



ON THE ROAD TO LIMERICK COMMUNITY GAMES



NEW CLUB CAPTAINS MCDONNELL & HOGAN ELECTED



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IRISH WATER SAFETY AWARDS FOR ENNIS SWIMMERS

ENNIS SWIMMING & LIFESAVING CLUB



McEvoy claims national title

RORY McEvoy was the star turn for Ennis Swimming and Lifesaving Club at the Irish Shortcourse Championships that took place in Lisburn in mid-December.

The Roslevan man was in the medals on the double, retaining his 200m backstroke title, while also claiming a silver in the 100m backstroke. Six swimmers flew the flag for Ennis at the national tests, led by McEvoy the team also included fellow University of Limerick students Lily Barrett and

Six swimmers represented Ennis at the prestigious National Shortcourse championships in Lisburn in December.

Róisín Cahill, as well as the Ennis-based swimmers Sabian Kulczynski, Ben Purcell and Elise Pyne.

McEvoy's first medal swim came in Thursday's 100m backstroke — he was leading qualifier when posting an impressive personal best time of 54.86 in his heat, a time he then improved on in the final by .48 of a second only to be edged into second place by 22-year-old Brian E O'Sullivan from the National Aquatic Centre who posted a great winning time of 53.22.

However, gold was the colour in the 200m backstroke — again McEvoy posted the fastest heat time of 1:59.40 before he cruised home to victory in the final in a time of 1:59.02 that gave him over two and half seconds to spare over his nearest challenger who was his UL training colleague Cillian Melly from Castlebar.

Lily Barrett (20) also contested a final — she recorded a three-second personal best when coming home in 1:04.10 in her 100m butterfly for a fifth place finish, a position she held onto in the final when posting a time of 1:04.12. Both Róisín Cahill (18) and Barrett reached the B finals of the 200m freestyle, coming fifth and sixth respectively, while in the 1500m freestyle, which was a heat declared winner event, Sabian Kulczynski (15) came tenth in a time of 18:00.73.



Main Picture: Ennis gold medallist Rory McEvoy with fellow Ennis competitor Lily Barrett in Lisburn.

Above: Coach Norma Cahill with swimmer Elise Pyne and Ben Purcell at the National Shortcourse Championships at Lisburn.

Above Right: Rory McEvoy and Sabian Kulczynski at the Shortcourse Championships.

Right: Róisín Cahill, who competed in the National Shortcourse Championships.

National Shortcourse Championships @ Lisburn



Ennis club heroes are honoured in Dublin

TWO Clare heroes were honoured by Irish Water Safety at their National Awards Ceremony in Dublin Castle late last year – both of whom have represented Ennis Swimming and Lifesaving Club with distinction over many years.

Brother and sister, Bernard and Róisín Cahill both received a ‘Just in Time’ award for their bravery, following their rescue of two swimmers last summer. They were driving home from work when they noticed two people swimming towards what they recognised to be a dangerous rip current.

They stopped their car and rushed to the Spanish Point beach where they persuaded a member of the public to give them a kayak. Bernard used the kayak to approach one of the people in difficulty.

Róisín encouraged the other swimmer to safety before swimming to assist Bernard to bring the struggling swimmer safely to shore. A total of 30 people were saved from drowning in Ireland's waters this year – thanks to the bravery of 32 heroes.

Volunteers, emergency services personnel and local people were among those whose courage was recognised at the Irish Water Safety Awards. Minister for Rural and Community Development Michael Ring said it was an honour to present the awards to the Cahills.

“Tragically an average of 133 people drown in Ireland every year and although that’s 133 too many, the figure would be even higher but for the dramatic efforts of these individuals who saved others from drowning and the ongoing work of volunteers teaching swimming and water rescue skills,” said Minister Ring. In 2011, then 17-year-old Bernard Cahill and his friend Donough Cronin (16) were the recipients of Irish Water Safety Awards in Dublin Castle when saving an eight-year-old boy from Killaloe from drowning at Spanish Point.



Above: Brother and sister Bernard and Róisín Cahill, who were honoured by Irish Water Safety at their national awards ceremony in Dublin Castle late last year.

Sports Person of the Year award for Barrett

ENNIS Swimming and Lifesaving Club star Lily Barrett was also honoured by Irish Water Safety at their National Awards that were held in Dublin Castle at the end of 2017.

