



Annual Report

2024



Directors Report

Rowing Ireland serves as the official governing body for rowing across the island of Ireland. Its primary objective is to create interest and increase participation in rowing across all disciplines - competitive, recreational, river, coastal, and indoor - embracing individuals of diverse ages and skill levels. Additionally, the organisation is committed to advancing excellence in high-performance rowing across the Island of Ireland.

Aligned with its commitment to best practices in governance, Rowing Ireland has adopted The Governance Code for the Community, Voluntary, and Charitable Sector in Ireland. During the review period, the Directors affirmed the organisation's compliance with these standards.

The core mission of Rowing Ireland centre's on promoting a culture of excellence and inclusivity, ensuring that athletes, coaches and volunteers get positive experiences from their involvement. The organisation hopes to cultivate robust, well-structured clubs that facilitate achievement at all levels, while also supporting a high- performance programme aimed at achieving internationally competitive performances. Continual efforts are made to fortify the organisation's financial footing, structures and operational systems to better facilitate the pursuit of these objectives.

The Board of Directors of Rowing Ireland Comprises elected Directors from each province with Connacht/Ulster as one representative and Northern Ireland to align with Sport NI. These directors bring extensive knowledge and experience in rowing, whether at the club level or in High Performance. In addition, the board includes a director representing Coastal Rowing, who also possesses expertise in this specific discipline. The board is further supported by a President and Secretary, both elected by the membership. The Treasurer, nominated by the board, is someone with a strong financial background. Moreover, the board includes three Independent Non-Executive Directors, appointed through an open recruitment process to address specific skills and requirements identified during the annual board review.

Jane Williams

President of Rowing Ireland

(September 2024 to present)

Jane's rowing journey began as a junior at Clonmel Rowing Club, where she developed a deep passion for the sport and served as Treasurer. Her love for rowing grew stronger over the years, leading her to play a founding role in establishing Dublin University Ladies Boat Club (DULBC), was its first Captain and later President. She continues her engagement with both clubs.

In addition to her long background in rowing, Jane holds a BBS degree from Trinity, a Master's degree in Psychology from Columbia, N.Y. and is a qualified mediator, which have been a cornerstone of her professional work. Jane's expertise in governance & strategy is also widely recognised, having worked on projects for various sports organisations, including golf and boxing, as well as with Rowing Ireland and Sport Ireland.

In parallel with her executive career in banking, IDA and consulting, Jane has served on the boards of 13 private and public companies and many Government committees and Commissions, totalling over 50 years of board member service. In addition to the role of Board member, she has been Board chair, Chair of Audit & Risk and member of Rem Com, Selection and Succession committees. Jane is delighted to have the opportunity to contribute to Rowing Ireland's success.

Barry McWilliams (Lady Victoria Boat Club)

Chair of the Board & Northern Ireland Non-Executive Director

(Chair October 2024 to present, NI Board Representative November 2022 to present)

Barry has been passionate about rowing for more than 25 years. He holds a B.Eng. (Hons) in Mechanical Engineering from Queen's University Belfast, where he served as Men's Club Captain. This experience paved the way for him to become the captain of the alumni club, the Lady Victoria Boat Club, in later years. During his tenure, he significantly enhanced club communications, bolstered social engagement, and collaborated closely with Queen's to boost alumni donations for student rowing.

In his professional career, Barry manages a diverse portfolio of projects for various client companies across Northern Ireland. His efforts are focused on enhancing their productivity, profitability, and competitiveness through strategic cultural evolution.

Nessa Foley (Anna Liffey BC)

Secretary of the Board

(November 2022 to date, and previously interim from September 2022)

- Senior Civil servant Department of National Monuments Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
- The Department's Health and Safety Committee.
- Worked as Diary Secretary to two Government Ministers and as a Private Secretary to two Government Ministers
- A full member of the third Moore Street Advisory Group to the Minister

Pat Kinsella (Clonmel Rowing Club)

Munster Vice President

(November 2022 to present)

Pat is an Engineer with many years of experience in the Industrial Automation and Control Industry. He has worked for various companies across Russia, China, the Middle East, South Africa, Holland, and Ireland, managing a range of complex projects in pharmaceuticals, oil & gas, power, and cleanroom industries.

Pat has contributed hugely to Clonmel Rowing Club as both an athlete and a coach over several years.

