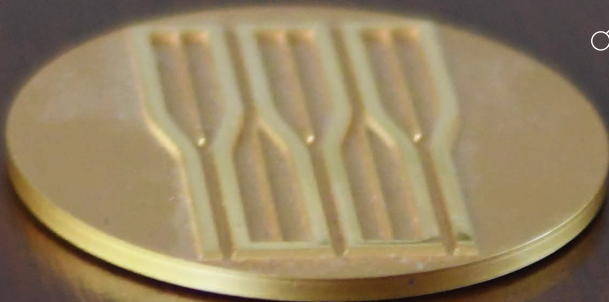
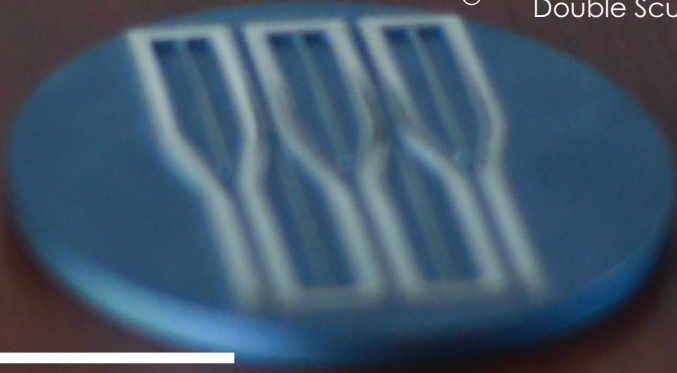



**Paul O'Donovan and Fintan McCarthy**  
2019 Lightweight Double Sculls



**Sanita Pušpure**  
Single sculls



**Ronan Byrne and Philip Doyle**  
Double Sculls



**Katie O'Brien**  
PR2 Single Sculls

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ROWING IRELAND  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2019





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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Rowing is fast becoming one of Ireland's most competitive International sports. There are currently four confirmed boats for the Tokyo Olympics in 2021 with seven athletes representing Ireland.

Ireland is ranked second in the World in Olympic boat classes after our success at the World Rowing Championships in Linz, Austria in 2019. Rowing Ireland caters for River rowing, Coastal rowing and Offshore rowing with members aged from 8 – 88 years of age. Annual events include Irish Rowing Championships, Irish Coastal Rowing Championships, Irish Offshore Rowing Championships and Irish Indoor Rowing Championships. The Get Going...Get Rowing programme which is a school based learn to row programme holds a series of indoor and outdoor #Blitz events series around the country.

### Rowing Ireland's mission is to spearhead excellence, strong clubs and rowing for life.

On a day to day operational level this equates to four pillars as set out in our strategic plan

- High Performance "we will excel"
- Leading our Sport
- Rowing for all, a Sport for life
- Supporting club, the backbone of our community

Our strategy is pinned on the vision to

**"promote a culture of excellence and openness so that athletes, coaches and volunteers have a lifelong positive experience"**



We are now one year into the four years of our strategy and we are pleased to be able to report that we are on target to deliver the ambitious goals set out in that plan. Although the effects of the current uncertainty created as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic may impact our future outlook.

**We strive to grow strong well-structured, safe clubs that provide the opportunity for achievement and enjoyment at all levels.**

2019 was an exceptional year for Rowing in Ireland with four boats qualified for Tokyo 2021 and ranking second in the world. Our pathways are strong with a Silver and Bronze medal at the World U23 Championships and a Silver medal at the Junior European Championships. In addition, fourth and fifth place for our junior athletes at the World Rowing Championships in Tokyo, Japan.

We ran more community programmes in partnership with our clubs and our programmes. Income and expenditure remain strong as we strive to become a bigger and more effective sport. The range of activity across our organisation is vast and this report sets out the highlights from each area of activity under each of the strategic pillars in 2019 as well as looking at the activity across our provinces.



# Presidents report

To date, 2020 has been unprecedented. This year's HORs had to be canceled due to inclement weather and in March the Covid 19 pandemic reached Ireland. Consequently, the 2020 regatta calendar was canceled and the AGM scheduled for 29 March 2020 had to be postponed. The Covid 19 virus is still in our midst so the Board has decided to hold the 2020 AGM remotely using the Zoom platform. This report went to print in May 2020. However, due to the ever-changing situation it is highly probable that by the time of the AGM on 12 July, further decisions will have been made by the Rowing Ireland Board in relation to the return to rowing protocols.

The growth in Irish rowing continued in 2019 with record entries to our regatta's and yet again the Championships had a record entry. However, this success posed new challenges for our organisation and our domestic events calendar came under review with a view to catering for the continuing growth. In addition, the weather continues to adversely affect our events, strong Atlantic winds have played havoc with our head of the river and regatta programme forcing several cancellations. Not only does this situation place a burden on athletes but also on event organisers. In order to address these issues, the RI Board organised several meetings throughout the country to assess this situation and it was hoped that the 2020 Domestic Events Fixtures meeting, and the AGM would address this. However, the pandemic restrictions have prevented us meeting to tackle these issues. Unfortunately, we will have to postpone this review until later this year with a view to have agreed proposals for the 2021 AGM.

On a much happier note, congratulations to our High-performance team who produced our most successful season ever, qualifying four boats for the Tokyo Olympics and winning two gold, one silver and one bronze in the World Championships. In addition, our U/23 Women's 4, won a silver medal and our U 23's Lightweight Men's 4X won a bronze at their World Championships. Our Men's Junior 18 4+, won a silver medal at the European Championships and came fourth in the World Championships and our J18 Women's 2X came fifth in the World Championships.

Katie O'Brien our para-athlete won a bronze medal at the World Championships in Linz. I was privileged to be in Nottingham, 1975 to see Sean Drea, win a silver medal, the first Irish rower to stand on the winners podium at the World Rowing Championships, I was reminded of this, last year in Linz, when again I was privileged and proud to see Katie, the first Irish para rower to stand on a World Championship podium.

The Rowing Ireland High Performance team were in a strong position for the 2020 Olympics. It was a severe blow to our athletes and coaches when the decision was made to postpone the games until 2021. The team have been professional and are refocusing their preparations for the 2021 games. We all wish them the very best in their endeavours.

In August 2019, Rowing Ireland again, ran our Coastal Rowing Championships at the NRC. It was a fantastic spectacle and we were delighted to again welcome the Coastal Rowing clubs to the NRC. The Offshore Championships which were held in Larne in September 2019 saw a record entry with many British crews competing. Later this year FISA will be applying to the International Olympic Committee to have coastal rowing included in the 2024 Olympics in France.

In recent years, Rowing Ireland has become a 'Broad Church.' We have learned lessons from rowing federations on the continent such as Germany, France, Holland and Denmark amongst others where up to 70% of rowers are recreational and 30% competitive. The strength of Golf is not the elite players on the Ryder Cup team but the millions of ordinary people who enjoy and play golf at their own level. Likewise, in Rowing Ireland we should see recreational rowing not as a threat but as an opportunity to open our sport to greater participation. Competitive rowing remains Rowing Ireland's primary focus. However, I encourage clubs to become more inclusive, to embrace and nurture all forms of rowing in their clubs.

There are several major infrastructure projects under way.

### NRC

In order to cater for the large increase of high-performance athletes now operating out of the NRC, the Board agreed to invest €75,000 this year to upgrade their facilities. Our rowing course has served us well over the last 15 years; however, it has begun to show its age and has been battered by inclement weather in recent winters; so, it has been decided to build a new 8 lane Albano rowing course at a cost of in excess of €120,000. It is intended to have it installed and fully functional for this year's championships.

In addition, we have been informed that we will receive in excess of €600,000 from the 'Major Infrastructure Fund' to further develop facilities at the NRC. The outline plan includes: an upgrade of the slipping facilities, building a floating boathouse for launches, purchasing extra launches, a safety rib and enough racks to cater for all the boats at NRC events.

All the above programs are being funded by Irish government grants.

### Blessington

Rowing Ireland has applied for planning permission to build a ten-bay rowing centre on the shore of Blessington lakes. The planning process has been long and slow. We received planning permission from Wicklow County Council in 2018. Following an objection, the proposal was referred to An Bord Pleanála who having considered the issues granted planning permission in 2019. This decision has been appealed to the High Court and at this stage we await the decision of the court.

### Lough Rynn

Leitrim County Council continues to invest in this facility and in 2019 spent over €300,000 purchasing a new finish Tower and building a viewing area on the shore at the finish with an access road from the current boat park area.

I would like to acknowledge the contribution of our stakeholders, our clubs, our volunteers, athletes, coaches and sponsors.

I would particularly like to express my gratitude to Sport Ireland for their guidance and continued financial support.

I wish to acknowledge the commitment and dedication of our Board members, all volunteers, who selflessly work to ensure that our sport is governed to the highest standards.



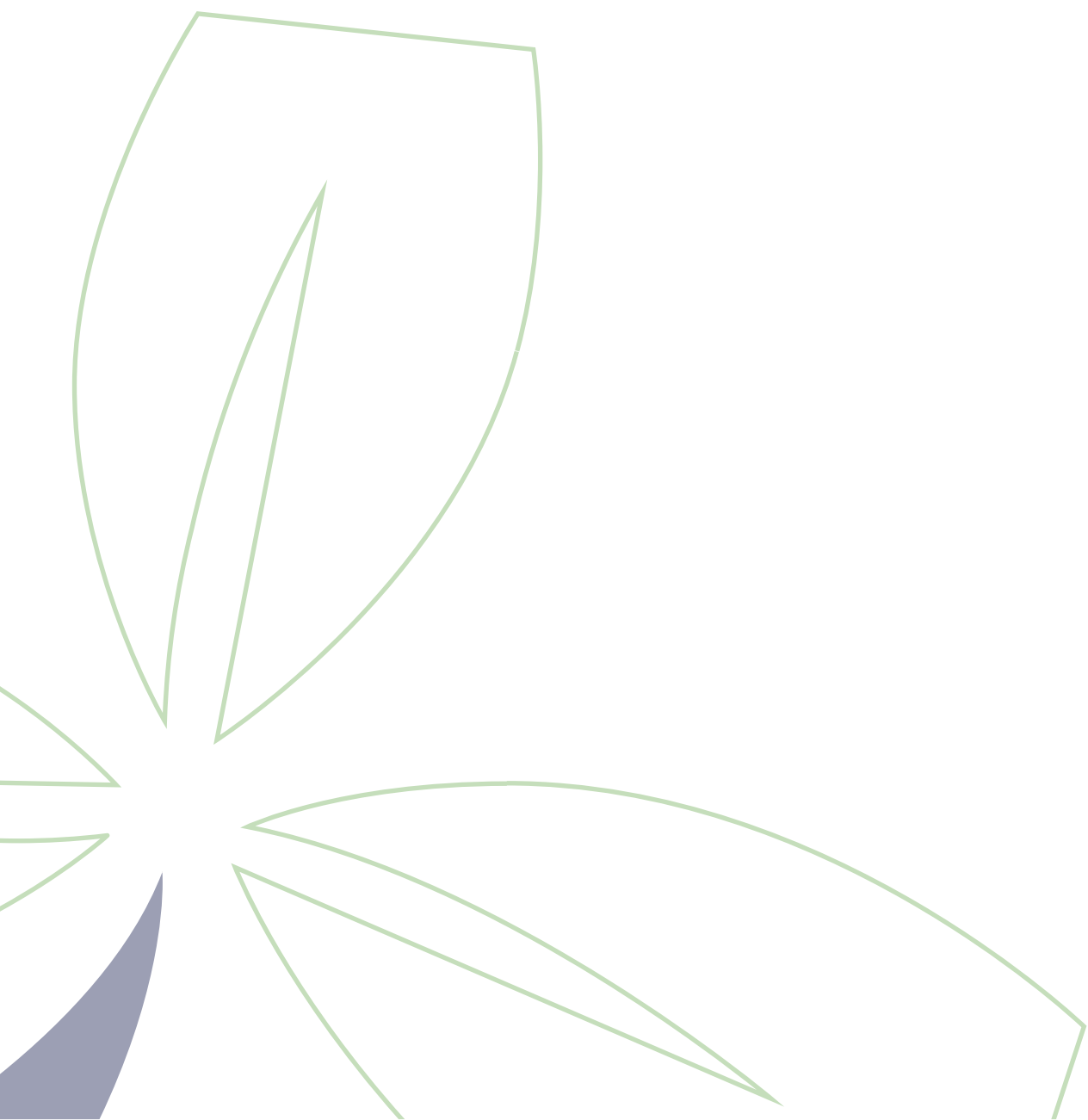
I would like to thank the employees of Rowing Ireland who are passionate about our sport and who without exception serve over and beyond the call of duty.

Finally, I would like to thank you our members for your forbearance and support in these troubling and unprecedented times. I look forward to dealing responsibly with the reality of COVID-19 and charting a way to resume our activities on the water at home and abroad.

**Yours sincerely**

Eamonn Colclough

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Eamonn Colclough".



# CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

## Mission statement

**Spearheading excellence, strong clubs and rowing for life. We promote a culture of excellence and openness so that athletes, coaches and volunteers have a lifelong positive experience**

## 2019 A year of new successes and new challenges

2019 was one of the most successful years of our organisation. In 2020 we are heading into a new and exciting phase of our Sport with challenges that have unfolded in the last number of months, some of which we have never encountered before. It is time to look back on 2019 and one of our most remarkable years as a sport, leading rowing in Ireland. In 2019 we made significant progress and I am looking forward to leading further achievements in 2020.

