Swim Ireland
Annual General Meeting 2018
Reports

28th April 2018
Annual General Meeting – 28 April 2018

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Chairman’s Report – Clare McGrath

As I reflect on the year past 12 months I am astounded at what we have accomplished over the course of the year in our sport. I recall the AGM in Belfast two years ago when the Board outlined the general framework of our ambition for developing performance in our sport, and the AGM in Dublin last year when we presented our Strategic Plan for 2017 to 2021. We set our aims high and looking back over 2017 I think it has been a very important year in terms of putting in place the structures that enable us to achieve our dream.

Just before our AGM last year, in February, Jon Rudd took up post as National Performance Director and since then has put together a strong support team delivering a real sense of excitement and expectation among our athletes and wider community. Over the summer of 2017 our athletes delivered impressive performances on the world stage delivering 12 International medals including our first ever World Junior medal won by Conor Ferguson and just two days later Mona Mc Sharry became our first World Junior Champion. We also had our first Gold Medal in 26 years at World University Games, won by Shane Ryan. We have a lot of reason to be excited for the future of our sport, given the tangible progress that we have seen already. I think we are all excited to see what the future holds.

I cannot overlook the fact that there has been a lot of change over the year and some of it has been difficult, particularly for our Regions. I know we have asked a lot of you, as we have made fundamental changes to the structures of our competitions, our squads, our qualifying times, and so much more. Everyone accepted that changes were necessary, but it is always difficult to implement change and I want to commend all of the volunteers and staff who did everything that we asked and worked tirelessly with us to make things happen. It was not always easy.

I believe strongly that we have put in place a structure that will benefit every level of our sport. The recruitment of the Regional Pathway Coaches coupled with a comprehensive new education programme will help us to develop athletes at every level and allow them to realise their ambitions, whatever they may be. The creation of a Participation Department means that we are engaging in a real way with people outside of our core membership and the success of initiatives like Swim for a Mile and Docklands Dip is testament to the appetite and interest there is in Swimming.

As Chairman, I am proud to be working with Swim Ireland during a period when we are realising our potential as a sport and in which our message that everyone has a relationship with the water is being heard, loud and clear. We invested in live-streaming the finals of our Open Championships for the first time this year and attracted thousands of viewers each night. Our re-brand has been very well received by all our members and the new website and database are helping to streamline our processes.

In my report last year, I spoke about the imminent launch of our new Strategic Plan, new website, new Learn to Swim Programme, suite of new CPDs, blended learning opportunities and online CPDs. I am pleased to say that all these initiatives have been launched and are currently being rolled out. We have set in place very specific targets for the year across each area of our Strategic Plan and our Membership and Education Prospectus are testament to
the wide range of new programmes that have been introduced in the last year. I would like to pay tribute to the Management and Staff of Swim Ireland for their hard work, dedication and commitment to the organisation.

Swim Ireland remains proudly at the forefront of National Governing Bodies in terms of our governance. We have just completed a successful three-year review of compliance, required by the Governance Code. I would like to thank all my fellow Directors for their commitment and dedication throughout the year. They have made my job as Chairman easy.

I would also like to thank all the volunteers and parents without whom our sport simply would not happen. Volunteers are the backbone of our organisation and our sport could not function without you.

Finally, I would like to thank all our athletes, they make us proud on a daily basis, be it at club or national level, in or out of the water. Thank you for inspiring me.

Treasurer’s Report – Graham Beegan

Scope of Report

This report covers the period between AGM May 2017 and AGM May 2018, whilst the Financial Statements cover the period 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017.

General

External auditors, OSK, conducted the annual audit in February 2018 and gave Swim Ireland a clean audit report with no management letter issued in relation to the Financial Statements for 2017 or the financial and internal controls in operation. The Swim Ireland profit for 2017 was €73,747 and the Balance Sheet continues to show a healthy excess of assets over liabilities which indicates the financial health of the organisation.