Noreen Maguire (UCDLBC/Old Collegians)

Leinster Representative

(June 2023 to present)

Noreen is a solicitor with a strong passion for offering thorough legal support, helping clients navigate their legal challenges with expertise, diligence, and care. She is a

partner at Maguire Muldoon Solicitors, a firm she set up in 2002. Noreen also tutors Employment Law and Family Law at the Law Society and is a trained Collaborative Lawyer, specialising in family law. She has actively contributed to various voluntary organisations, serving on committees, fundraising, and influencing policy. Additionally, she provides legal counsel to several registered charities. Noreen has a history rowing, having captained UCDLBC, and is a member of Old Collegians. She is married to a rower from Neptune, and they have four children, one of whom rows for UCDLBC.

David Hussey (Portmagee Rowing Club)

Coastal Director

(November 2022 to present, previously Board member 2018 to 2021)

David has been an independent Director on the board of Rowing Ireland from 2019-2021. He is also a business Director. David competes regularly at coastal rowing events at home and abroad.

Aisling Carpenter

Treasurer of the Board and Independent Director

(June 2023 to November 2024)

Aisling is a Chartered Accountant in Deloitte's Financial Advisory Services department. With more than 13 years of experience, she has handled a diverse range of restructuring projects, including liquidations, receiverships, large property portfolios, and real estate advisory. Aisling holds a BA in Law & Accounting from the University of Limerick and a Diploma in Strategic Project & Program Management.

Aoibheann Treacy

Independent Director

(June 2023 –Nov 2024)

Aoibheann has over 28 years of experience in the financial services industry.

Aoibheann is a Chartered Alternative Investment Analyst (CAIA) and holds an MSc in Investment & Treasury from Dublin City University, as well as a BA in Economics and a Postgraduate qualification in Computer Science from University College Cork (UCC).

Her professional memberships include:

- Institute of Directors, Dip IoD Company Director holder
- Institute of Bankers, Qualified Financial Advisor (QFA) holder
- Chartered Alternative Investment Association, CAIA holder

Aoibheann has been involved with several other not-for-profit groups throughout her career.

Martin Hogan

Connacht/Ulster Representative and Chairman of the Board

(Connacht/Ulster Director May 2022 to December 2024, Chairman May 2022 to October 2024)

Martin works in advising and supporting utilities and international infrastructure developers. Bringing projects from concept to design and delivery. He uses his professional skills to provide simple solutions to complex issues. His role in JB Barry is focused on tackling energy, environmental and economic challenges to benefit our society and used these skills as chairman of the Rowing Ireland board until September 2024. Martin is also a member of the Institute of Directors.

Philip Quinn

Senior Independent Director

(June 2023 to August 2024)

Philip Quinn is Chief Operating Officer at Munster Rugby. Philip has worked with Munster for over 15 years. Before that, he worked with Eli Lilly and Conoco and Phillips in finance roles. Philip is responsible for Strategic planning, Finance and Operations, Player and Coach Contracting amongst other duties. Philip has a keen interest in all sports and seamlessly add his wealth of sports management experience to the board.

Neville Maxwell

President of Rowing Ireland

(President May 2022 to September 2024, Connacht Director 2001 to 2003 and 2016 to 2022)

Neville has over 20 years in various roles in the insurance industry and National Pension Master Trust with Bank of Ireland. He has competed as a rower for St Joseph's RC, UCG and Neptune Rowing Club, Competing at two Olympic Games in 1996 and 2000. He was a volunteer director of Rowing Ireland from 2016, and chair of the HP Committee from 2016 to 2021. He was a rowing commentator on RTE until 2016, and has coached, rowed and volunteered at Neptune Rowing Club over the years.

Hugh Carvill

Interim Treasurer

(December 2024 to present)

Hugh is a seasoned finance leader with over 20 years' experience across the private, public, charity, and education sectors. He is currently Head of Finance & Corporate Services at St Dominic's Grammar School, Belfast, overseeing financial strategy, governance, and operations.

He has held senior roles at organisations including PSE Power, Clarecare CLG, Northern Trust, and Dyson, with a strong track record in financial performance, team leadership, and delivering complex projects.

In December 2024, Hugh was appointed Treasurer of Rowing Ireland, having served on its Governance and Finance & Audit Committees. His expertise spans financial management, compliance, and stakeholder engagement.

Hugh holds a BSc in Mathematics from Queen's University Belfast, is an FCA with Chartered Accountants Ireland, and has additional qualifications in management, corporate governance, ESG, and digital transformation.