Innovation is key to our Sport, and the word niche rather than minority describes Irish rowing perfectly. In rowing in Ireland, we have a dedicated following and a family of rowers in every club in our organisation. It was due to this family that in 2019 we received an invite to speak to the Joint Committee on Transport, Tourism and Sport on "Issues facing minority sport". At that juncture, we addressed the Oireachtas with the challenges and our goals for all of our Sport. In 2019 our Sport is growing both on and off the water and we look forward continuing with this growth in 2020 across all our disciplines.

In order to achieve these targets, we have had a small growth in staff. We have developed a team that I believe is second to none and that has delivered at an exceptionally high return on investments. We have moved away from a purely administrative process to members that are delivering the development of our sport in a much more proactive way.

We were pleased in 2019 to welcome Leanne Varley to our team. Leanne is working supporting Clubs and the U23 and Junior programme at camps, advising on healthy eating and nutrition. Stephen King joined the team in March 2019, and in that short space of time we have seen growth in our social media engagement. In 2019, Rowing Ireland's social media engaged on average 200,000 users each month on Twitter, during the World Rowing Championships we engaged 406,000 users on Twitter alone. In 2019, we increased our Instagram followers by 47%, Twitter by 30% and Facebook by 15%. Our digital portfolio has expanded with the introduction of Rowing Ireland's YouTube channel which we are consistently adding our digital content and more recently through our Podcast sponsored by our partners. As a small niche sport it is key that we create our own stories and news.



Our membership grew in 2019 across Get Going...Get Rowing engaging schools, activity and Rowability programmes. We were also delighted to welcome the Coastal and Offshore community into Rowing Ireland and we look forward to working with them in 2020, as we await a FISA announcement regarding Offshore rowing at the 2024 Olympic games. In 2020 we will target new membership options for our community and invest in our online membership system "Tracker" as an overall system to support our members.

We are delighted to promote gender equality in all areas of our Sport. In 2019 through the Sport Ireland Women in Sport strategy we were delighted to secure funding for a Women in Sport programme. We welcomed Olympic athlete Claire Lambe to our team in December 2019 and, Claire has already set about the role and visited many clubs around the country. Claire will continue to support our clubs to achieve our objective: equality in all areas of rowing on and off the water.

Clubs are the backbone of our organisation and club support is essential to sustain rowing across the country. We were all sad to say goodbye to our Coach Education officer, Pat McInerney as he retired after 12 outstanding years of working with our clubs. We look forward in 2020 to launching many new elements to the Coach Education programme led by Gerry Farrell, including the automated online booking service that began in 2019. We know how busy coaches and volunteers are, and we plan to have many more interactive areas of support for clubs which will be championed by our Club Support Officer that we will recruit shortly.

Last July we hosted the biggest ever Irish Championships, at our home, the National Rowing Centre. Members of the Government and local authorities were invited to the event and experience our facilities in Farran Woods. We were delighted to receive funding of €158,000 for upgrading the facilities in May and a further Large-Scale Infrastructure grant of €615,000, which we await final clarification of by the Department.

We were delighted in 2019 to secure our first headline sponsorship through our partnership with Kinetica Sport. Powerhouse Sports, Donal O'Buachalla, Waterways Ireland and Techcrete continued their loyal support. Hanley Controls kindly came on board to sponsor the biggest ever Irish Rowing Championships and we wish to thank them for their dedicated support to our sport.

I would like to thank these members of our family and all our sponsors for their commitment to a team that is now ranked second in the World in Olympic class boats. As a National Governing Body, we are reliant on government funding and support through Sport Ireland and Sport Northern Ireland. We would like to thank John Treacy, Antoinette McKeown and their teams for their continued support and understanding of our requirements.

There were some areas that we did not achieve what we wanted.

We believe that we need to do more to support our clubs in 2020 and have made this our primary focus. Our strategy is in place until 2024 and in 2019 we secured the funding for a Women in Sport Lead and Club Development Officer, allowing us to reach a key milestone in 2020.

Many athletes from clubs all around the country represented us all so proudly in 2019. Some of these athletes at the 2019 Coupe de La Jeunesse and Home Countries

regattas came from the Get Going...Get Rowing programme to clubs and onwards to our High Performance system. Many of these athletes are not only U23 competitors and medalists; they are also part of our senior High Performance team. Without these athletes and the incredible support of their parents, we will not have our stars of the future. We were therefore delighted to launch Greenblades donation portal and online shop where all profits will be filtered to these athletes and supporting their pathway. Our objective in 2020 is to continue to support these athletes who are dedicated to our sport.

As we started the exciting year of 2020, we faced challenges that we would never have envisaged from flooding to head cancellations to COVID-19 virus and our government recommendations. Our objective is to support you, in clubs across the country.

Our board has a volunteer membership, many board members have dual roles in supporting events, umpires, risk and High Performance. They give long hours for the better of the Sport, I applaud their dedication to our sport.

We have exceptionally dedicated staff, from our HP team to our core staff, who will continue to support the Rowing Ireland Strategy in 2020.

We are facing many challenges now as a sporting organisation. We know and understand that the last number of months have been devastating for us all. We have all lost so much from the postponement of the Olympics and the regatta season to our clubs and centres being shut down. We like everyone are unsure of what lies ahead and we are dedicated to supporting you all through those difficult and ever changing times.

Finally, we look forward to working with you as we head into an unprecedented year for Rowing Ireland. Thank you to everyone in the Rowing Ireland family for all that you do.

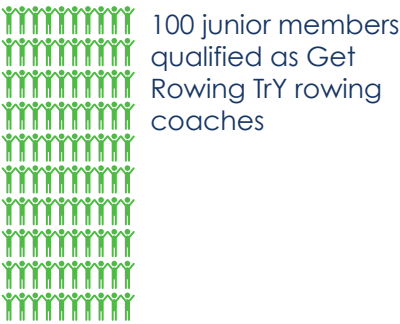


**Michelle McEligott Carpenter**

Chief Executive Officer



# OUTPUTS, OUTCOMES AND IMPACT

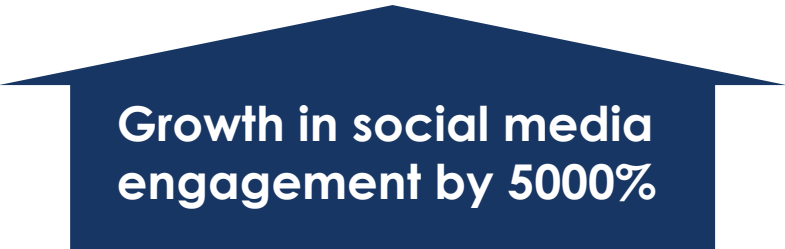


Launch of **Greenblades website** and shop to support our developmental athletes

Securing of funding and employment of **Women in Sport** Lead with **Claire Lambe** recruited to lead the programme

Securing of funding of Rowing Ireland **Development Officer** to support clubs

**Club support scheme** in place with three pilot clubs





# 2019 Highlights

Our work is so broad that it is always difficult to isolate the highlights, these are some of the most significant ones for 2019:

## HIGH PERFORMANCE We will Excel

- Four world medals two Gold, Silver and Bronze (three Olympic class boats)
- Four boats qualified for 2021 Olympic games with two more on their qualification journey
- U23 silver and bronze medals
- Juniors

## LEADING OUR SPORT

- Compliance with Governance Code of Ireland
- Presented to Oireachtas hearing on "challenges facing minority sport"
- Launched Greenblades platform to support our developmental athletes through online donations and an online shop
- A minimum of double visibility and engagement all social media platforms with heightened increase in Instagram, Facebook and Twitter profile visits
- Established Rowing Ireland YouTube channel

## CLUB SUPPORT #weareallroiwngireland

- Secured funding for Club Support Officer
- Secured funding for Women in Sport Lead and Women in Sport programme
- Safety Workshops rolled out across clubs
- Volunteer of the Month awards established
- The most successful Irish Championships took place with record number of entries
- Coastal and Offshore rowing welcomed into the Rowing Ireland family
- We are Rowing Ireland Club support scheme launched with Commercial Rowing Club, (Dublin) Galway Rowing Club and Lee Rowing Club, (Cork) selected to take part in pilot scheme

## ROWING FOR ALL A sport for life

- Delivery of Get Going...Get Rowing in Dublin, Limerick, Cork, West Cork, Killarney, Kilkenny, Kildare, Waterford, Galway, Belfast, Sligo, Carlow, Tipperary
- Rowability and social integration rowing programmes held in Limerick, Cork, Dublin, Galway Kildare
- TrY courses for rower have been rolled out in 20 clubs, producing 100 young rowing coaches for camps.
- Established a Recreational Committee to support recreational rowers across the sport



# 2019 Activities report

Our work is so broad that it is always difficult to isolate the highlights, these are some of the most significant ones for 2019:

**PARTICIPATION** Promoting and encouraging participation in rowing at all levels. Retain current and attract new members. Enhancing existing partnership and developing new ones.

**CLUBS AND COMMITTEES** Supporting our clubs and members strong clubs are the hub of our sport and central to the success of rowing in Ireland.

**EDUCATION** Increase Standards by providing quality coach education to our clubs. Support Clubs to implement good governance, child protection and safety policies.

**PERFORMANCE** Providing a high-performance structure and pathway that supports our elite athletes at all stages of their development.

**CORPORATE** Growing our financial base, improving the profile of Rowing in Ireland through an innovative communications and public relations strategy, that is commercially targeted and in line with the outline of relevant national policies and key stakeholder relationships.



Business area	Services	Key support staff
Participation	Delivering programmes focused on participation in the wider community to grow our membership base and bring rowing to the wider community	Development Manager Community Coaches
	Working on and developing key partnerships specific to Get Ireland Rowing to drive rowing activity at all levels	Women in Sport Lead
Clubs and committees	Providing support to clubs through targetted club support projects	Coach Education Officer
	Engaging with clubs and providing innovative and supportive programmes for all our members	Women in Sport Lead
	Providing Education support to volunteers	Coach Education Officer
	Supporting the running of an Irish Championship	Communications officer NRC administrator
	Complying with and supporting Anti-doping guidelines and vetting for clubs members	NRC administrator Anti-doping officer
Education	Provide qualifications and opportunities for members	Coach Education Coordinator
	Deliver a comprehensive suite of hybrid programmes and qualifications that create pathways, support volunteers and underpin long term athlete development	Women in Sport Lead Development Manager
Performance	Delivery and tracking of monthly and annual financial statements, budgeting, creditor/debtor management, cash flow, banking and budget planning	Chief Executive Officer, Financial Officer
	Policy writing, grant applications, strategic planning, liaison with partners and stakeholders	
	Staff training and development	
	Social media, stakeholder communications, newsletters, website, brand management, sponsorship stakeholder management, innovation projects	Communications officer Communications interns



# Board of directors

The organisation is overseen by a 13 strong voluntary Board of Directors, elected annually at our Annual General Meeting (AGM). We have an experienced Board made up of individuals with a variety of skills and experience.

The role of the Board is clearly defined in the Company Memorandum and Articles of Association and in a Schedule of Matters Reserved for the Board but in brief, it is to provide strategic direction and oversight. Responsibility for the day to day operations of the Company rests with the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) supported by a staff of 14 (full and part-time) and a number of voluntary committees operating within Terms of Reference approved by the Board.

In 2019 a facilitated board development piece took place in May and September.

Board meetings take place approximately every six weeks with all Board papers issued at least seven days in advance, allowing Directors time to prepare for the meeting. The CEO attends meetings of the Board but is not a Director of the Company.

### Rowing Ireland Substantive decisions in 2019

- January 2019 Board unanimously agreed to adopt Governance Code of Ireland
- Approval of spend for Sports Capital grant for installation of new Olympic standard six laned course at National Rowing Centre
- Approval of Rowing Ireland Sponsorship Strategy
- Approval of Clean Coast initiative
- Rowing Ireland Crisis Management and Communication Policy
- Nomination and ratification of Offshore and Coastal candidate on the Board
- Approved capital spending for testing and athlete facilities



# Secretary Report

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## 2019/2020 Boad Membership

<b>President</b> E. Colclough	(Tribesmen RC)
<b>Secretary</b> B. Leader	(Galway RC)
<b>Treasurer</b> L. Gibson	(Old Collegians BC)
<b>Connacht Vice President</b> D. O'Hara	(Galway RC)
<b>Leinster Vice President</b> CA Smith	(Old Collegians BC)
<b>Munster Vice President</b> L. O'Callaghan	(Waterford BC)
<b>Ulster Vice President</b> B. Ewing	(Belfast BC)
<b>Connacht Representative</b> N. Maxwell	(Neptune BC)
<b>Leinster Representative</b> A. Habenicht	(Neptune BC)
<b>Munster Representative</b> TJ Ryan	(Skibbereen BC)
<b>Ulster Representative</b> G. Young	
<b>Independent Director</b> D. Burke reappointed May 2019	
<b>Independent Director</b> D. Hussey appointed June 2019	



2019/2020 Board Meetings

There were 10 Board meetings held between March 2019 and March 2020. Attendance at these meetings was as follows:

E. Colclough	9
B. Leader	9
L. Gibson	10
D. O'Hara	8
A Habenicht	4
L. O'Callaghan	5
B. Ewing	8
N. Maxwell	7
CA. Smith	9
TJ Ryan	9
G. Young	6
D. Burke	7
D. Hussey	6

The CEO Michelle Carpenter attended all Board meeting held during the term.