The continued support of Sport Ireland is still at the core of our financial strength. Under our Strategic Plan 2017 – 2021 we will continue to:

- Operate to best practice in terms of financial governance and stability.
- Develop further and improve our internal control processes.
- Work towards a pre-determined minimum reserves figure.
- Seek additional revenue and grant aid to support further the development of our sport.

The Sport Ireland core grant for 2018 is €827k and the Women in Sport grant is €65k - €5k less than 2017 funding. The High Performance Swimming and Diving grant for 2018 is €560k in line with 2017. We have received 75% of these grant funds during Q1 / 2018. As in previous years, we thank Sport Ireland for their continued support, both financial and advisory.
We have been approved for a €56k Sports Capital Grant and up to $25,000 from FINA Aquatics Olympic Support Programme. We were also awarded an increase in funding from Fingal Co. Council from €7.5k in 2017 to €11k in 2018.

There is a new department “Participation” which drives our “Learn to Swim programs” in schools and our aquatic community programs (outside of clubs). These have been supported primarily through funding received from Sport Ireland and Dormant Account funds and Get Ireland Swimming as part of “Healthy Ireland” (Department of Health).

In commencement, of my tenure as honorary treasurer, I would personally like to thank my fellow Swim Ireland board members, our CEO and all of the Swim Ireland staff and volunteers for their continued hard work and dedication to our sport.

G. Beegan
Honorary Treasurer of Swim Ireland
Youth Development Report – Kate Hills

2017 saw the culmination of our Young People’s Strategy 2015 – 2017. This strategic plan was centred around three core themes:

- Engaging Effectively
- Assuring the environment is right
- Putting Young People at the heart of our structures

The projects driven by this strategy are largely continuing into the next strategy plan for 2018 – 2021.

Engaging effectively

The Club Captains in Youth Sport Project, running since August 2016 will see fruition in 2018 with prospective Club Captains undertaking the developed training programme. In 2017, 133 young people attended nine workshops around Ireland where they developed the role and responsibilities of a club captain as well as the skills and characteristics of the facilitator delivering the programme. This is the first youth driven sports programme of its kind, which will be offered to other sports bodies later in 2018/2019.

The Parent Programme establishes the role of a sports parent and has been an initiative driven by young people. The Parent Programme, widely delivered in one of the four regions, was well received. The celebratory Parents in Sport Week in October 2017 created a focal point for athletes, coaches and clubs to say ‘Thank you’ to all the parents who positively support, encourage and volunteer.

One project, the Club Youth Awards, now into its third season in 2018 was developed from young people wanting someone to just say: “well done” or “good job”. The Club Youth Awards programme rewards young people not for their sporting prowess but for being helpful, putting in an effort, working together as a team or for being a role model. The Club Youth Award is free to clubs; in 2017 only 22 clubs gave out the Club Youth Award. However, these 22 clubs handed out a staggering 322 Awards to their athletes, certainly a good job, well done!

Ensuring the environment is right

This area of the strategy focuses on the compliancy of clubs; this is assessed by visits to clubs by the National Children’s Officer (NCO), supported by the Regional Support Officers as well as reviewing the training and vetting of the particular roles within clubs.

The Club Children’s Officers (CCOs) are supported in their roles through CCO Forums, regular updates through newsletters and direct communications and visits from the NCO.
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Five CCO Forums and five Complaints and Disciplinary Workshops were held during the year covering topics from communications with young people to dealing with issues. The NCO visited 20% of our Clubs whilst we ran workshops on specific topics for young people with a variety of squads from 10 clubs.

Vetting, being a legal requirement now, forms an important part of recruiting people into Club roles. Swim Ireland dealt with nearly 2,100 applications for vetting through the National Vetting Bureau or Access NI in 2017. The challenge remains in dealing with the 17% of applications received that are incorrect; this equates to approximately an extra 35 hours of work!

