

**D** FOR DEMOCRACY-ITS YOUR UNION: Working as I do for two Unions I am a fan of democracy. The word “democracy” is derived from the two Greek words DEMOS (People) and KRATIA (Power), roughly translating as “*people-power.*” What I most like about the word democracy is that there is no universally agreed definition-the word itself is the subject of debate! So with our AGM approaching and the 2008 season bringing many issues to the fore both on and off the water I ask you to attend and contribute. The best way to overcome conflict and disagreement is to engage in reasoned discourse in an appropriate forum. Undoubtedly this year has seen a challenging number of issues arise. Partly, this is down to the nature of our sport-*paddle your own canoe* is an appropriate adage and it conveys the individualistic nature of our activity. On the other hand, some conflicts over selection are predictable and hopefully with more transparent and open processes we can at least deal with these in time. Ultimately with your help, you the members are the union, we can deal with issues as they arise in a fair and reasoned manner. With the start of a new Olympic cycle, changes in our coaching structure and with an ever-changing sporting culture, it is a good sign for our sport when members take an active interest in the AGM. I look forward to seeing many of you at Finnstown House on the 18<sup>th</sup> of October, at 3pm. In the interim, paddle safely.

*Eamon Devoy* Irish Canoe Union President



**F**AMILIAR FACES-MICHAEL SCANLON: Our CEO, “Mick” as he is known has been running Irish Canoeing for over 20 years. A former mountain climber of some repute, he also paddled with Voyagers Canoe club, which was the largest roof-rack club in the country in the 1980’s. Although he never paddled the Liffey Descent he has single-handed managed our flagship event for over a decade. As CEO he controls the funding and high performance strands as well as managing the training element of the canoe union. He has lead the Union through the heydays of the 1990’s when numbers in competition were huge, through the plastic revolution to the present day. This season in particular the fruits of his labour arrived with Eoin Rheinisch’s fourth place in Beijing. Michael has taken on a “hands-on” approach with the slalom programme ensuring Eoin got what he needed to achieve our best ever result in Olympic canoe-sport. He enjoys getting away to Wexford for rest and recreation and who knows he may be tempted into a boat for next years 50<sup>th</sup> Liffey Descent, but then again it wouldn’t be the same event without Mick at the helm.



**W**HITE-WATER WAVES-ARTIFICIAL COURSES IN IRELAND: The mature meandering river valleys of Ireland once exploited by the milling industry across the country now potentially provide us with the opportunity to develop leisure and training facilities for the white water community of Ireland at reasonable cost. Every weir we paddle over on our weekend recreational club trips presents an opportunity for Artificial White



Water Development. Weirs create an artificial concentration of gradient that combined with the substantial flow of mature stage rivers produce an ideal environment



for the development of Artificial White Water Courses. More significant projects relying on electrical pumping systems to generate the required water supply can be constructed on almost any site using a variety of engineering techniques for acquisition of the required water. These projects are generally of a larger nature than gravity supply projects, both physically and economically, due to the initial investment required in the pumping station. The potential for development is limited only by ones imagination

and financial constraints, as was proven at the Athens 2004 Olympics. However affordable pumping stations have been used in community projects across Europe to compliment gravity courses ensuring they can operate even during periods of low flow. The financing of a white water course is one of the most significant hurdles facing prospective developments in Ireland. Courses like the US White-water centre in Charlotte use a financial model that has multiple facilities on-site-climbing walls, mountain-biking and white-water (rafting & canoe-kayak)-to make them sustainable. Government funding can help to support a percentage of the construction costs of proposed amenities, however at present the government support will not finance the purchase of land on which the amenities might be built. Hence a partnership between the Canoeing Community of Ireland and an interested landowner is required for any prospective project. Such opportunities have been explored in Ireland with both private and public partnerships in a diversity of locations including the Dublin, Monaghan, Limerick, Armagh and Wicklow. Let us hope that with continued work, perseverance and support of the Irish Canoeing Community some of these projects may become realities in the near future. BENNY CULLEN

**GREAT OUTDOORS ANNUAL CANOE ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS:** “That some achieve great success is proof to all that others can achieve it as well.”