Board Sub-Committees

The following Board sub-committees and Chairs operated during the period since the last AGM. All committees have agreed terms of reference and report to the Board or to the CEO as required.

<b>Audit &amp; Risk Committee</b>	Carol Ann Smith
<b>Safety Committee</b>	Pat Kiely
<b>Domestic Events Committee</b>	Brenda Ewing
<b>Umpires Committee</b>	TJ Ryan
<b>High Performance Committee</b>	Neville Maxwell
<b>University Committee</b>	Shauna Fitzsimons
<b>Schools Committee</b>	Evan Molloy
<b>Championships Committee</b>	Lisa O'Callaghan
<b>Disciplinary Committee</b>	Andy Wells
<b>Para Committee</b>	Deirdre O'Hara
<b>Masters Committee</b>	Michelle McDonagh
<b>Remuneration</b>	President, Secretary, Treasurer
<b>Off Shore Rowing</b>	Kieran Kerr
<b>Coastal Rowing</b>	Kieran Kerr

Detailed reports from the CEO, High Performance Director /High Performance sub-committee were presented at each board meeting.

The Constitution and Rules of Rowing Ireland were updated to reflect the amendments agreed at the 2018 AGM.

Strategy Development

The Strategic Plan 2019-2023 has four key themes: Supporting Clubs, High Performance, Leading our Sport, Rowing for All. Underpinning the strategic objectives is excellence



in governance, financial and risk management. The Strategic Plan 2019-23 is now in its implementation phase. Significant benchmarks have been achieved and the key theme of Supporting Clubs will be strengthened with the recruitment of a Club Support Officer and the recent appointment to a Women in Coaching position. The appointment of staff to both these positions will provide new resources to clubs which is a key strategic objective.

## Governance

The Board adopted the Governance Code in January 2019 and made a Public Statement of Compliance which states "we have completed the process as set out for a Type C organisation and now comply with the principles and practices of the Governance Code for a three-year period commencing 13/01/2019. The five principles are: Leading our organisation, Exercising control over our organisation, Being transparent and accountable, Working effectively and behaving with integrity. Safeguarding Policies were updated and Terms of Reference reviewed as required for subcommittees. New policies were adopted and audit of our governance performance was carried out internally. Board training was completed throughout the year.

## Affiliated Membership

There are 69 River Clubs with full affiliation. Coastal and Offshore avail of restricted affiliation and 29 Coastal Clubs are affiliated with Rowing Ireland. There were 3,796 rowers registered on Tracker in 2019 and 1,000 Coastal/Offshore rowers. In addition, 1,500 Blitzit members from Get Going Get Rowing.

## External Relationships

- Leo Gibson acted as Board delegate and attended the AGM of the Olympic Council of Ireland
- E. Colclough attended the OCI EGM and Sport Ireland Conference
- Michelle Carpenter attended the OCI EGM and Sport Ireland Governance Conference
- E. Colclough acted as Board delegate at the European Federation meeting.
- Leo Gibson acted as Board delegate and attended Federation of Irish Sports Conference
- Michelle Carpenter and E. Colclough attended the World Rowing Championships.
- Michelle Carpenter presented at the Women in Rowing FISA conference at the World Rowing Championships
- Kieran Kerr attended the Coupe de la Jeunesse
- E. Colclough attended the European Presidents meeting, FISA Nations Dinner and FISA Congress
- E. Colclough attended the 100th anniversary of the Polish Rowing Federation

#HighPerformance “We will Excel”

# HIGH PERFORMANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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## Introduction

All the crews performed at their optimum. Technically, each crew were suited to their assigned level and many were in tight races to the end. Looking ahead, to build on 2019 we need to continue to send as many U23 and Junior crews as possible to their World Championships events as long as athletes come into the camps fitter, better equipped to the program and with better technical skills.

## Key Achievements/Activities for 2019

### Areas of Improvement

- Engagement of the clubs and universities with the High Performance (HPP) program.
- Clear Pathway
- Implementation of the Training program
- Implementation National technical model uniformity
- Coach development
- Heavyweight U23 and Jun with a 2024 Vision
- Funding levels

### Actions to affect change for Improvement

- Increased training opportunities at the NRC for potential HW 2021-2024 athletes
- More training opportunities at the NRC for potential HW male and female U23 and JUN 2020 and beyond athletes
- Encourage domestic coaches to consider international targets as well as domestic goals in clubs and university programmes

## Looking Forward - 2020

The strategic focus for 2020 OG and beyond (Paris 2024) remains on developing larger Olympic groups, and a system that can support them; generating long-term sustainability for the HPP; importantly, to produce crews for Olympic qualification; engaging volunteer coaches in the pathway and give clear direction to all stakeholders.

Training opportunities at the NRC for all age categories (JUN, U23, SA) will be one of the main focuses for pushing the levels of performance, and creating a HP system able to produce consistent results across all teams for the long term. By having contact with younger athletes from an earlier point in their career, and having them exposed to the new Rowing Ireland Performance Strategies, we see the possibility to educate the next wave of athletes into our care.

## 2020 HP Performance Strategy

The pathway for athletes and coaches to represent Rowing Ireland has been revised and protocols issued including:

1. Nomination
2. Assessment and Trials
3. Athlete Agreement
4. Social Media Policy
5. HPP Carding
6. Guidelines for Athletes
7. Training at NRC
8. Water and erg testing for senior and juniors

## Closing Statement

A large team of volunteers were involved in supporting crew training and managing teams since my appointment.

In addition, a whole range of club coaches, administrators, captains, umpires have supported HP development in junior and senior ranks together with Board members and Staff. The continuing support of Club and University coaches are vital for developing the HPP, ensuring that it is sustainable into the future.

Sport Ireland, Irish Institute of Sport, Paralympic Ireland, Sport Northern Ireland, Sport Institute of Northern Ireland and Olympic federation of Ireland continue to offer financial and administrative support as well as professional guidance to Rowing Ireland HPP, which has been greatly appreciated.

I want to express my huge confidence that Rowing Ireland's High-Performance Program has a great future ahead. The potential is there for a strong and successful HPP. With teamwork, honesty, transparency, hard work and courage as some great values for our sport, the potential of results can be delivered for the best interest of all our Irish rowers.



**Antonio Maurogiovanni**

HPD Rowing Ireland



# Our 2019 achievements



## Senior World Rowing Championships



## World Cups



## European Championships



## U23 World



## U23 European Championships



## Junior European Championships



## Para World Rowing Championships



## Irish Rowing is ranked 2nd in the World

1 New Zealand	4	2	0	6
2 Ireland	2	1	0	3
3 Germany	2	0	1	3



# High Performance “We will Excel”

# HIGH PERFORMANCE

**Neville Maxwell**  
Chairperson

**Committee members**  
Garth Young  
Con Cronin  
Pat McInerney  
Fergal O’Callaghan  
Michelle Carpenter (CEO)  
Antonio Maurogiovanni (HPD)

## Introduction

The Committee works with HPD to ensure:

- that a HP strategy for the current Olympic cycle and beyond is formulated
- that a specific strategy for the Senior A HP programme is formulated/adapted and implemented in line with our HP Strategy
- that a specific strategy for the junior/U23 programme is formulated/adapted and implemented in line with our HP strategy

The Committee will assist the HPD to ensure the HP policy of RI is clearly communicated to all our internal and external stakeholders and other relevant bodies

## Key Achievements/Activities for 2019

Supporting the HPD to develop the team of coaches and management that deliver our agreed 2020 Tokyo target  
Supporting the HPD in meetings with OFI in preparation for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics

Agreeing annual HP budgets with Sport Ireland.

Assisting the HPD in preparing for meetings with Sport Ireland & Sport Northern Ireland

Supporting the HPD in the ongoing management of the pathway system from Junior through senior B and onto senior A level for both men and women’s groups.

Assisting the HPD identify and develop regional centres of excellence and supporting the recruitment process

## Looking Forward - 2020

To date Rowing Ireland have qualified 4 crews for the 2020 Olympic Games (W1X, W2-, M2x, LM2X), with the potential of adding one or two more crews in the W4- and LW2x. It is vital that we provide as much support to allow these athletes and coaches perform to the best of their ability. This will be the largest team we have ever sent to an Olympic Games.

This needs to be supported financially by all our existing partners as well as financial support from sponsors. As our





team grows the cost of supporting them also rises. In addition to our 2020 Olympic team we must ensure that the pipeline of athletes and coaches who will become part of our Junior and senior B world championship team are supported to the best of our ability. These athletes could be the Olympians of the 2024 and 2028 Olympic games.

In addition to our traditional Olympic rowing classes we have the possibility of coastal rowing being added to the Olympic schedule. Over the coming months we intend to map out a process for the inclusion of these boat types in our HP programme and ensuring that we can support athletes and coaches to achieve their potential at this level.

We must develop our relationship further with our third level teaching centres in line with SI strategy and our clubs to ensure best practices are available to all potential HP athletes

Closing Statement

At this time last year, we were talking about the achievements of our Lightweight men and Sanita, now we can say that we had the most successful Championship campaign at Junior European, Junior world, Senior B world and Senior A world championship. In a short space of time we have achieved more than many of us felt possible. This has been due to the great work of our athletes and the HP team of coaches and management. We are seen as the template for many like sized rowing nations and the envy of some of the top nations.

We all know these athletes and coaches, we have talked to then and sat beside them, they are family and friends, and they are club athletes who have decided to take it to another level. Their success is reflected in the pride of each club they represent. They boost our sport and help our clubs grow.

But for them to continue on this journey they need our 100% support Its will be the role of this committee to support them and this process now and into the future. I would like to thank the members of the HP committee for their input and guidance in how we develop our HP programme now and into the future

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the following members of the High-Performance team for making this possible,



*“We all have the vision but  
these people bring it to life”*

**High Performance Director:** Antonio Maurogiovanni

**Coaches:** David McGowan, Dominic Casey, Giuseppe De vita, Fran Keane, John Armstrong, Ciro Prisco



#Supporting Clubs

# SAFETY

**Pat Kiely**  
Chairperson

**Committee members**

Joe Cantillon  
Evan Molly  
Richie Nolan  
Denis O' Regan  
Michael O' Rourke  
Steven Archibald  
Rob Dunne

**Introduction**

To advise Rowing Ireland on its responsibilities regarding safety in relation to all events under its control and, in relation to such events, assisting Rowing Ireland to comply with any relevant safety legislation or best practice requirements.

To review best practice in relation to rowing safety and to make recommendations to all stakeholders to ensure a safe rowing environment.

**Key Achievements/Activities for 2019**

- Club safety Advisor workshops held in six locations during 2018
- Integration of offshore rowing to the safety committee
- Reviewed incident in Limerick city, identified lesson to be learned and advised on recommendations to the board, these recommendations were then communicated to all clubs
- Review of Rowing Ireland safety Policy
- Looking Forward - 2020
- Re-branding of the safety committee from "Safety Committee" to "Safety Advisory Committee"
- Review of club safety documentation
- Review Rowing Ireland Safety Statement/Policy
- Launch driving qualifications
- Review methods of communications with clubs

**Closing Statement**

Safety in our sport must be one of the associations highest priorities, with a number of recorded near misses and one very serious incident in 2019 we must heighten the awareness of risks and offer clubs sustainable and practical solutions to manage these risk, in doing so, our sport can continue to be a safe enjoyable fulfilling and challenging activity.

As the chairperson of the committee I would like to thank the committee for their time and commitment to the Safety committee.





#Supporting Clubs

# DOMESTIC EVENTS

**Brenda Ewing**  
Chairperson

**Committee members**  
Lisa O'Callaghan  
Kieran Kerr  
Dave Webb

## Introduction

To plan the development of and to oversee domestic competition in Ireland with a view to maintaining and raising standards.

## Key Achievements/Activities for 2019

**Observers** – appointed for all Events. Responses fed-back to Event Organisers and issues discussed where necessary

**Re-scheduling Events** – assisted with new dates for events where possible, due to the high number of weather-related cancellations. The Head season 2020 to date has seen no Head of the River taking place due to severe weather. This is unprecedented.

**Tracker queries from event organisers** – assistance given to new users on set-up and on-going use

**Tracker queries from athletes** – generally regarding points allocations

**Late entries** – explanations to Clubs and Event Organisers there is no waiving the Rules for late entries including "Time only".

**Non-Tracker entries** – queried with Event organisers. Fines issued where appropriate.

**Kit and Blade approvals** – applicable to new Club affiliations

**Overseas entries** – monitoring participation to ensure all athletes seek permission and are registered with the Club they are participating for. Follow up where non-compliance.