Safeguarding Level 1 training is run through the Education Department with courses delivered at least once a month in each of the regions. The CCO role requires Safeguarding Level 2, and this is offered on demand throughout the regions with four courses being delivered in 2017.

Young People at the heart of our structures
The CCO role becoming a role on the committee has proved to be beneficial in reflecting young people’s views both at committee level and at Club AGMs. We are still working on ensuring young people have a voice at all levels of our sport, and this forms one of the main strategy objectives for 2018 – 2021.

The recognition of how young people want to showcase their sport led to, in 2016, the Water Polo Guide to Referee’s Signals and now, in 2017, has produced the Young People’s Guide to Diving due to be launched with the young divers who feature in the video at a special screening.

We continue to support and inform young people and those who work with them in their clubs through the CCO, committees and coaching/teaching staff through workshops, seminars, training courses and direct communication.
Anti-Doping Report - Niamh McDonnell

Anti-Doping Programmes around the world continue to face scrutiny, and as a result of adverse findings in the samples of many individual athletes, sports as well as nations have suffered greatly. It is imperative that now more than ever, governing bodies and their members continue their efforts to ensure that sport is fair and clean for all from grassroots to high performance.

During the 2017/2018 season our Sport Ireland Anti-Doping Tutors, Aisling McKeever and Amanda Ni Ghabhann delivered Anti-Doping Education Workshops for all athletes on National Squads, Regional Squads and Regional Skills Academies. All National Squad and National Team athletes have also completed Sport Ireland’s Anti-Doping eLearning module.

Swim Ireland would again this year like to extend its thanks to Betty Beattie who has continued her excellent and effective work as Event Contact Manager for all domestic Anti-Doping In-Competition tests.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2017 Anti-Doping Statistics</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total number of tests for all sports carried out by the Sport Ireland Anti-Doping Unit</td>
<td>989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of tests for swimming carried out by the Sport Ireland Anti-Doping Unit</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of adverse findings in swimming from tests carried out by the Sport Ireland Anti-Doping Unit</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Irish Athletes on the 2016-2017 Registered Testing Pool</td>
<td>14</td>
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Regional Reports

Connacht Region

Highlights of the Year:
2017 was a very busy year for the Region, characterised by a lot of change. Some of the key highlights and challenges of our year include:

- The Region held the Presidency of Swim Ireland during the year and we are very proud of Mary Dunne, Ballina Dolphins who represented the Region and Swim Ireland so well over the course of her term of office.
- Connacht swimmers performed very well at International level over the course of the year, including: Nicholas Quinn Castlebar SC at World University Games, Robbie Powell Athlone SC at European Juniors and at World Junior Championships (a first for Connacht), Rebecca Lowe Athlone SC at EYOF and Isabelle Gibbs Galway SC was selected to swim with Team Ireland at the Slovenian Open.
- Connacht also had a team of six swimmers competing at the Slovenian Open which was a valuable learning experience for swimmers and team staff.
- The new three tier Regional Squad Programme has been established and feedback from participants is very positive to date.
- The Connacht Minor and Senior Schools Meets and the Connacht Championships were successful meets.
- The appointment of a Meet Director for the Connacht SC Championships provided for a well organised and professional gala.
- The Connacht/Munster Pathway Coach has been appointed.
- A very pro-active PRO, Kevin Dowling, has improved the profile of the region on Facebook and on Twitter. The Western Waves newsletter is published monthly.
- Additional three clubs have successfully completed Clubmark.

Challenges overcome during the year:

- Applying the new Swim Ireland Competition Plan within the region was a challenge. Even the new terminology took getting used to, for example the transition from “B” galas to Development Meets, from “A” galas to Qualifying Meets etc.
- Guiding clubs through the meet licencing procedures has taken time.
- The administration of the new Regional Squad Programme was a challenge which took a lot of time. Assisting clubs, coaches and parents understand the new selection
procedures and why swimmers who were on the Squad previous years did not make the grade in 2017.

The Connacht region would like to thank Andy Reid Swim Ireland Pathway Manager for his guidance and assistance during this time.