Barrett won the prestigious Sports Person of the Year Award in recognition of her brilliant achievements during the year. She was a member of the Clare ladies team that won the National Senior Surf Championship, the National Senior Stillwater

Championship titles and the overall Presidents Trophy in lifesaving, while she was also a member of the Irish team that competed in the European Lifesaving Championships in Belgium. Competing against the best in Europe, Barrett won individual gold in the Board Race and a bronze in the Ocean Woman event, as well as silver and bronze medals as part of the Ocean Relay and Board Rescue teams.



Above: Lily Barrett receiving her Irish Water Safety Sports Person of the Year award from the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Michael Ring and Clare McGrath, chairperson of Swim Ireland and Water Safety Development Officer, Clare County Council.

Club fundraisers prove a huge success

A BIG thanks is owed by the Club to all parents/guardians and swimmers who turned out to help raise much-needed funds at the club's first two fundraisers of the season — the Dunnes Stores Bag Pack and the Flag Day & Pub Collection.

In all, club members were out in force on three days — two days for the Bag Pack which was again secured for the club by stalwart supporter and volunteer Miriam Glynn and a day and night for the Flag Day.

Both fundraisers proved to be hugely successful for the club, with the figures netted representing a significant increase on last year's returns. The Bag Pack before Christmas raised €3,325, which represented a sizeable increase on last year's total of €2,582, while the Flag Day & Pub Collection on 13 January brought in €2,780, topping the 2017 figure of €2,530.

With these two fundraisers behind us, our other scheduled key fundraiser is the Church Gate Collection later in the year and a second Bag Pack if we can secure the go-ahead for same from Dunnes Stores management. For those parents/guardians who for one reason or another didn't get to help out, can you please be ready to help out in the future and to raise additional funds for the Club that help defray high costs. For those who don't wish to help, there is an 'Opt Out Fee' to be paid to the liaison officer who will pass it onto the club treasurer.



Strong Ennis showing at Gerry Ryan gala



A VERY sizeable contingent of 48 swimmers represented Ennis at the Gerry Ryan Invitational Gala that took place at the University of Limerick complex between 18 and 20 January, with competitors across all ages proving themselves to be very competitive.

Along the way there was nine medals swims in individual events over the course of the mammoth and energy sapping three-day event, with university student Róisín Cahill (19) leading the way with three podium finishes over the course of the meet.

The 19-year-old was a silver medallist in the senior 200m freestyle in a time of 2:15.54, while she picked up bronze medals in the 100m freestyle in a time of 1:02.56 and 400m freestyle in a time of 4:49.78. Fellow student Lily Barrett was Ennis' only gold medal winner during the meeting, winning the senior 50m butterfly in a time of 30.44. In the other senior events Ruairi Power (19) was a silver medallist in the 400m freestyle in a time of 4:35.92, while Ryan Shannon (21) was third in the

100m butterfly in a time of 1:05.02.

Sam Purcell (14) picked up a silver medal in the 12-14 100m butterfly in a time of 1:13.10, while both Dylan O'Brien (16) [pictured above] and Tara McEvoy (17) were bronze medallists – in the 15 & Over 400m freestyle McEvoy came home in a time of 2:55.84, while O'Brien produced a time of 30.57 for his third place finish in the 15 & Over 50m backstroke.



Above: Ruairi Power receiving his medal at the Gerry Ryan Invitational from President of Swim Ireland, Maggie Purcell; medallists Róisín Cahill and Ryan Shannon at the Gerry Ryan; Tara McEvoy receiving her medal at the Gerry Ryan from her mother, the President of Swim Ireland, Maggie Purcell.

Looking forward to Ennis Invitational

PLANS are now being advanced for the showpiece event of the year organised by Ennis Swimming and Lifesaving Club – the annual Ennis Invitational that takes place on February 23-24 at Active Ennis Leisure Complex. The gala, which will feature Ennis club swimmers and other teams from around the province who are invited to attend, is a huge undertaking every year, the success of which is dependent on club members from the committee through to parents/guardians and swimmers rowing in with the support.

A hard-working sub-committee of the club will be spearheading preparations for the gala, which apart from being a showcase of the club's organisational and swimming abilities is also a key fundraiser during the year to help with the overheads with running a large club.

Many different elements will go into making the 2018 event as much of a success as other renewals of the Ennis Invitational have been in recent years – this is where the importance of the support and co-operation of all families involved in the club comes in, whether it's with timekeeping and chaperone duties on the day, catering, programme sales and printing etc, etc.. Any suggestions for potential advertisers in a gala programme can be forwarded to any member of the club committee.