**Athlete eligibility queries** – explanations provided

**Timing at Grand leagues** – DEC personnel involved to ensure consistency and build experience / develop the system- University Championships – B Ewing and D Webb assisted in the running of the 2019 Championships



## Looking Forward – 2020

**Calendar review** – DEC is part of the Working Group looking at a re-structure of the Domestic Calendar. There is demand to reduce the length of Regatta days - some 12 hours long and the growth in participation at the Irish Rowing Championships over recent years leading to maximum capacity over the 3 days has led to an urgent need for change.

**Event Guidance** - DEC looking at producing a list of “frequently asked Questions” aimed at assisting new Event Organising Committees

**Rules Clarification/New Rules** – DEC looking at the current RI Rules for competitive Rowing with a view to making suggestions prior to 2021 Rule change year.

**New member** – DEC hope to add a new member to the team

**Tracker upgrades** – DEC involved with discussions on the upgrading of the whole Tracker system. Tracker is an invaluable part of our athlete registration system recording athletes’ history and on-going competition activity. Tracker is also invaluable to Event Organisers as it receives entries, produces Draws along with Rower data, finance information and the facility to post event documents on the RI website.

## Closing Statement

Thank you to Lisa, Kieran and Dave for their prompt replies to the on-going barrage of emails from me regarding issues coming to the attention of the Domestic Events Committee.

Also, thanks to Denis, in the office, for his on-going help in getting issues sorted out.

The Domestic events Committee continues to work with other Rowing Ireland sub-committees, including the Umpires and Championship Committee to ensure Events are run to our Rules and standards are maintained and improved where possible.

#Supporting Clubs

# UMPIRES

**TJ Ryan**

Chairperson

## Committee members

Eamon Colclough

Susan Dunlea

Ronald Walker

Seamus Scully

Colin Daly

Sean Heaney

## Introduction

The role of the Committee is:

- To evaluate and re-license new and existing Umpires.
- Be able to interpret the rules of Rowing Ireland and make any recommendations on the use of the rules at Irish regattas
- To make sure that all athletes are provided with safe and fair racing
- Provide training help to new umpires pass the exam and have a better understanding of the rules

## Key Achievements/Activities for 2019

This year we held four exams in Dublin, Cork, Limerick and Carlow. All these exams and training were well attended and there was a full pass rate on the paper of new applicants. 80% of new applicants received full licenses and the rest got provisionals. There was a 98% pass rate on the renewals of existing licenses.

The umpire's committee met twice by teleconference and looked at any changes that could be brought in to improve racing. Key recommendations were the standardisation of short starts for J14/15/Masters, Better feedback from umpires on different courses and the same starting procedure being used at different regattas.

The use of Static umpiring was discussed and was decided that it would not be safe or fair on multi-lane courses in Ireland

## Looking Forward – 2020

Following Questions about the start at different regattas it was decided to add a starting roster of umpires which will be in this year's list. This will help new and aspiring Umpires to be put on a mentoring process under existing starters to bring up the standard nationwide.

Also, a proposed addition of photo ID has been proposed for tracker to rule out the use of ringers in crews at regattas.

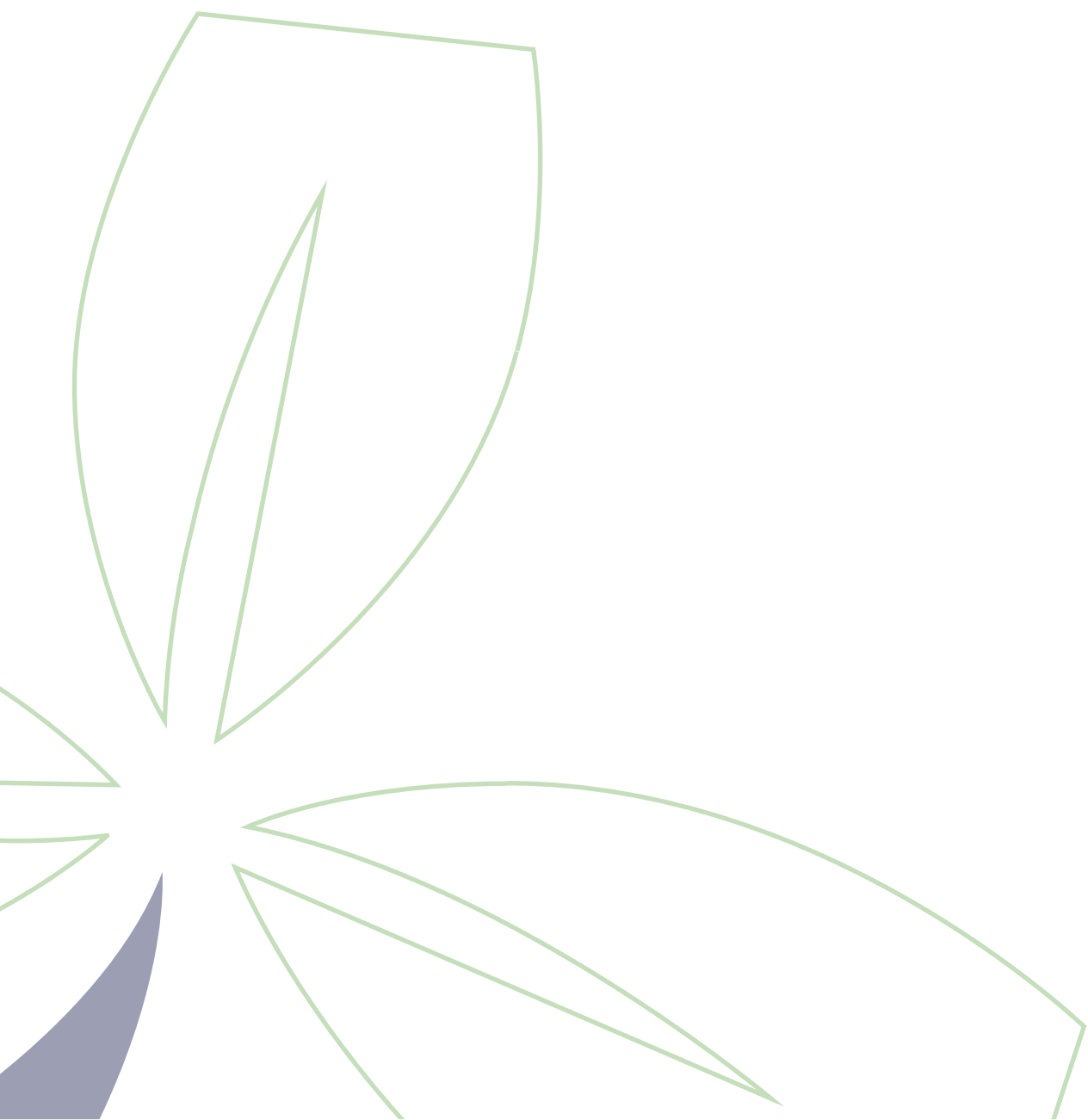
We will be holding exams again at the back end of the year or start of 2021 in various centres around the country.



Closing Statement

I would like to thank all those who helped with the training and exams during the year and all Umpires who gave up their time to Umpire at various regattas around the country.

Without your help we could not run these regattas and keep them on the now time tight schedules.





#Rowing for all a sport for life

# SCHOOLS

**Evan Molloy**  
Chairperson

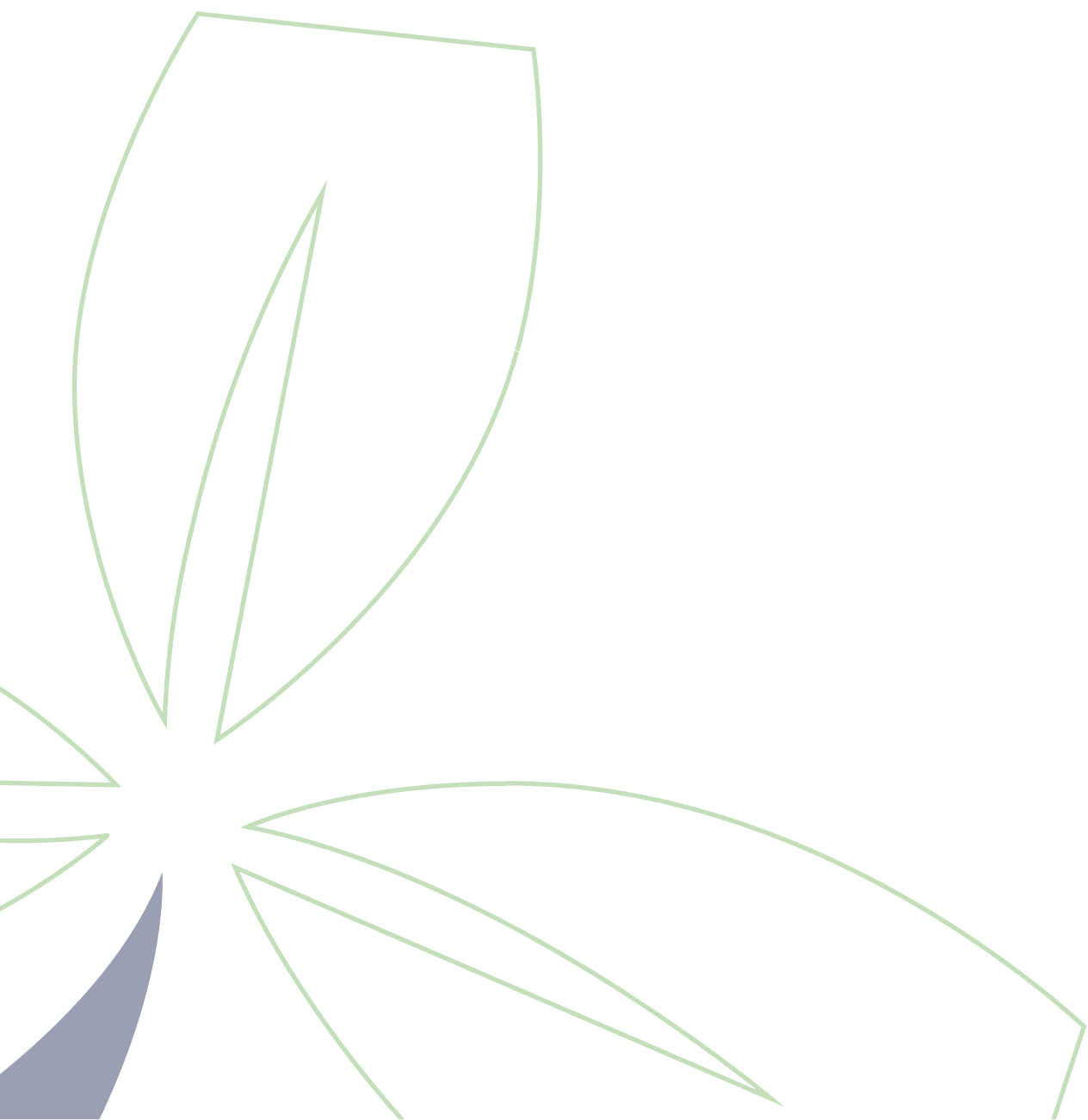
**Committee members**  
Fran Keane  
Derek Holland  
Enda Marron  
Laura Gannon

## Key Achievements/Activities for 2019

The committee did not meet and the sole objective is to run a successful Schools Regatta, in 2019 the Regatta was organised at Lough Rynn, but due to deteriorating weather conditions on the day it had to be canceled and was not rescheduled.

## Looking Forward - 2020

The Schools Regatta is being organised largely by the Connacht Branch this year in conjunction with the Lough Rynn Regatta. Volunteers are being sought to assist in organising same.



#Rowing for all a sport for life

# IRISH ROWING CHAMPIONSHIPS

**Lisa O'Callaghan**  
Chairperson

**Committee members**

Pat Kiely  
Brendan O'Dea  
Kieran Kerr  
Susan Dunlea  
Denis O'Regan  
Con Cronin  
Seamus Scully  
Michelle Carpenter

**Key Achievements/Activities for 2019**

To the casual observer, the Championships regatta went off well. There was excellent racing in good conditions. There were no incidents to report over the weekend, and the feedback from clubs and individuals was that the standard of our premier event continues to improve year on year. Behind the scenes however we just about managed to pull it off and were under extreme pressure in many areas. The event has simply become too large. We can comfortably run the Championship events but the non-Championship events, particularly the large entries in the singles, are putting us under pressure. Had the weather been unkind we would have seriously struggled to run off all the races and/or delivered the standard of event that we can be proud of. The table below shows the increase in entries over the last number of years.

The facilities generally worked well over the weekend and I would like to say a big "Thank You" to the numerous volunteers who worked tirelessly to ensure the success of the event.

**Looking Forward - 2020**

As a result of the increasing size of the event year on year, options need to be considered in order to cater for this growth while maintaining the standard of the event. Some suggestions which will be considered at the Fixtures Meeting/AGM for implementation in 2021 are: hold the event over two weekends, hold the event over 4 days, reduce events offered make the current three-day event more manageable.





#Rowing for all a Sport for life

# COASTAL ROWING

**Kieran Kerr**  
Chairperson

**Committee members**

Robert Dunn  
Eddie Farr  
Danny Hayes  
David Hussey  
Marie Kinsella  
Mary O'Riordan  
Ted McSweeney

**Introduction**

The mission of the Coastal Division is the provision of Coastal Rowing, which is inclusive and Club led, with clear communications and transparent administration. This type of rowing takes place in traditional timber boats or a fiberglass coxed four. The latter are off centre sweep boats. Crews attach to a buoy at the start of the race and row a straight course before turning a buoy and returning.