Goals for 2018:

- To focus on coach education and coach development during the early months of 2018
- To provide some succession planning for key roles on the Connacht Region Management Committee
- To build the partnership with the Munster Region and facilitate a joint LC Qualifying Meet and to organise the Connacht/Munster Youth Championships and the Connacht/Munster Age-Groups 2018
- To continue to support clubs to run Development Meets and to facilitate running Qualifying Meets in Connacht in line with the National Competition Plan
- To upgrade the electronic timing systems within the region. Each sub-region should have minimum of a semi-automatic timing system
- To purchase an electronic scoreboard for the region
- To continue to provide officials training and team manager courses
- To support the Connacht/Munster Pathway Development Coach and to liaise with her in relation to the Connacht Skills Academy and the Connacht Development/Pathway Squad. To provide the necessary administration for these squads: arranging TM cover, booking pools, rooms and flights etc
- To source sponsorship within the Region.

Munster Region

Highlights of the Year

2017 was a busy year in the Munster Region and we have a lot to be proud of as a Region. Some of our key highlights are:

- The following Munster athletes represented the province on an International level: World University Games (Rory McEvoy) Slovenian Open (Ellen Cassidy, Edel Daly, Finn McKeever, Cadan McCarthy) Schools Games (Eoin Corby and Sharon Semchiy) European Youth Olympics (Eoin Corby)
Maggie Purcell was elected to the role of Swim Ireland President; our Region is proud that the Chairperson, Board Secretary and President of Swim Ireland are all from Munster.

The appointment of Damien Fitzpatrick as Munster Support Officer and of Sarah Fellner as Regional Pathway Development Coach for Munster/Connacht were very positive additions to the Region.

The new Regional Squad Programme was implemented, and our camps are running well.

We have a group of flourishing Masters Clubs in the Munster Region and the Irish Open Masters Gala which was run in March is the largest masters swim meet in Ireland.

We have three Munster officials on the Pre-Fina list including Mary Haughney, Mary Phelan and Joe McCarthy.

The year saw increased social media activity and the launch of a new Munster swimming website.

We laid the groundwork for training more officials in the Region and now have one fully qualified Officials Tutor and three new Tutors aiming to be signed off over the coming months.

Challenges overcome during the year

- The broken boom in UL has been an ongoing issue and this year we had to relocate the Munster SC Championships and Munster Schools Gala at very short notice due to issues with the floor. This took almost six months to fix so was a huge challenge for us.
- Implementation of the new Competitions Pathway, Meet Licencing Rules, Regional Squad Structure and Swim Ireland Season Plan. Lots of information coming at once, with so many changes for the clubs to take on board, however, we feel we are now proceeding well with the Plan.
- We were saddened to lose our Munster Support Officer Cathal Geraghty as he moved to a full-time role.
- The uncertainty around the performance centre in UL.

Key Goals for 2018

- The boom is schedule to be fixed over the summer period and we will engage with UL to ensure that they are proactive with maintenance.
- We look forward to increased co-operation and co-ordination with Connacht Region around the Pathway Development Coach, Regional Squads and Long Course Galas using 50m pool in UL.
- Limerick becoming a fully functioning Performance Centre.
- Continue to improve communication through newsletters, social media and new Munster Swimming website.
- Ongoing Education in the region for officials, clubs, team manager, club management and structure starting with Clubs Day in March 2018.
Leinster Region

Highlights of the Year:

2017 was a very busy year for the Leinster Region. Some of our highlights include:

- **Competitions** – Leinster Competitions have been tasked with significant changes this year, to align to the Swim Ireland Competitions Pathway. This was achieved, and we will continue to provide competitions, to a high standard, for the region under the new pathway structures set out by Swim Ireland. All of the galas in the current season have been fully subscribed and have run well. Many thanks to the members of our Competitions Committee for their continued work over the year.