Paddler of the Year Award :Salmon Leap Trophy

Junior Paddler of the Year: Celbridge Paddler Trophy

Club of the Year: Richmond Canoe Club Trophy

Coach of the Year: Training Unit Trophy

Outstanding contribution to Canoe Sport: Weirgate Trophy

Outstanding Support of Canoe Sport: Brendan O'Connell Trophy

Instructor of the Year: Liffey Trophy

Volunteer of the Year



This quote from Abraham Lincoln articulates precisely what these awards are all about. It is fitting that one of our first high performers Gerry Collins is at the helm of the company, Great Outdoors, that sponsor these awards. In the second year of the scheme we have added a *Volunteer of the Year award* and an *Instructor of the Year Award*. Nominations have already been received for the *Paddler of the Year award*, the *Salmon Leap Trophy*, where their own paddler Eoin Rheinsich appears to be the outstanding candidate. Last year saw octogenarian Paddy Maloney take the *Weirgate Trophy* for outstanding contribution and the ESB

were recognised as the supporter of canoe-sport with the *Brendan O'Connell trophy*. WWKC took home the Richmond trophy for best club, presented to their canoe-polo stalwart Adrian Barber. We hope to add new names to the plaques in 2008 and that requires you our members to submit nominations. Please send your nominations to [nominees@canoeawards.com](mailto:nominees@canoeawards.com) Please include a 150 word statement outlining why the nominee should win the award. See [www.canoeawards.com](http://www.canoeawards.com)

**UNIVERSITY CHAMPS-SPRINT & SLALOM:** Twin events occurred for both sprint and slalom, based in Belgrade and Bratislava respectively. Breifne Earley of CUSAI managed our sprint team of Sean Marchetti and Luke Fitzgerald. They would compete in K1 500 and 1000m and also double up in K2. The latter was to provide them with their best performance-. The competition was much warmer than the climate-Irish wind and rain prevailed in Bratislava. The slalom team were managed by Tadhg Macintyre and comprised Pauline Griffin and three Men's kayaks: Ciaran Heurteau, Eamon Rheinisch & Patrick Hynes (pictured). They finished true to their seasonal form with Ciaran first boat, Patrick second and Eamon third. Ciaran had finished in 10<sup>th</sup> in the qualification round but dropped to 24<sup>th</sup> in the semi-final. Patrick just missed qualification (top 30) while a 50 second penalty put Eamon out of the reckoning. Pauline in her first International got all the gates and learnt with every run on the course. See [www.cusai.ie](http://www.cusai.ie)



**M**ARATHON MOVES-WORLDS PROVES TOUGH HUNTING GROUND: It took our former racer from the senior team, Malcolm Banks, to bring home a medal from the Master event at the World Championships held in the Czech Republic. Gary Mawer was manager for a team that included the Junior World Champion from 2001, Neil Fleming, former junior medallist Jenny Egan, Jason Briody, Joe Murphy, Fintan Mitchell and Dara Fleming. Neil had some boat problems finishing in 23<sup>rd</sup> but according to former marathon medallist Gary Mawer, Neil showed he had the pace to stay in the top group. Elsewhere the competition was tough with the junior K2 of Mitchell/Fleming finishing in 18<sup>th</sup> and Joe Murphy just outside the top 20 in junior K1. Seniors Jenny Egan, as student in DCU, placed an excellent 14<sup>th</sup> and in Men's K1 Jason Briody finished down the field. A South-African crew took gold in K2 Senior with few of the usual suspects competing it being Olympic year. See [www.irishmarathoncanoeing.com](http://www.irishmarathoncanoeing.com)



Dates	Event	FORTHCOMING EVENTS: Venue	Contact
12 <sup>th</sup> October	Ranking Marathon Race	Grand Canal, Robertstown, Co.Kildare	<a href="http://www.irishmarathoncanoeing.com">www.irishmarathoncanoeing.com</a>
18 <sup>th</sup> October	Castletown Wildwater Sprint	River Liffey, Celbridge, Co.Kildare	<a href="http://www.Irishwildwaterracing.com">www.Irishwildwaterracing.com</a>
18 <sup>th</sup> October	Training Unit AGM 11am	Finnstown House, Lucan, Co. Dublin	<a href="http://www.trainingunit.net">www.trainingunit.net</a>
	ICU AGM 3pm	Finnstown House, Lucan, Co. Dublin	<a href="http://www.canoe.ie">www.canoe.ie</a>
19 <sup>th</sup> October	Newbridge Slalom	River Liffey, Newbridge	<a href="http://www.canoe.ie">www.canoe.ie</a>
9 <sup>th</sup> November	Shawsbridge Slalom & Sprint	River Lagan, Belfast	<a href="http://www.cani.org">www.cani.org</a>

See [www.canoe.ie](http://www.canoe.ie) homepage for upcoming events and our competition calendar.