Munster Development Gala at UL

THE club's younger and up and coming brigade had the honour of being the first in action in 2018 when taking part in a Munster Development Gala at the University of Limerick. This was initially due to take place in early December but was postponed owing to the ongoing development works at the UL complex. Nearly 50 swimmers made the journey, with 13 medal swims in individual events. The gold medallists were: Lauren McCarthy (10) in the 50m butterfly, 50.00 and Tadhg Conway (10) in the room individual medley, 1:38.31.



Conway won silver in the 100m freestyle in 40.62 and bronze in the 50m butterfly in 48.88, while others to win medals of the same colour were Serine Amrane (11) 51.49 in the 50m breaststroke, Honor Murphy (11) in the 50m backstroke in 45.09, Jack Dilleen (10) in 50m breaststroke in 52.05 and Tom Curran (13) in the 100m individual medley in 1:39.44. Curran also claimed a bronze in the 50m breaststroke in 47.62, while Murphy claimed her second medal when coming third in the 50m butterfly in 51.94. Noah Doherty (14) was a bronze medallist on the double in the 50m breaststroke in 47.69 and the 100m individual medley in 1:40.50, while the final medallist was Jude Collins (11) in the 50m backstroke in 47.81.



Above: A selection of competitors from Ennis Swimming and Lifesaving Club that took part in the Munster Development Gala in the University of Limerick on 13 January — the first gala of 2018 for club swimmers.

Club Captains for 2018 take office

ENNIS Swimming and Lifesaving Club recently selected its captains for 2018 — with members of the club deciding on Conor Hogan and Laura McDonnell to fill the roles for the coming year. The outgoing captains were Conor Mahony and Tara McEvoy, with the ceremonial passing of the baton taking place in recent weeks as all squads settled into the New Year and looked forward to training and competition in the months ahead.

Below: Conor Hogan and Laura McDonnell, the club captains for the 2017/2018 season.



Three swimmers are Bangor bound

JUST three swimmers from Ennis will be taking part in the prestigious Dave McCullagh Meet that takes place from February 16 to 18. The gala is an international event staged in one of Ulster's most competitive clubs, Bangor SC that will be celebrating its centenary in 2019. March 2013 saw the dawn of an exciting new era for the Northern Irish club as they moved to a new home in the Bangor Aurora Centre, Ulster's first full-size competition size 50m pool.

Lily Barrett, Róisín Cahill and Rory McEvoy will be flying the flag for Ennis at the event, with both Barrett and McEvoy taking part in three events each and Cahill in two. Barrett is competing in the 50m butterfly, 200m freestyle and 100m butterfly; McEvoy is entered for three backstroke events — the 50m, 100m and 200m, while Cahill is entered in the 200m and 400m freestyle.



Community Games competition begins

THE road to the National Community Games finals begins for scores on Ennis Swimming and Lifesaving Club members in mid-February when the local qualifying competitions are run off ahead of the county finals in March. An added incentive for swimmers who will take to the pool over four days from Monday 12 February to Thursday 15 February will be that ultimately county final glory won't necessitate the long journey to Athlone for the national tests. That's because this year the National Festival weekend of Community Games is taking place from the 25/27 May in the University of Limerick. Monday will see the Doora-Barefield finals between 6pm and 7pm; on Tuesday it's the turn of Clooney/Quin/Tulla; on Wednesday it's Clarecastle/Ballyea while St John's of Ennis will be in action on Thursday.

Above: National medallists from last year's Community Games - Dylan O'Brien, Elise Pyne, Ella Doherty, Sybil Perkins and Shane Dilleen, while pictured right is Kate McDonnell, who was also amongst the medals.



Munster/Leinster Qualifying Meet

THIRTEEN swimmers represented the club at the Munster/Leinster Qualifying Meet that took place in the University of Limerick on the first weekend in February. A number of swimmers put in very strong performances over the course of the day. Adam Connolly (17) put in a great performance in the 14 and over 100m freestyle, coming home in first place in a time of 51.87, while the other first place finish was provided by Sergej Pantic (13) [pictured right] in the 12-13 50m freestyle in a time of 31.40. Pantic also produced a third place finish in the 12-13 100m backstroke in a time of 1:18.90, while Stephen Wang was the other top three finisher when coming second in the 10-11 200m individual medley in a time of 3:16.73.



Above: The official photograph at the Swim Ireland Awards in Ballina in which Ennis Swimming and Lifesaving Club's Margaret Purcell [pictured on the right] became President of Swim Ireland for 2018.