- **Away Trip** - 27 swimmers between the ages of 11 and 14 travelled to the Ulster Age Groups in April 2017. Six staff, consisting of three TMs and three coaches travelled with the team. There were great successes throughout the weekend with the team bringing home a total of 47 medals. In August 2017, we supported three swimmers and a coach to travel to the Slovenian Open Championships with the Irish team.

- **Squads Programme** – In September 2017 the new Regional Squads Programme was introduced. 26 swimmers are currently on the Leinster Development and Pathway Squad, with 46 swimmers taking up their places on the Leinster Skills Academy. The squad programmes have been running successfully this season with great support from club team managers and coaches.

- **Training squads** – Leinster Swimming offers opportunities to swimmers to supplement their club training with regional training sessions offered in the NAC and New Ross.

In the NAC two pool sessions are available weekly; on a Saturday 4pm-6pm and Sunday 8am-10am, swimmers can avail of up to four hours LC training. The squad numbers have seen a significant increase in numbers since September 2017, compared to previous seasons, with 40 swimmers in total and 29 attending both sessions. There are 12 Leinster clubs in total now involved in the squad programme. The training squad sessions in the NAC are led by Anne Burdis, supported by Anthony Hughes and Pearse Reynolds.
The South-East programme runs on a monthly basis. The New Ross squad sessions are led by coaches Mary Duggan and Fran Ronan, supported by coaches from Enniscorthy and New Ross. The participating clubs are Enniscorthy, New Ross and Wexford. There are currently 22 members on the squad. Six two-hour training sessions have taken place since September 2017. An additional four are scheduled between March-July, giving a total of ten sessions for the season (approx. one per month).

- **Leinster Coach Conference** – Leinster Swimming hosted a Coaches Conference on 27 and 28 May 2017 with Warrender Baths Coach Laurel Bailey presenting on several topics over the weekend. 33 coaches from the region attended and we look forward to hosting another conference in 2018.

- **Communication** – Leinster Swimming’s social media presence continues to grow steadily with all competitions posted to Facebook as an event with regular updates. A newsletter is issued twice annually at competitions in the region. The regional website is currently under review

- **Governance** – Throughout the year, we have continued to put together several operating procedures and policies for the region, resulting in an operating manual for the region. This gives a good set of guidelines for anyone taking on a role in the region for the future.

- **Volunteer/ Club Development** – To assist clubs in the running of their galas, we ran a training course on the timing system which clubs rent from Leinster Swimming. We have also given on-site training on the running of Meet Manager during our Leinster Galas.

- **Officials Development** – Leinster Swimming launched the Regional Volunteer Development Programme in October 2017. Training requirements have been set for clubs based on the number of swimmers competing at regional competitions. It is expected that the region will have delivered at least 25 level 1 and 10 level 2 Officials courses by the end of 2018. Engagement from clubs has been excellent with over 200 newly qualified level 1 officials and 70 level 2 officials trained to date.

- **Swimmer Retention** - A comprehensive survey was undertaken with swimmers in Leinster in late 2017 with a view to encouraging swimmer retention in the sport. Action will be taken on the results of the is survey in 2018.

**Challenges for the Year**

- 2017 has been a year of changes resulting in alteration in decision making and autonomy of the region. The new competition structure has changed the scheduling, qualifying and purpose of a number of the meets organised by the region.

- We now have windows in which to run Developmental, Qualifying and Championship Meets. It has been a challenge to implement this new structure within existing and ongoing agreements. (as an example, Qualifying Meets are intended to be two day meets but Leinster has agreements regarding the number of days that the NAC is used and has very limited opportunities to get two day meets)
The Competition Committee and the Technical Committee have been resourceful and extremely hard working in implementing the changes within existing agreements and resources.

Another factor is Championship Meets; we now have an order of events directed by Swim Ireland.

Meet Licensing has impacted on the duration of the sessions for each meet (and therefore on the numbers of entries that can be accepted) and on the number of officials required etc.