**Key Achievements/Activities for 2019**

With a view to establishing best practice and building relationships, the committee was in contact with a number of organisations during the year. These included the RNLI, the Irish Coastguard and the Irish Water Safety Association. It has also established a partnership with Clean Coasts in an effort to maintain the quality of the waters and areas around which we row.

The main activity of the Committee during the year was the organisation of a successful Championship regatta. A specific Championship Committee was established for this purpose. Having several representatives from the host club (Whitegate RC) ensured that the host club and coastal committee were working with common objectives and clarity as to what each group was responsible for delivering.

The Championships were held in the National Rowing Centre in glorious weather on 23/24th August. The 10-lane course was laid just beyond the Olympic course and as a result the Olympic finish was used as the start/finish line. The facilities at the NRC greatly assisted in delivering an excellent regatta at which 354 (2018 - 316) crews participated. There was an extremely large competitive entry with most events requiring two heats and in some cases three heats. The feedback from athletes, coaches and supporters was that it was a very professional event with a strong emphasis on transparency and fairness.

**Looking Forward - 2020**

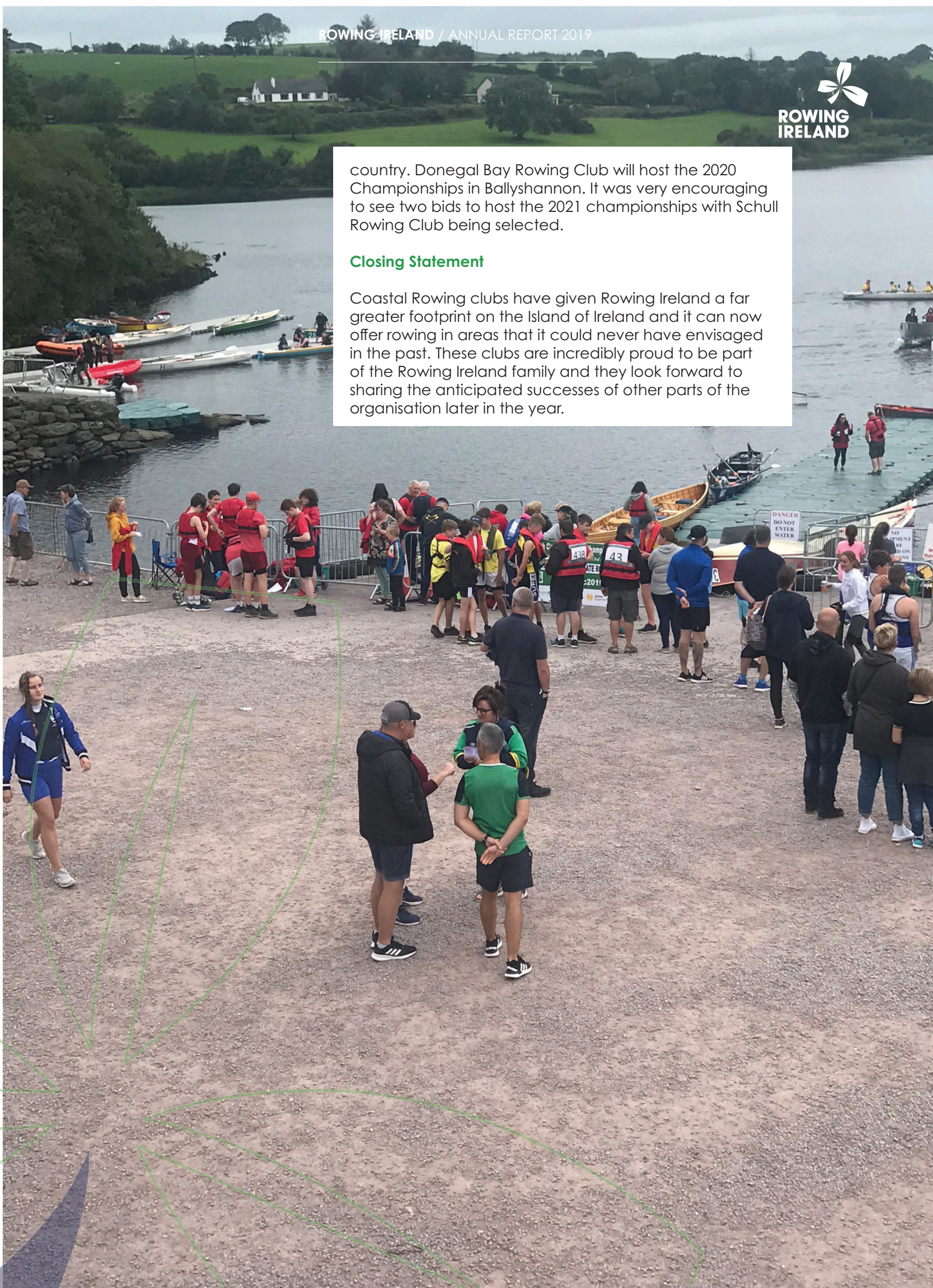
Having run the previous two Irish Coastal Rowing Championships in the National Rowing Centre, it was important for the development of the sport that the Championships should move around the



country. Donegal Bay Rowing Club will host the 2020 Championships in Ballyshannon. It was very encouraging to see two bids to host the 2021 championships with Schull Rowing Club being selected.

### Closing Statement

Coastal Rowing clubs have given Rowing Ireland a far greater footprint on the Island of Ireland and it can now offer rowing in areas that it could never have envisaged in the past. These clubs are incredibly proud to be part of the Rowing Ireland family and they look forward to sharing the anticipated successes of other parts of the organisation later in the year.





#Rowing for all a Sport for life

# OFFSHORE ROWING

**Kieran Kerr**  
Chairperson

**Committee members**  
Norman Black  
Margaurite Deasy  
Robert Dunne  
David Hussey  
Brian Whelton

## Introduction

The mission of the Offshore Committee is to organise, develop and promote FISA Coastal (Offshore) rowing in Ireland in a safe and fair manner. For those not familiar with this type of rowing, it is rowing in single, double and coxed quad sculling boats with a sliding seat. The self-draining boats are wider and heavier than traditional flatwater boats and are designed for competition on the open sea. When Rowing Ireland created this division in 2017 there were approximately 30 offshore boats in the country. Since then the interest in this form of rowing has exploded and it is anticipated there will be close to 200 offshore boats in the country by the end of the year.

## Key Achievements/Activities for 2019

During 2019 approximately 30 clubs participated in Offshore rowing at one of the regattas around the country. While these were mainly traditional coastal clubs, there were also some river clubs and it was encouraging to see both participating at the Irish Offshore Championships.

The 3rd Irish Offshore Rowing Championships were hosted by Cairndhu Rowing Club at Ballygally Beach, Larne on 7th September 2019. The club provided an excellent spectator friendly course and facilities for the event. The number of entries once again increased and was close to double the number competing at the first Championship two years previously. There was excellent racing in the seven Championship categories with a number of overseas crews participating. That evening a large number of the competitors and organisers gathered together for an informal dinner.

Despite the distance to be travelled, and the civil unrest taking place, 22 crews entered the World Coastal Championships in Hong Kong and we also had one competitor at the World Rowing Beach sprint in Shenzhen. While there were no medals this year there were some excellent results including a number of A finalists.

## Looking Forward – 2020

For 2020 the committee have put in place a calendar of ten offshore regattas and two Heads as well as the Championship Regatta which will be hosted by Loughros

Point in Donegal. In addition, a number of new initiatives have been launched for 2020. These include an Offshore League covering the ten regattas around the country. In addition, there will be a Munster, Leinster and Ulster Championship. For 2021 we are hopeful of adding a Connacht Championship and the Championship Regatta will be held in Bantry.

Ireland had proposed holding an international match similar to the Home International in 2019 but the other participating nations failed to obtain sanction from their governing bodies. We will again try to arrange such a match in 2020 as it can only be to the benefit of the development of the sport.

Closing Statement

The big discussion point in Offshore rowing at present is the decision regarding the Olympic programme for 2024 which will be made by both FISA and the IOC at the end of the year. It is anticipated that the remaining lightweight events will be eliminated from the Olympic programme and it seems increasingly likely that the seats will be transferred to Offshore rowing. This will likely see the introduction of a men's single (CM1X), women's single (CW1X), and in order to maintain the gender balance a Mixed double (CMix2X). Should this happen, it will be a game changer for this discipline of our sport with a significant uptake in participation.

We are well ahead of many nations as all of the Offshore clubs are affiliated to Rowing Ireland and we have a large fleet of boats and an established regatta circuit. This is a significant advantage which we can leverage to ensure we remain ahead of our competitors and qualify crews for 2024.





#Rowing for all a Sport for life

# PARA ROWING

**Deirdre O'Hara**  
Chairperson

**Committee members**  
Martin Kilbane  
Mary Moloney  
Gareth Herbert  
Joe Cunningham  
Peter Cassidy

## Introduction

The purpose of the Para Rowing Committee is to develop, organise and provide oversight control on all matters relating to Domestic Para Rowing, the High-Performance Director has responsibility for HP Para Rowing activities. The committee's functions include drafting and implementing a plan for the development of Para Rowing in Ireland, approved by the Board and reporting to the CEO. Responsibilities include arranging domestic para rowing events, supporting rowing clubs to develop Para rowing at a local level and ensuring a proper focus on the safety and welfare of individuals participating in para rowing.

In addition to HP equipment at the NRC and in Galway, almost all of the equipment – boats, oars and erg seats – in use by Irish para rowers is provided by Rowing Ireland on loan to the various rowing clubs. Some of this is funded by Paralympics Ireland, some of it has been funded by philanthropy. The Galway Speeders group for disabled athletes has also acquired a purpose-built catamaran for coaching para rowers through the Sports Capital Grant scheme.

## Key Achievements/Activities for 2019

The bronze medal won by Katie O'Brien of Galway RC in the PR2 women's single sculls in the World Rowing Championships was a welcome boost for the Irish para rowing community, of whom Katie has been very supportive.

At home the Provincial and Irish Indoor Rowing Championships are key competitions for inclusion rowing with a number of para rowing events and a new "iRow" event for intellectually disabled rowers. In Leinster, Dublin Municipal Rowing Centre has been very active in promoting inclusion rowing and works with the Dublin Sports Inclusion Officers and a large number of services such as CRC and St Michael's House to help service users get on the water. The centre has 4 coaching staff and is also well placed to identify competitive para rowers who could join Dublin clubs.

The Cork Sports Partnership is very supportive of inclusion rowing and continues to work closely with the Cork "Get Going, Get Rowing" programme. There are also





recreational para rowers in Cork BC and Castleconnell BC with juniors in Skibbereen RC and Workmens in the pipeline for HP para competition. In Limerick the Get Going Get Rowing programme has worked with Enable Ireland over the past year on indoor rowing with a taster session on the water, and is also working with the Catherine McAuley school. The recent "Get Going, Get Rowing" Indoor Blitz in UL introduced a Rowability category for the participants in both these groups/schools. These participants really enjoyed the experience and the feedback was positive.

With para rowers in City of Derry BC, Lagan Scullers Club and Portadown BC, Ulster is a potential growth area for para rowing. Two Galway clubs have spearheaded inclusion rowing in Connacht – Tribesmen RC has 20 volunteers supporting 10 intellectually disabled athletes to get out on the Corrib and Galway RC has 5 para rowers in training, two of them juniors and the other three 23 and under. An introductory workshop organised by this group in NUI Galway in April was very well received by the 25 participants and there was a demonstration single and double sculling event at Galway Regatta in June.

### Looking Forward – 2020

The Para Rowing Committee is developing a plan with the CEO, subject to approval by the incoming Board, to move towards a more inclusive "Rowability" approach rather than focussing on competitive para rowing. Competitive para rowing and participative inclusion rowing have different requirements and objectives and this will be addressed in the Rowing Ireland plan. Rowing Ireland will be seeking alternative sources of funding for inclusion rowing and welcomes any suggestions from members.

It is planned to include a Rowability category in the next indoor rowing blitz for Cork city and to continue the teens with autism classes. Further initiatives in other regions are at the planning stage and it is hoped to have Irish para competitors in this year's Home International Regatta.

