to start implementing a disability awareness course for clubs and other interested parties over the winter months.

Laois also hold an ambitious goal in their sights; that Laois would become the first county in Ireland where clubs, facilities or community groups would appoint members as Disability Liaison Officers, just as they have chairpersons, secretaries or youth officers.

The Laois Programme, led by Garrett Culliton serves as a fine template for the imminent Disability Programmes of the other Partnerships.



# Anti-Doping Issues

## Recruitment of Sample Collection Personnel

The Council is still looking to recruit additional sample collection personnel for the Programme. The work will be mostly at weekends and in the early mornings/evenings as per the needs of the Programme, and it is important to note these are not full time positions.

The personnel will be responsible for carrying out sample collection procedures in accordance with the guidelines set down by the Council, which are in line with the World Anti-Doping Code and the International Standard for Testing. Personnel will undergo ongoing training and education carried out by the Council ensuring minimum standards continue to be met.

The full job description is available on our website [www.irishsportsCouncil.ie/about-us-careers.aspx](http://www.irishsportsCouncil.ie/about-us-careers.aspx) along with details of how to apply.

## In-house Testing Programme

From November the service of sample collection under the Irish Sport Anti-Doping Programme will be carried out under a revised system implemented fully from within the Council, thereby enhancing the integrity of the core business of the Unit.

Previously the Council employed IDTM to undertake sample collection for the Programme, but in line with International best practice it is being brought in-house and the sample collection personnel will be employed directly by the Council.

There will be an initial handover period where athletes subject to testing may be tested by IDTM and/or ISC sample collection personnel. The process of testing will not significantly change; just the personnel (over time). Athletes should remember to always ask for Identification when selected for testing. The new personnel will carry an Irish Sports Council identity card and will be wearing ISC branded apparel.

Speaking about this development for the Council Irish Sport Anti-Doping Programme Manager Dr. Una May said; *"We've been working hard for the last number of months putting these procedures in place so it's exciting that we're at the implementation stage now. This initiative will allow the Council to work more closely on the ground with the NGBs and the athletes, which has always been a key objective of ours."*



## New WADA list

The World Anti-Doping Agency recently published the 2007 List of Prohibited Substances and Methods which will come into effect on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2007. The List shows very little change and it will be sent out to athletes along with an updated wallet card over the coming weeks. In the meantime you can check out the new list on [www.wada-ama.org](http://www.wada-ama.org)

## Upcoming Conference on Nutrition

A conference on nutrition in sport, entitled *"Nutrition and Peak Performance"* will take place in Croke Park on Saturday, January 27, 2007. Organised by the Irish Nutrition and Dietetics Institute (Sports Nutrition Interest Group) and supported by the Irish Sports Council, the event will hear from national and international speakers who will address key issues in nutrition and sport such as hydration, the appropriate use of supplements, and recovery after exercise.

Athletes, coaches and trainers are welcome and the agenda will appeal to anyone with an interest in how nutrition can contribute to maximum performance in sport. Detailed information on the day's events speakers will be posted soon at [www.irishsportsCouncil.ie](http://www.irishsportsCouncil.ie) and [www.indi.ie](http://www.indi.ie)



# Parting Shot

Pictured are the winners of the inaugural **Team Ireland Golf Trust Pro-Am** at Portmarnock Links; the team representing ONE51 from left to right Liam Gaskin, Colm Murray, Brian McElhinney and Mick Doran.



The Trust, which is administered by the Irish Sport Council, supports emerging Irish tour professionals who are starting out on the professional golf circuit. It is a partnership between state agencies, private companies and the various golf organisations.

The Irish Sports Council and Failte Ireland provide financial backing along with private sector interests ONE51, O'Callaghan Hotels and the PGA European Tour. 2006 is the seventh year of the Trust, which has provided more than €1.5 million financial support to golfers to date.

## Dates for your diary

### JANUARY 2007

#### Monday 15th

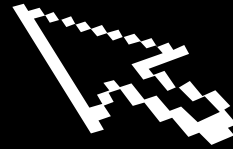
##### Anti-Doping Whereabouts Due

A note for all athlete dairies; January 15th 2007 is the deadline for Quarterly Whereabouts for February, March and April.

#### Saturday 27th

Conference on 'Nutrition and Peak Performance' in Croke Park.

# Web Watch



In this issue of our newsletter we recommend you check out the following sites:



[www.rte.ie/sport/obsport/](http://www.rte.ie/sport/obsport/)

Many of the championship events discussed in this newsletter have been covered by RTE's sports magazine show OB Sport, including rowing, boxing and Paralympic sport. Supported by the Irish Sports Council, OB Sport gives every sport the opportunity to reach the large national audience through RTE Sport. The OB Sport archive and clips from the show are available for viewing at the above link.



[www.irishheart.ie](http://www.irishheart.ie)

In honour of the fortieth anniversary of the Irish Heart Foundation we're featuring their lively informative website this time around. The site is jam packed full of useful information but doesn't appear overly text heavy and is easily navigated. From the Steps to a Happy Heart to the recipe archive, to the Publications area and the Sli na Sláinte there is something for everyone on this site.

They also have a really fresh but educational interactive kiddies section which has a section for teachers and parents as well as a fun heart chart for children to find out how their heart works.

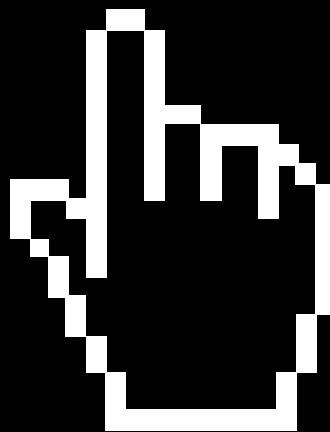
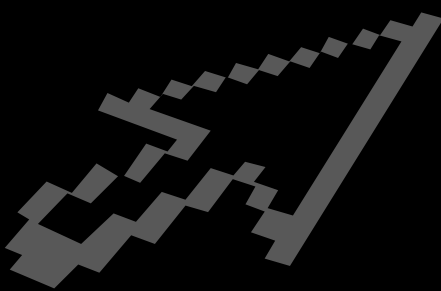


And the quirky one....

[http://sports-memorabilia.search.ebay.ie/ireland\\_Sports-Memorabilia\\_W000sacatZ64482](http://sports-memorabilia.search.ebay.ie/ireland_Sports-Memorabilia_W000sacatZ64482)

All self respecting sports fans have some piece of sports memorabilia they treasure, be it the battered programme from the 1964 Junior C Kildare County Hurling final, or (and this site is probably where you'll find this) Pdraig Harrington's left golf shoe from the 2006 Ryder Cup.

EBay has an admirable collection of Irish Sports memorabilia on its site. Most of it is football related but there are a few that catch the eye. In the less than €8 bracket you can be the proud owner of anything from a sixteen year old Irish soccer jersey – the classic Italia 90 edition to the intact programme (with scores written in) from the epic Ireland v England 1948 International Bicycle Polo final! Worth a look for the memories if nothing else!



[www.irishsportscouncil.ie](http://www.irishsportscouncil.ie)

For more detailed info on any of the activities listed, contact the ISC offices on 01 860 8800

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