The new Regional Squad structure has also seen significant changes to previous programmes. This is now a Swim Ireland programme that is implemented by the region. The region does not set the selection criteria, content or scheduling.

Key Goals for 2018

The Leinster Executive will be a completely new team and this team’s goal will be to settle into the role quickly and efficiently.

Further discussion should take place on the role of the region in a changing environment and consideration of the long-term consequences of such wide-reaching changes.

Achieve financial viability beyond 2019.

Ulster Region

We had many memorable performances throughout the season but the medals won at World and European Juniors and the Youth Commonwealth Games were the obvious highlights of the year. The results are:

- **World SC Championships, December 2016**
  1 qualifier – Jordan Sloan

- **City of Sunderland Meet, January 2017**
  16 swimmers travelled

- **Edinburgh International, March 2017**
  14 qualifiers – Calum Bain, Rachel Bethel, James Brown, Curtis Coulter, Conor Ferguson, Bethany Firth, Jamie Graham, Paddy Johnston, Amelia Kane, Jack McMillan, Mona McSharry, Emma Reid, Jordan Sloan, David Thompson
  2 Gold Medals – Conor Ferguson (50 & 100m Backstroke)
  2 Silver Medals – Calum Bain (50m Freestyle), Curtis Coulter (100m Freestyle)
  10 Bronze Medals – Curtis Coulter (50m Freestyle), Mona McSharry (50m & 100m Breaststroke)
  10 Top 8 Finishers
• British Para-Swimming International, April 2017:
  2 qualifiers – Bethany Firth (GB), Barry McClements (IRL)
  1 Gold Medal – Bethany Firth (200m Freestyle)
• European Junior Championships, Israel – July 2017: 6 qualifiers – Conor Ferguson, Jack Mc Millan, Rebecca Reid, Mona McSharry and Rachel Bethel
  2 Gold Medals – Mona McSharry (50m & 100m Breaststroke)
  2 Silver Medals – Mona McSharry (200m Breaststroke), Conor Ferguson (50m Backstroke)
  1 top 8 finish – relay
  1 top 16 finish
• IPC World Series, 2017: 2 qualifiers – Bethany Firth (GB), Barry McClements (IRL)
  2 Gold Medals – Bethany Firth (200m Freestyle), Barry McClements (400m Freestyle)
  2 Silver Medals – Bethany Firth (200m Freestyle), Barry McClements (100m Butterfly)
  3 Bronze Medals – Bethany Firth (100m Freestyle), Barry McClements (100m Backstroke & Butterfly)
• World Championships, July 2017:
  3 Qualifiers – Jordan Sloan, Mona Mc Sharry and Conor Ferguson
• Commonwealth Youth Games, July 2017: 4 Qualifiers – Jack Mc Millan, Rachel Bethel, Rebecca Reid, Shannon Russell
  3 Silver Medals – Jack McMillan (200m Freestyle), Rachel Bethel (400m & 800m Freestyle)
  Bronze Medal – Shannon Russell (200m IM)
  Top 8 finishes
• European Youth Olympics, July 2017: 4 qualifiers – Julia Knox, Mia Davison, Scarlett Armstrong and Amelia Kane
  3 Top 16 finishes
• Slovenian Nationals, August 2017: 7 Qualifiers – James Brown, Victoria Catterson, Molly Curry, Jamie Graham, Danielle Hill, Emma Reid, David Thompson
  6 Gold Medals – Jamie Graham (50m Breaststroke & Butterfly), Danielle Hill (50m & 100m Backstroke, 50m Freestyle), Emma Reid (100m Butterfly)
  1 Silver Medal – Emma Reid (50m Butterfly)
  3 Bronze Medals – Jamie Graham (100m Breaststroke), Danielle Hill (100m Freestyle), David Thompson (100m Freestyle)
  8 Top 8 finishes
• World Junior Championships, August 2017:
  3 Qualifiers – Mona McSharry, Jack Mc Millan and Conor Ferguson
  1 Gold Medal – Mona McSharry (100m Breaststroke)
  2 Silver Medals – Mona McSharry (50m Breaststroke), Conor Ferguson (100m Backstroke)
  3 Top 8 finishes
• World University Games, August 2017: 4 Qualifiers – Calum Bain, Conor Brines, Jordan Sloan and Curtis Coulter
  1 Top 8 finish – Relay
  2 Top 16 finishes
School Games, September 2017: 9 Qualifiers – Victoria Catterson, Mia Davison, Zoe Thompson, Julia Knox, Rebecca Reid, Tom Uprichard, Daniel Wiffen, Jack Fleming and Barry Mc Clements
3 Gold Medals – Barry Mc Clements (MC 400m Freestyle, 100m Backstroke, 100m Freestyle)
2 Silver Medals – Rebecca Reid (200m IM), Girls 4 x 200m FTR
3 Bronze Medals – Rebecca Reid (400m IM), Girls 4 x 100m FTR, Mixed 4 x 100m FTR