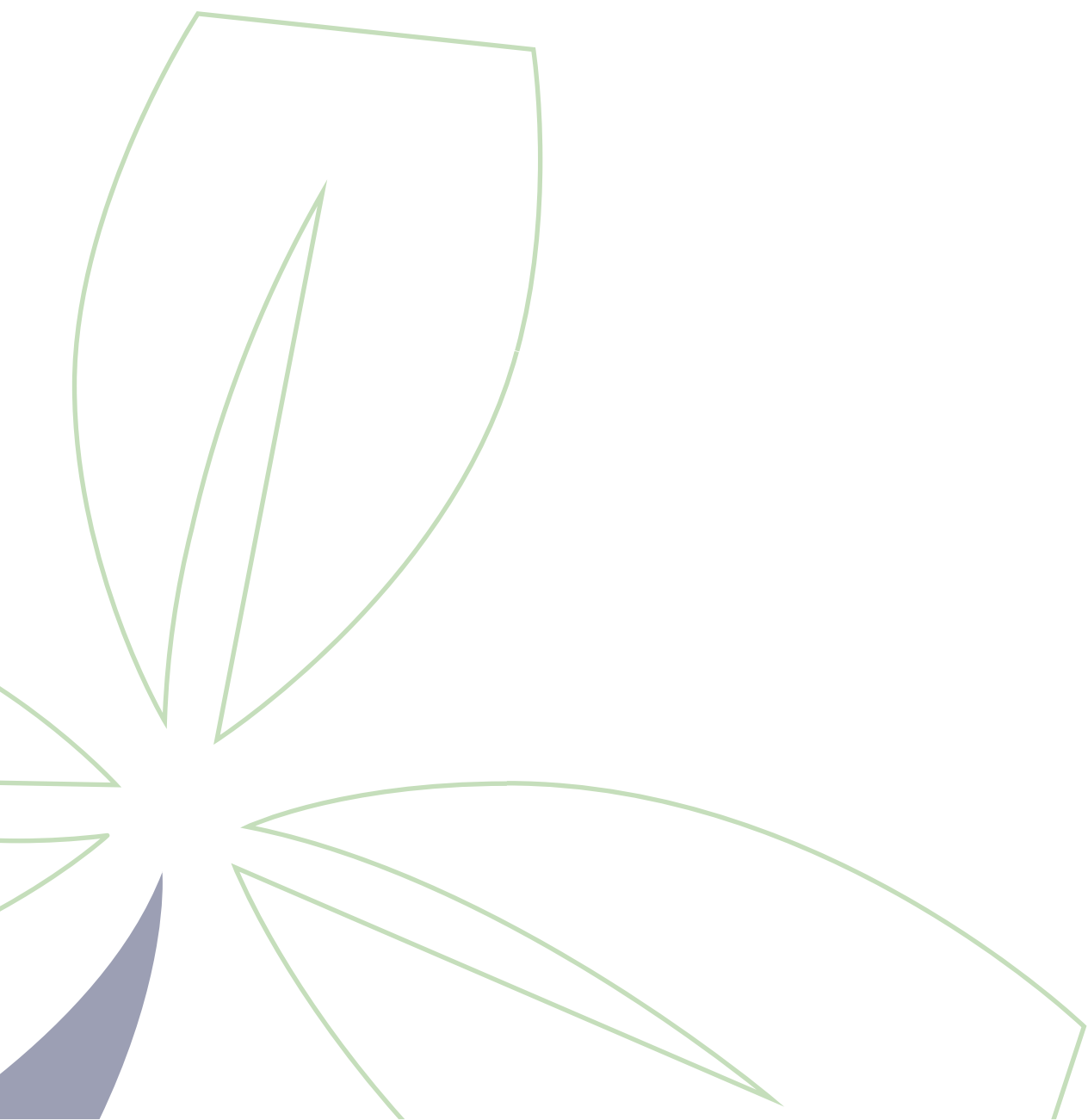
### Closing Statement

The committee chair would like to express her thanks to the volunteers and to the local sports partnerships, Galway Speeders, the Dublin Municipal Rowing Centre and the Get Going, Get Rowing programme for all of their support.

Both para and inclusion rowing require suitable access and can be quite resource intensive so they may not



be suitable for all clubs but they are very rewarding for both participants and coaches. They can also be a route to high performance competition for club athletes with physical restrictions or who have had an illness or accident.



#Supporting Clubs

# Connacht Branch

**Paul O'Donovan**

Chairperson

**Committee members**

Nick Friel (ABC),  
Secretary;

Mark Egan (ABC),  
Treasurer

**Introduction**

The Connacht Branch comprises ten river rowing clubs: Athlone BC, Carrick-on-Shannon RC, CR Choláiste na Coiribe, Coláiste Iognaid RC, Galway RC, Grainne Mhaol RC, NUIG BC, Sligo RC, St Joseph's RC and Tribesmen RC. The 2019 / 2020 branch committee was chaired by Deirdre O'Hara (Galway RC) with Mark Egan (Athlone BC) as secretary and Gillian Carolan (Tribesmen RC) as treasurer.

At the AGM held in Galway on Thursday 27th February 2020 the branch agreed that responsibility for the committee of the Connacht Branch will rotate each year to a different branch club in alphabetical order, with a member of that club to chair and the option of sourcing committee members from other clubs. Athlone BC is therefore responsible for the 2020 branch committee and has opted to nominate its own club members as chair, treasurer and secretary.

The AGM elected Peadar Mac Nena of Tribesmen as Connacht Vice-President and Neville Maxwell, Neptune RC, as the Connacht Representative, both positions on the Rowing Ireland Board. Neville chairs the Rowing Ireland High Performance Committee and the outgoing VP, Deirdre O'Hara, chairs the Governance Committee and the Para Rowing Committee.

Peter Cassidy was the unanimous choice of the Connacht Branch for the VP's special award for 2019 / 2020 for his work with para rowers in Galway RC and with rowing for people with intellectual disabilities in Tribesmen RC.

**Key Achievements/Activities for 2019**

The main collective activity of the Connacht Branch is Lough Rynn Regatta, for which a major effort was made again in 2019, with 70 volunteers from some of the Galway clubs, Sligo, Carrick and Athlone. The weather forecast before the event in 2019 was challenging but rowable but this deteriorated during the day beforehand, which saw the separately organised Schools Regatta called off in mid-morning and the decision was taken to cancel the Lough Rynn Regatta.

As costs were being shared with the Schools Regatta and had already been incurred, the late cancellation resulted

in a financial loss to the branch. In 2020 Lough Rynn Regatta will be held the day before the Schools Regatta and a single committee will run both events so the branch will have more control on decisions that may affect the weekend.

The Connacht clubs also scheduled competitions on the Rowing Ireland calendar - Athlone Regatta, Galway Regatta, Carrick-on-Shannon Regatta, the Tribesmen Head @ Lough Rynn, the Head of the Shannon and the Sligo Head -as well as a number of "At Home" and recreational events. The Tribesmen Head was cancelled due to lack of entries and the Sligo head due to weather, but all of the other events attracted good entries and went off successfully. NUIG won six Irish Championships.

On the international stage, Katie O'Brien of Galway RC won a bronze medal in the PR2 W1x event at the World Rowing Championships in August. Earlier in the summer, Mathew Gallagher of St. Joseph's (Bish) rowed in the Irish JM4+ which won silver at the European Junior Rowing Championships and came 4th at the World Junior Rowing Championships, having just been pipped for a podium position.

### Looking Forward – 2020

The year so far has been challenging with the unprecedented high levels of water in the Corrib and the Shannon which has curtailed on the water training through safety concerns. With the growing popularity of our sport our clubs are in a very healthy position and it is hoped that when the flood waters recedes activity will be sight to behold on our rivers and lakes. With such challenging conditions, and offshore rowing looking set for the Paris 2024 Olympics, this is a potential growth area in existing and possibly new Connacht rowing clubs. In terms of development of facilities - NUIG has recently refurbished their premises, Galway RC continues to seek funding for a major development at a safer location upstream and Athlone Boat Club this year will see their club house demolished and a new 2 storey building rise on the site, funding has been secured through Sports Capital and Leader grants.

It is hoped that Connacht athletes currently in the Irish High-Performance squad will contribute to a strong Irish performance internationally.

### Closing statement

Sadly, there have been a number of losses to the Connacht clubs of former and current members, and we remember them dearly.

#Supporting Clubs

## Munster Branch

**Lisa O'Callaghan,**  
Vice President

### Key Achievements/Activities for 2019

This is the Branch report covering the period April 2019 – March 2020.

### Officers

At the Munster Branch AGM the following were elected:  
Vice President – Lisa O'Callaghan – Waterford Boat Club  
(elected in 2018)

Representative – TJ Ryan – Skibbereen Rowing Club  
(elected for 2019 & 2020)

Hon Treasurer – Susan Dunlea – Monkstown & Cork  
Harbour Rowing Club

Hon Secretary – Nollag Dwyer – Clonmel Rowing Club

### Branch Award

The branch award was given to Brian Sheppard, Limerick Boat Club for his tireless work in getting the club back on the water after the roof was blown off the premises in 2014.

### Rowing Ireland Committees

The branch representatives are currently active on the following Rowing Ireland Committees:

Munster VP: Lisa O'Callaghan- Domestic Events, Championships (Chair), Events Review Working Group  
Munster Rep: TJ Ryan- Umpires (Chair), Events Review Working Group

### Umpires Exams

Seminars/Exams in the branch were held in Lee RC and St. Michaels RC during the year and were well attended.

### Irish Rowing Championships

Congratulations to the Munster Clubs that were successful at the Irish Rowing Championships in 2019. The clubs taking home championship pots were: Cork 3, Lee 3, Skibbereen 3, Kenmare 2, UCC 2, Castleconnell 2 (incl Composite), Killorglin 1, Lee Valley 1, Shandon 1, St Michaels 1.



### Grand League

Congratulations to Cork BC on winning the overall Women's Division 2 event at the grand league regattas.

### Regattas/Heads in the Branch

- Skibbereen Regatta – held in April
- Limerick Regatta – cancelled in April
- Lee Regatta – held in May
- Castleconnell Sprint Regatta – held in May
- Bantry Sprint Regatta – held in May
- Cork Regatta – cancelled in June
- Fermoy Sprint Regatta – cancelled in June
- Shandon Masters Regatta – held in August
- St Michaels Masters Regatta – held in August
- Cork Head – held in October
- Castleconnell Head – held in October
- Skibbereen Head – held in November

### Home International

A number of athletes, both Junior and Senior, from clubs in the branch were part of the team that competed at the Home International Regatta at a very wet Strathclyde Park, Scotland in July. Ireland had 4 wins on the day in the following events: JW1x, JM4x, JM2- and JM8+. Congratulations to all athletes and Coaches who were part of the team. The experience gained will stand to you in your future development.

### Coupe de la Jeunesse

The following athletes represented Ireland at the Coupe de la Jeunesse in Corgeno, Italy in August - **JW 4x-** Aoife Lynch (Lee), Anna Tyther (Killorglin), JW2x Chris Kirwan (St. Michaels), Holly Davis (Lee Valley), **JM4x** Rory O'Neill (Castleconnell), Fionn O'Reilly (Skibbereen), Thomas Kelly (Kenmare), Andrew Sheehan (Lee), **JW2-** Claragh O'Sullivan (Cork), Jane Duggan (Cork), **JW4-** Niamh Kiely (Castleconnell) Lauren O'Brien (Castleconnell) Vicky Hanlon (Cork). These athletes raced hard over the two days and gained some valuable International experience.

### World Junior International Success

Five athletes from clubs in the branch, represented Ireland at the World Junior Championships in Tokyo, Japan in August. The **JM4+** of John Kearney (Cork BC), Jack Dorney (Shandon BC), James O'Donovan (Castleconnell BC), Matthew Gallagher (St. Josephs) and cox Leah O'Regan (Shandon BC) finished 4th in the

A Final. The **JW2x** of Molly Curry (CGS) and Rhiannon O'Donoghue (Killorglin RC) finished 5th in the A Final. These were outstanding results by both of these crews at World Junior level.

The **JM4+** (crew as above) tasted medal success early in the season by winning a Silver Medal at the European Junior Championships in Essen, Germany in April.  
Volunteer of the Month: Without volunteers, our sport would not be able to function to its potential. The following people from clubs in the branch, have been recognised for their contribution to the sport.  
Donal O'Byrne (St Michaels) and Ger Hayes (Castleconnell) – April 2019  
Richard Hosford (Skibbereen) – June 2019  
Brian O'Keeffe (Presentation College) - December 2019

### World Senior/U23 International Success

Many athletes from the branch represented their country proudly at International events during the year. The medal winners were as follows:

#### European U23 Championships

**BM1x** – Ronan Byrne (UCC) - Gold  
World Cup III:  
**M2x** – Ronan Byrne (UCC) and Phil Doyle (BBC) – Silver  
**LM2x** – Fintan McCarthy and Paul O'Donovan (Skibbereen) – Silver  
**LM1x** – Gary O'Donovan (Skibbereen) – Bronze

#### World U23 Championships

**W4-** - Emily Hegarty (UCC), Tara Hanlon (UCC) – Silver  
**LM4x** – Hugh Sutton (UCC), Eoin Gaffney (Shandon)– Bronze

#### World Championships

**LM2x** – Fintan McCarthy & Paul O'Donovan (Skibbereen) – Gold  
**M2x** – Ronan Byrne (UCC) and Phil Doyle (BBC) - Silver

#### Closing Statement

Condolences: The branch would like to take this opportunity to extend their condolences to those who have had family and friends pass away over the last twelve months.

## #Supporting Clubs

# ULSTER BRANCH

**Brenda Ewing**  
Vice President

**Committee members**  
G Young, Vice-Chair; R Walker, Secretary; T Dunlop, Treasurer; G Reid, Governance; D Webb, Events;

plus 1 rep from each affiliated RIUB Club

## Key Achievements/Activities for 2019

**Meetings** - The Branch held meetings every month except July and December. All but a few Clubs made contributions by attending meetings.