We also had success outside of our International programme and key highlights of the year are:

Participation in Swim Ulster Galas increased by 10% in 2016/17 Season as compared to 2015/2016. Encouragingly participation has almost doubled at our galas in the last seven years.

Forest Feast continued to support our AquaSprint League with 25 Clubs taking part in the 2016/17 Season. This league is the first taste of individual and relay swims for many young Ulster swimmers.

The Talent ID Programme continues to be very successful and sessions regularly have club coaches shadowing or assisting the Talent ID coaches at sessions. We introduced two Pathway Development Centres which allows for 9 members clubs to have access to extra morning sessions throughout the week.

We are proud to have consistently exceeded Sport NI targets across all areas and we have been successful in securing an increase of government funding for the next four years through their Sporting Winners and Sporting Clubs programmes.

We continue our commitment to investing our reserves to upskill volunteers and coaches within the region to enable delivery of Swim Ireland strategic objectives and successfully ran a number of initiatives including: Supporting our Clubs Day, Coaching Conference, Club Forums, Coach and Club awards and Anti-Doping Workshops.

Water Polo

We employed Phil Kelly as our Water Polo Development Officer and this has allowed us to work closely with Ulster Water Polo in helping to deliver their four-year Development Plan. Already we have hosted skills camps in Bangor and a pilot schools programme to over 1,000 primary school children in Belfast.

LEN Swimming Officials Seminar

In conjunction with Swim Ireland, we hosted the fourth LEN Officials Seminar in the Titanic Centre Belfast. We had 59 delegates attending the conference from 19 countries including Kosovo, Russia, Switzerland, Italy and Luxembourg.

This education weekend for leading European Swimming officials was made possible by the efforts of Gary and Linda Stoops who organised the superb weekend.
Aquatic Disciplines

Open Water Swimming

Interest in Open Water Swimming continues to grow each year. The Liffey Swim, the premier event of the Leinster Open Sea Calendar, attracted almost 500 swimmers and the community is looking forward to the 2019 event which will mark the 100th Anniversary of this iconic event.

The Swim Ireland Special Membership Category attracted over 1,100 members in 2017, the majority of whom are interested in Open Water events. Leinster Open Sea worked with Swim Ireland to accommodate this category of membership opening in excess of 12 events to non-club members. Swim Ireland supported and assisted increasing the number of Splash & Dash swims at Leinster Open Sea events by providing goodie bags for young participants. The Swim Ireland Participation Department has also worked closely with Waterways Ireland on a number of initiatives to encourage the use of outdoor facilities including the Docklands Dip, Killaloe Water Festival and Splash, Dash & Dance in conjunction with Go for Life.

Diving

In June 2017, Damian Ball became our first ever full-time National Diving Coach and throughout 2017 our divers competed at various competitions, the most notable being the FINA Diving World Series, European Championships, World Championships and World University Games. Oliver Dingley was Ireland’s first diver to compete at a FINA Diving World Series and also the first to compete in a World Championships. Jack Ffrench and Natasha MacManus were Ireland’s first athletes to compete at a World University Games.
The Irish Open Diving Championships 2017 took place in November and was the biggest and best to date with over 250 divers competing from 22 teams across 8 countries.