**Mary Peters Trust** - Molly Curry (£1000) and Lucy McCoy (£750) received awards. The Trust has been a generous supporter to our sport over many years

**Governance** - Gordon Reid presented an update on where the Branch stood. More work to be done

### Charities Commission

after several years the Branch has been called for assessment by the Commission. The Secretary needs Club support to get the paperwork in for consideration by the Commission.

**Foyle HOR** - Appeared on the RI Calendar at the end of March – deemed a success by those who attended. Hopefully will become re-established as a regular event again

**Coach Education** - an Introductory Course was held in May in QUB + a Level 1 (18 coaches) in November in Coleraine GS. The L1 was delivered by 3 NI Tutors

**Safeguarding** - Updates given to Branch reps at meetings by B Ewing. Encouragement for re-vetting of coaches and Club administrators. 3 Tutors – G Reid, A Gilbert, B Ewing completed NSPCC Child Protection in Sport Unit re-fresher training in line with Sport NI compliancy.

**Branch Strategy Session** - The May meeting was devoted to looking at what was needed to assist NI Clubs. The shortage/non availability of coaches was a big problem. Many have completed the Intro and Level 1 Coach Ed courses but where are they now? Discussion about paying for coaches / Clubs sharing payments? How can Clubs raise finance to pay for coaching. Coaches need ongoing training – re-fresher information. Agreed RIUB could subsidise Coaching courses if numbers fell short of minimum number to be viable.

**Safety** - Branch Clubs attended the RI Safety workshop in July hosted by Belfast RC. There was important information shared and good discussion.

**Craigavon Lakes Regatta** - the 2019 event built on the success of the 2018 event. Working relations with the Council were easier. There are on-going negotiations over the £1000 Lake use fee. The experienced team of cable laying volunteers had the course laid in hours rather than days assisted by gadgets designed by R Walker and made by G Young. New cable laying apprentices are being sought for the 2020 experience.

**International representation** - the following represented Ireland in

- World Cup / World Champs – P Doyle (BBC)
- Jun Worlds – M Curry (CGS)
- World U23 Champs – M Taylor (QUBBC) R Ballentine (QUBBC) R Corrigan (QUBBC)
- European U23 Champs – R Corrigan (QUBBC) H Moore (QUBBC) K Shirlow (BannRC)
- Coupe de la Jeunesse – Lucy Mc Coy (BBC)
- Homes – A Christie (Bann RC) H Moore (QUBBC) E Brogan (QUBLBC) K Shirlow (Bann RC) P Mc Mullan (BBC)
- Championships 2019 – Ulster Clubs had wins as follows –
- Enniskillen RBC – MI 2-, MJ 8, WJ4-
- Bann RC – WJ 8
- QUBBC – MN 4X+
- QUBLBC – WN 4X+

**Events** - There is interest in re-establishing the RIUB Head of the River in Newry working with Newry RC. The Branch worked with the Club to see if a trial event could be held with invited crews – however Council insurance requirements proved difficult. The Branch may now be able to reach the Council threshold required by paying a supplement via the RI Insurance policy. This has to be looked at further.

### Looking Forward - 2020

**Mary Peters Trust** - applications have been made on behalf of Molly Curry (Coleraine GS), Lucy Mc Coy (Belfast BC), Patti Mc Mullan (Belfast BC) and Hugh Moore (QUBBC)

**Coach Education** - Introductory planned for March / April. Date TBC. Level 1 planned for Nov – date TBC

**Events** - Re-establish RIUB Head of the River on Newry Canal. Build on the success of the Craigavon Lakes Regatta



**Umpires**

Encourage new applicants to take the exam

**Governance**

Establish compliance level with Sport NI

**Safeguarding**

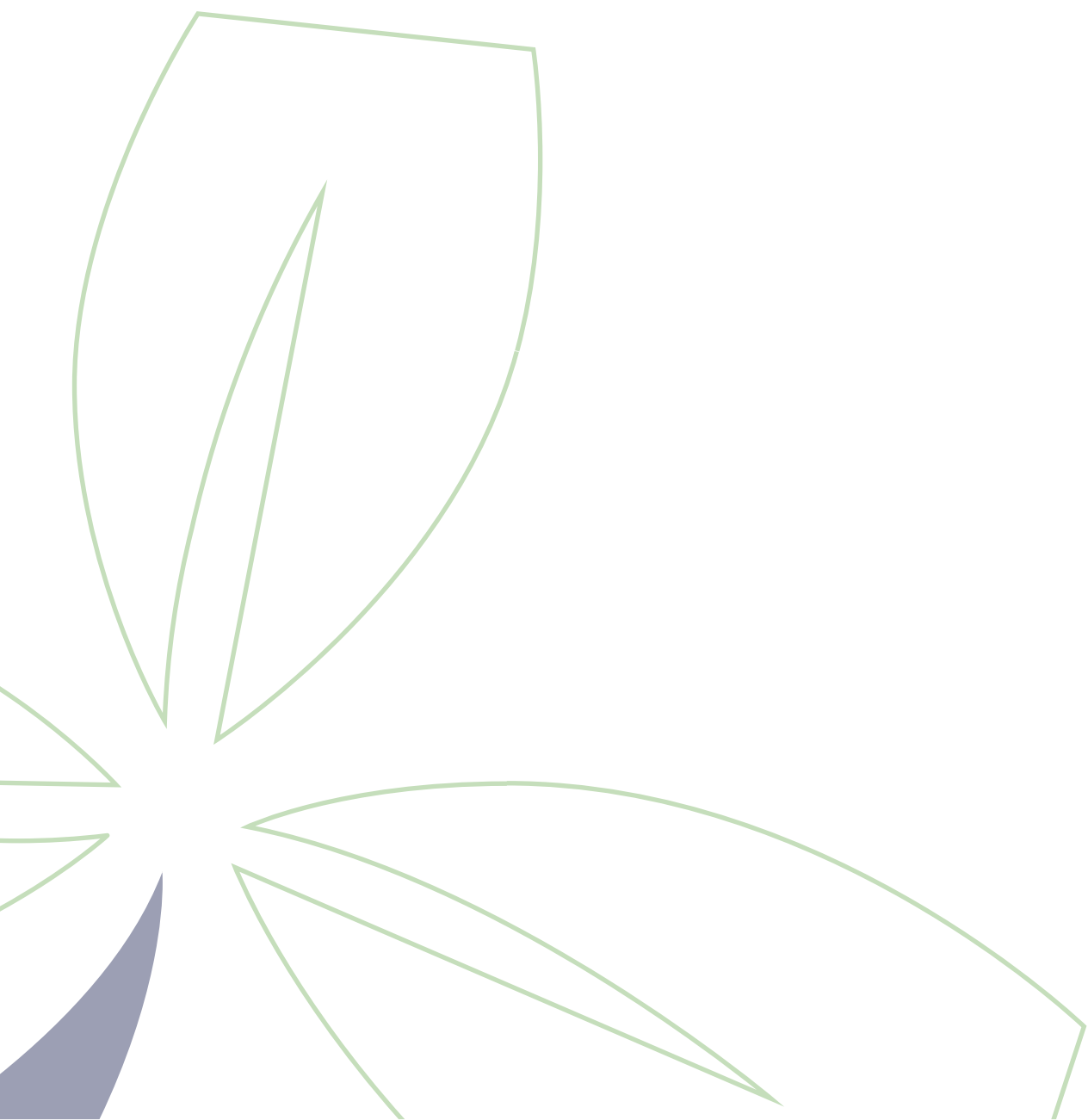
ensure RIUB Clubs are compliant with RI requirements

**RIUB Clubs**

Encourage all affiliated Clubs to be involved with the Branch activities and discussions.

**Closing Statement**

Thanks to all the Club representatives who attended and contributed to Branch meetings. Thanks to the Clubs which hosted meetings – great hospitality from all. I hope the RIUB Clubs have a successful 2020





#Supporting Clubs

## LEINSTER BRANCH

Gerry Farrell  
Vice President

### Key Achievements/Activities for 2019

For a variety of reasons, the Branch had a very quiet year.

**Coach Education** - There is a steady interest in the coach education program at all levels from Introductory to Level 3 across all our clubs. The Branch arranged seminars on S & C best practise and safety issues.

**Women In Sport Initiative** - Mary Moloney and Claire Lambe are delivering results under this initiative and the Branch continues to assist these programs.

#### Highlights are:

- Total student's erg rowing in Leinster: **13,000**
- Total transitioning to clubs: **80**
- Trinity Erg Blitz in partnership with Trinity College: **900** participants.
- Carlow Erg Blitz: **500** participants
- Dublin Grand Canal Dock Water Blitz: **450**.
- Program recruits from 2016/8 taking part in RI Trials.
- **56** TrY rowing coaches trained, creating a pathway to coaching for students
- **20** TrY students trained as rowing instructors

**Club Development** - Overall, numbers continue to grow in clubs throughout the Branch. It is encouraging to see clubs broaden their programs to include more non-competitive elements such as touring and leisure rowing, a leader in this regard is Phoenix, which continues to grow and develop a non-traditional approach to rowing. This opens the sport to a much wider potential membership, and it is promising to see social rowing becoming an integral part of several club programs.

The Branch is always open to proposals from clubs or individuals to sponsor efforts that result in better club structures for its members.

**Irish Championship Regatta** - Success at senior level is being led by UCD and they are to be congratulated on their winning the men's Senior Eight and Four. Wins by UCD, Commercial, DUBC, Anna Liffey, DULBC and Carlow show that rowing in Leinster is in good health.

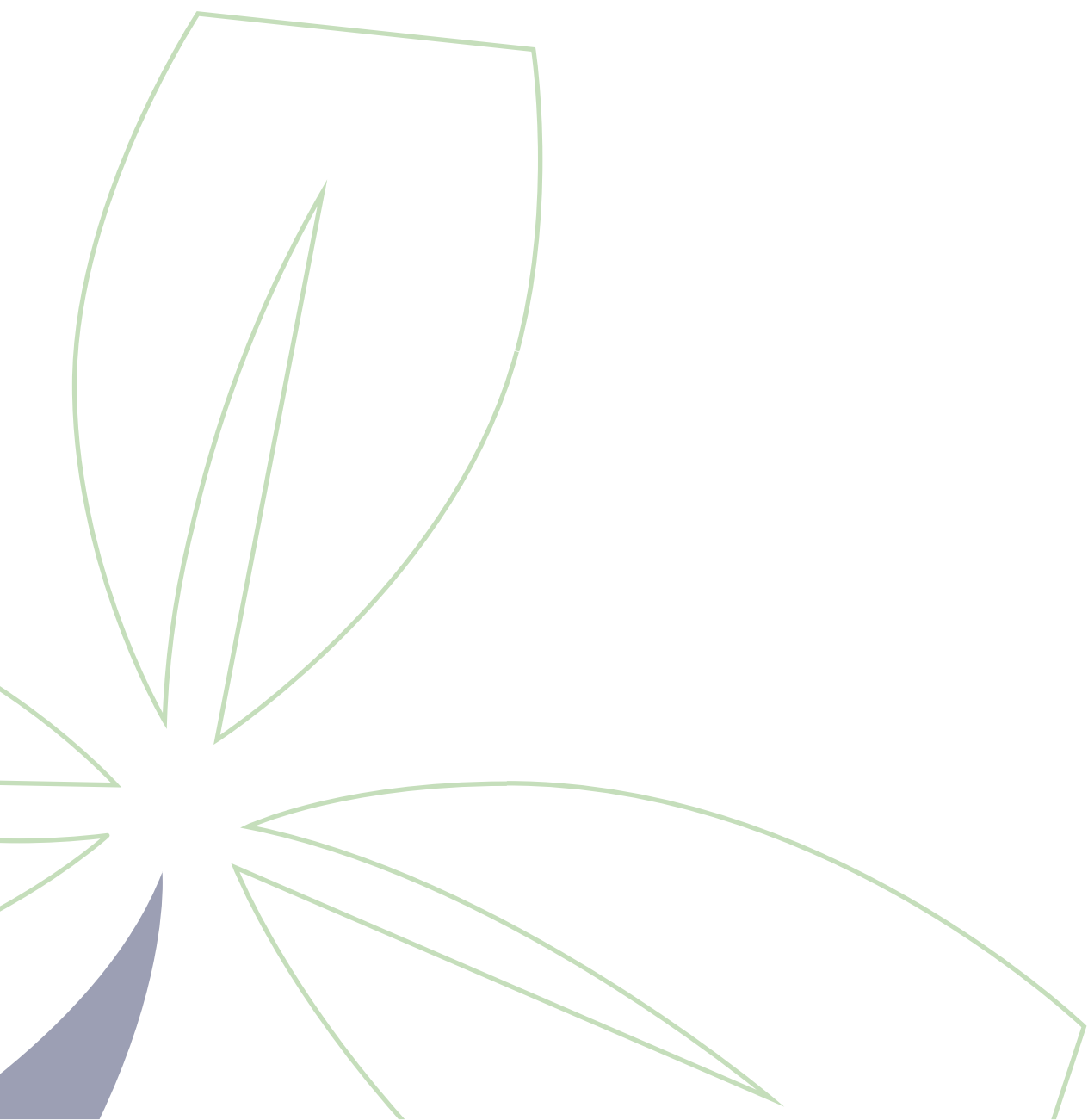
**Blessington** - The development of a new boathouse in Blessington is progressing and the planning permission application has been granted by Wicklow County Council.