So far in 2018 the Junior National Team has been performing very well with three divers Anna Power, Ciara McGing and Tanya Watson, making the consideration scores to compete at European and World Junior Championships. The Senior National Team have divers making the consideration scores to compete at European Championships (Oliver Dingley, Jack Ffrench, Tanya Watson) and World Cup (Oliver Dingley).

Coach development has been a priority throughout the year for Water Polo Development Officer Gary O’ Brien. In conjunction with the Swim Ireland Education Department, Gary developed and delivered a Level 1 Water Polo specific coaching course and is currently developing a Level 2 Course. The Department also created a Level 2 Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) exam and practical assessment with a view to recognising the experience and knowledge of the Water Polo coaching community who had never done a formal qualification. Some other highlights of the year include:

- A very successfully Water Polo Academy was held in Limerick in August 2017 and over 150 young people attended
- Delivery of Regional and Club Coaching Clinics
- Club Coaching Clinics were delivered by Water Polo Development Officer Gary O’ Brien
- The Referees Committee worked with the Swim Ireland Education Department to develop a Referees Course which will be rolled out nationwide in the coming weeks
- 7 new Water Polo CPDs including mini polo, passing & shooting, team tactics and game tactics
- Working with the Swim Ireland Participation Department we sought to generate interest in the delivery of three clinics in schools in the Leinster Region, a National Water Polo Schools Tournament and 3 Water Polo Clinics in Leisure Centres
nationally. Water Polo was also a very popular element of the 'Docklands Dip' initiative, run in conjunction with Water Ways Ireland.

- The premier event of the Water Polo calendar, the Irish Senior Cup, took place in Limerick 19 - 21 April 2018 with St Vincents taking the Women's title and Corrib taking the Men's - the first time in their history.

Masters

It was a busy year for Masters swimmers with a wide range of activity spread across the year. In August 2017, 51 swimmers and our first ever International Masters Water Polo Team travelled to Budapest to compete in the World Masters Championships. In recent times March and April 2018 have been particularly busy with four Meets taking place within a 6 week period beginning with the Kingdom Masters at the end of April and finishing the day after the Swim Ireland AGM with the inaugural Leinster Long Course Gala. The Irish Open Long Course Masters Gala took place in Limerick in April 2018, having been deferred from the original March date due to inclement weather and was very well attended.

After the success of the inaugural Swim Ireland Masters Decathlon in 2016, the Irish Masters Committee ran another series in 2017. The Decathlon event is a true test of versatility and endurance for a Masters swimmer as each person must show they can swim a wide range of events. To be eligible for consideration swimmers must complete in all the different stroke events and the distance freestyle and individual medley events.

The Masters Committee has also agreed its Development Plan for the coming years and look forward to growing Masters swimming.
# Annual General Meeting – 28 April 2018

## Record of Directors' Attendance 2017-18

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clare McGrath, Chairman</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graham Beegan, Treasurer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary Haughney, Board Secretary</td>
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<td>Mary Aldridge</td>
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<td>Patricia Cleary</td>
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<td>No</td>
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<td>Peter Conway</td>
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<td>Yes</td>
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<td>Maria Flanagan</td>
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<td>Paul Hannigan</td>
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<td>Yes</td>
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<td>Eugene Hillick</td>
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<td>Noel Hiney</td>
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<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graham Knox*</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
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**In attendance:**

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<tr>
<td>Mary Dunne, Swim Ireland President**</td>
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<td>Maggie Purcell, Swim Ireland President**</td>
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<td>Sarah Keane, CEO</td>
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*Graham Knox resigned from the Board in September 2017 (vacancy)

** Maggie Purcell took up Swim Ireland Presidency 25 November 2018