**Islandbridge** - Development on the Liffey continues with Dublin City Council (DCC) providing funding for rehabilitation works on the Islandbridge weir. DCC also implemented a plan to control weed growth on the Liffey during the rowing season which was very successful. A new pedestrian bridge linking the War Memorial Park to the UCD boat park is being built by the OPW and is at the design phase.

**Looking Forward – 2020**

Priorities for the coming year will focus on safety issues. A number of workshops will be held throughout the Branch to update club safety advisors on current best practises.



#Leading our Sport

# AUDIT & RISK

**Carol-Ann Smith**  
Chairperson

**Committee members**  
Paul Gallen  
Leo Gibson  
Dan Buckley

## Introduction/Mission

The Committee's responsibilities relate to audit, financial reporting, periodic review of risk register, and other duties as required from time to time by the Board.

Responsibilities include, and are not limited to:

- Recommend to the Board the appointment of external Auditor and audit fee
- Agree with the Auditor the scope of the audit
- Review Rowing Ireland's procedures with respect to appropriateness and adequacy of financial controls
- Review the year-end financial statements before submission to the Board
- Monitor compliance with regulatory requirements

## Key Achievements/Activities for 2019

The Committee met on 5 occasions since the 2019 AGM. The pre-audit meeting was held in Athlone, and the post-audit review meetings in 2020 were held by teleconference.

Pre-Audit planning meeting outcome:

- 1) The 2019 Audit was scheduled to take place in January 2020.
- 2) It was agreed with the Auditor that there would be an emphasis on reviewing
  - i) Related party transactions
  - ii) Maintenance of the Grants file system established during 2018 audit.

Post-Audit Meeting outcome:

## Draft Rowing Ireland 2019 Accounts

The Auditor presented the draft accounts prior to the meeting to the Audit & Risk Committee.

- a) It was advised that the Board of Rowing Ireland update the Directors report in order to showcase all the achievements during the year. The Audit & Risk Committee took on this task and received assistance from the CEO, and the report was ultimately signed off by the Board.

b) Income & Expenditure Account shows a small deficit for 2019 of (€5,841) for the year after providing for Depreciation, compared to a surplus of €10,898 in 2018. Note, income of €20,000 has been deferred to 2020 in respect of Salaries not utilised in 2019. This is a book deficit; the amount is available in 2020.

c) Provisions / Write-off - All unpaid balances from 2017 and 2018 were written off, which amounted to circa €3,800 and related to event licenses, registrations, affiliation fees, women in sport programme income, coaching courses, champs programme advertising, and uncollected sponsorship of €2,000. Auditor confirmed that no one item, apart from sponsorship, exceeded €1,000, and recommended no further action was required to investigate the reasons for non-collection.

d) Uncollected sponsorship of €2,000 has been written off in the 2019 accounts.

e) There were two Related Party Transactions which the Committee reviewed and concluded that they demonstrated good value for the organisation.

f) Maintenance of the Grants file system – Information was more readily available during this audit compared to last year, and Auditor commended Finance Officer and Treasurer for maintaining the recording system established during the 2018 audit.

The Auditor issued an unqualified audit opinion and the Audit & Risk Committee were able to recommend the accounts to the Board of Rowing Ireland for approval.

### Looking forward - 2020

Continue to support the Board of Rowing Ireland in accordance with the Terms of Reference and support the CEO through periodic reviews of the Risk Register.





#Leading our Sport

# Treasurer Report

The audited accounts for 2019 were reviewed by the Audit Committee of Carol Ann Smith (Chair), Paul Gallen, Leo Gibson (Treasurer RI) and Dan Buckley. They were subsequently approved by the Board of Rowing Ireland. On behalf of the Board I would like to thank Carol Ann, Paul and Dan for their work and diligence.

I would also like to acknowledge the work carried out by Alec Moffett (Financial Officer) and Michelle Carpenter (CEO). Some of the main items in the annual audited accounts for the year ended 31st December 2019 are analysed against previous performances in the various tables below. They are broken into two sections the first being the "Domestic Programme" and the second the "High Performance Programme".

While a deficit of €5,841 was recorded for the year, the organisation is in a surprisingly healthy financial position with over €490,000 in cash and bank. Our Current Ratio (Current Assets/Current Liabilities) is also a healthy 1.25.

## DOMESTIC PROGRAM

	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Income			€812,235	€766,378	€692,991	€641,733	€570,563
Expenditure *	€ 948,651		€813,867	€746,660	€678,728	€588,700	€538,559
Surplus/(Deficit)	€65,730	€76,807	(€1,632)	€19,718	€14,263	€53,033	€32,004

\* excluding capital items

## Main Income

	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
ISC Core Grant	€280,000	€200,000	€210,001	€210,000	€208,955	€208,954	€212,135
ISC WIS Grant	€120,000	€107,000	€133,286	€35,000	€35,000	€20,500	-
Rower registrations	€136,801	€136,122	€119,040	€112,757	€113,894	€118,334	€ 98,780
Club affiliations	€43,797	€45,435	€39,893	€35,391	€34,266	€31,763	€ 35,972
Development Income	€106,125	€68,099	€30,000	€35,000	€36,233	-	€395
Sponsorships	€86,380	€20,746	€17,000	€22,500	€15,658	€6,100	€21,400
Sport N.I etc	€0	€0	€9,705	€33,141	€44,560	€49,792	€25,544
Event Licenses	€4,719	€6,650	€5,850	€5,850	€5,250	€5,600	€4,650
ICRF Services	€0	€0	€1,000	€1,000	€1,000	€1,000	€1,000
Advertising	€2,300	€2,775	€0	€2,600	€3,200	€1,550	€2,150

## National Rowing Centre

	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Income	€67,350	€100,353	€90,251	€90,251	€78,459	€70,890	€84,161
Expenditure *	€86,946	€94,698	€84,800	€57,692	€64,695	€81,340	€73,716
Surplus/(Deficit)	(€19,596)	€5,655	€5,451	€20,767	€6,195	€2,821	€3,292

\* excluding capital items

## Coach Education Program

	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Income	€7,277	€10,395	€15,659	€14,922	€12,687	€22,654	€13,266
Expenditure *	€37,768	€61,562	€71,000	€63,218	€60,216	€67,573	€53,216
Surplus/(Deficit)	(€30,491)	(€51,167)	(€55,431)	(€48,296)	(€47,529)	(€44,919)	(€39,950)

\* excluding capital items

## Championship Regatta

	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Income	€99,813	€81,785	€69,500	€58,734	€54,017	€46,663	€46,555
Expenditure	€70,684	€77,867	€61,854	€57,287	€51,800	€45,848	€45,889
Surplus/(Deficit)	€29,129	€3,918	€7,646	€1,447	€2,217	€815	€666

\* excluding capital items

## Home International Regatta

	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Income	€25,678	€23,880	€28,200	€35,987	€40,287	€29,700	€31,708
Expenditure *	€37,436	€30,271	€41,600	€40,418	€42,642	€21,065	€32,807
Surplus/(Deficit)	(€11,758)	(€6,391)	(€13,400)	(€4,431)	(€2,355)	€8,635	(€1,099)

\* excluding capital items

## Coastal Championships Regatta

	2019	2018
Income	€23,457	€22,956
Expenditure	€19,480	€19,366
Surplus/(Deficit)	€3,977	€3,620

**HIGH-PERFORMANCE PROGRAM**

	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Income			€874,366	€739,405	€761,883	€586,427	€539,529
Expenditure*			€829,799	€776,591	€685,558	€566,470	€507,465
Surplus/(Deficit)	(€25,952)	€17,364	€44,567	(€37,186)	€76,325	€19,957	€32,064

\* excluding capital item

## Main Income headings

	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Irish Sports Council	€ 690,000	€565,000	€525,000	€400,000	€410,000	€380,000	€380,000
Carding	€290,000	€252,000	€160,000				
Sport Northern Ireland	€33,771	€74,164	€79,395	€73,149	€56,922	€58,679	€67,818
Athlete contributions	€82,656	€69,839	€50,680	€50,680	€37,797	€62,886	€46,690
Paralympic Ireland	-	-	-	-	-	€3,500	€4,000
Olympic Council	€20,000	€20,000	-	€7,195	€8,359	€26,871	€20,000
Sponsorship	€29,089	€0	€25,580	€69,966	€102,176	€630	€13,000
Ireland Fund	€13,800	€50,925					
Other	€3,328	-	-	€2,903	€2,092	€2,056	€560

## Expenditure

	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Talent I.D. Program	€46,580	€46,373	€16,173	€53,899	€62,585	€64,780	€63,041
U23 Program	€89,086	€40,856	€40,251	€101,571	€75,558	€65,006	€89,558
Junior Program	€34,700	€36,349	€29,372	€112,805	€112,302	€153,653	€163,717
Adaptive Program	€3,914	€12,847	€12,128	€32,071	€26,984	€31,370	€34,093
Senior Program		€762,738	€731,875	€476,245	€408,129	€251,661	€157,056



As an organisation we operate very much on a Cash in/Cash out basis.  
We are obliged to account for depreciation on the assets we own and the corresponding Grants received for those assets.

	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Amortised Grants	€404,617	€390,414	€349,593	€30,557	€151,879	€380,659	€315,506
Disposal of assets	€21,423	€0	€663	€2,036	€4,575	€43,224	€91,392
Depreciation					(€63,519)		
FX /Other	(€50)	€143	-	€53	(€3,355)	(€5,632)	€2,367
Net effect	(€32,736)	(€57,159)	(€53,089)	(€13,676)	€89,580	(€22,244)	€59,866

Leo Gibson, Treasurer.



#Leading our Sport

# ANTI-DOPING REPORT

Denis O'Regan

## Introduction

A component of funding through Sport Ireland is the annual reporting of Anti-Doping Officer to the AGM. As the Rowing Ireland Anti-Doping Officer, I have met all reporting requirements of the ISC Real Winner programme for 2019.

The reporting component also requires an annual feedback to our International Federation, FISA. This report has been completed in January and forwarded to FISA. Key Achievements/Activities for 2019

In 2019 we have had 50 Anti-Doping tests in total both in and out of competition. We had 44 out of competition tests and 6 in competition tests with NO Positive Results. We had Seventeen athletes registered in the Registered Testing Pool in 2019 and continue to support and educate these athletes in all areas of Anti- Doping.

We continue to provide up to date information to the Anti-Doping Unit on dates and locations of International Regattas, Training Camps and Trials. We also provide a list of domestic events to the ADU.

I have completed Tutor CPD in November 2019

## Looking Forward – 2020

We continue to operate several Anti-Doping initiatives as detailed below;

- Wallet card distribution to all Clubs, RTP & HP athletes, Coaching Courses & Workshops and at all RI Trials.
- Workshops facilitated to the HP squad detailing their Anti-Doping responsibilities' and updating them on the latest issued by the ADU and WADA
- Posting of Anti-Doping information to the Rowing Ireland website and social media.
- Anti-Doping is also a topic on the curriculum of all our educational courses.
- Communication of Anti-Doping information to all Club Secretaries.
- Anti-Doping information contained in detail within the HP Selection Strategy document.

General messaging re the possibility of athlete testing at events

## Closing Statement

Our athletes continue to lead the way by showing that Rowing is and continues to be a CLEAN & Drug FREE Sport. This will hopefully lead to success at all levels of the sport both on and off the water well into the future.

# Jimmy and Peadar

Everyone of a certain era will remember ringing the "Rowing Union" office in House of Sport and speaking to Jimmy Bermingham or Peadar Casey. Both men played a significant part in the earlier years of Irish Rowing dedicated time and skills to run the then volunteer set up of the IARU.



## Peadar Casey

Peadar was a member of the Garda Síochána from 1953 to 1989 and he became honorary treasurer of Garda Síochána Boat Club in the late 1950s. He served the same role for Dublin Metropolitan Regatta, the Dublin Municipal Rowing Centre also the Irish Amateur Rowing Union.

Peadar Casey had almost forty years of involvement with the Irish Olympic movement. He was the Irish Olympic Rowing Team Manager at the Olympic Games at Montreal 1976 and Moscow 1980 and went on to be the Deputy Chef de Mission for Ireland at the Atlanta Olympics in 1996 and Chef de Mission at Sydney 2000.

Between 1997 to 2014 Peadar served as the Treasurer of the Olympic Council of Ireland (OCI), and when he stepped down in 2014 he was made an Honorary Life Member of the OCI, in recognition of his commitment.

His lifetime of involvement in sports administration commenced when he started rowing with Garda Síochána Boat club he and became Irish Champion on many occasions.

He will be sadly missed by the Rowing Community in Ireland and Worldwide.



## Jimmy Bermingham

Born in 1927, Jimmy joined Commercial Rowing Club in 1941 and served on the committee for many years, including a long stint as Club President from 1980 to 1999. To celebrate his 10th year as President, Commercial commissioned the "Jimmy Bermingham Trophy" and donated it to the IARU in his honour. Jimmy also spent many years working as a stalwart with the IARU Dublin office until it moved to Cork. Jimmy travelled all over the world supporting Irish rowers. He holds a pass for the Stewards' Enclosure at Royal Henley.