Board Meetings Summary 2024

Name	Board Meetings Attended
Jane Williams	3
Barry McWilliams	13
Nessa Foley	12
Pat Kinsella	13
Noreen Maguire	13
David Hussey	13
Aisling Carpenter	7
Aoibheann Treacy	12
Martin Hogan	10
Philip Quinn	6
Neville Maxwell	10
Hugh Carvill	0

There were 14 board meetings throughout 2024 (excludes AGM & EGM)



Chair's Statement



Barry McWilliams
Chair

Rowing Ireland stands at a pivotal moment, with exciting opportunities ahead following an exceptional performance at the 2024 Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games. As we enter the next stage in our journey, the Board remains dedicated to supporting athletes, clubs, and the wider rowing community, ensuring continued growth and success for the sport. As Chair, it is a privilege to contribute to this effort at such a strategically important time

We move forward with a renewed focus on the athlete and the club, placing them at the heart of everything we do. Their welfare and well-being remain our priority as we strive not just to win, but to win well—with integrity, passion, and purpose.

From our rivers and lakes to the vast, untamed coastline, we embrace coastal rowing, a sport that connects us to our heritage while challenging us with the wilds of the sea—the relentless swell, the punishing white horses, and the unforgiving gale.

Our strategy propels us forward as one, growing in strength, numbers, and diversity. We celebrate what makes us different, knowing it is the foundation of our greatness. United by our love for rowing, we forge a future guided by transparency, respect, and enjoyment, ensuring a thriving and inclusive rowing community for all.

To everyone who gives of themselves in our endeavour: athletes, coaches, volunteers, officials, staff, sponsors, partners, and families – thank-you. The progress we have made is achievement we share.

Barry McWilliams
Chair,
Rowing Ireland

CEO Report



Michelle Carpenter
CEO

As we reflect on 2024, it is undeniable that this has been a year of extraordinary accomplishments for Irish Rowing. The sport has flourished, driven by the unwavering dedication, exceptional talent, and remarkable spirit of our athletes, coaches, volunteers, and support staff.

Achievements on the Water

Our athletes achieved outstanding success on the international stage. In August, the clocks stopped the lights were turned off in every rowing household north and south to every rowing fan as Paul O'Donovan and Fintan McCarthy secured back-to-back Olympic gold at the Paris Games, while Daire Lynch and Philip Doyle made history with Ireland's first-ever men's heavyweight Olympic bronze medal. The stadium in Paris was like a Sunday of an all-Ireland final in Croke park and we relished our friends, our colleagues that we have all supported for years. Every one of our athletes who made it to Paris already achieved so much they continue to be our heroes for their determination and dedication. Our rowers also excelled at the World Championships in Canada, winning four medals, and Ireland's first Paralympic rowers represented the nation with distinction at the Paris Games. Of course, there is a huge team behind the team a team which are supported by every club in the country that they come from, volunteers and unsung heroes who are dedicated to making things happen and who never get to the podium or need to be there, but we know who you are and thank you from the bottom of our heart for your commitment to our sport.

Development and Inclusion

Our development programs have seen tremendous growth. The *Get Going... Get Rowing* initiative reached incredible record numbers, introducing young people to rowing and fostering future champions. The programme in 2024 celebrated its tenth birthday and has grown to unimaginable height including seeing stars coming through the system to the international stage. Additionally, our *Women on the Water* and *Women in Leadership* programs have made incredible strides in advancing

gender equality in the sport, ensuring that women have the support and opportunities to excel both on the water and in leadership roles led by a female President, CEO and board gender equality we have made huge inroads in our sport and in Irish Sport which is a key objective of both the National Sports policy and Sport Ireland HP policy.

Governance and Safety

Rowing Ireland introduced *RowSafe*, a comprehensive safety manual, alongside the *Club Governance Guide*, to assist clubs in managing operations effectively and transparently. Throughout the year, the *Rowing Ireland Safety Launch* was promoted at events across Ireland, ensuring the rowing community is equipped with the knowledge and tools to maintain high safety standards. We continue to strive in governance and oversight driven by our President, Chair and Board

Looking Ahead: Strategy for 2025 and Beyond

Looking to the future, Rowing Ireland aims to build on the successes of 2024. Our vision for 2025 and beyond focuses on enhancing athlete development, expanding participation, and fostering an environment of inclusivity and excellence. We will continue to support our clubs and athletes and strengthen initiatives in governance and safety, ensuring a safe, supportive environment for all.

Acknowledgments

I sincerely thank Sport Ireland, Sport NI, Department of Sport, The Olympic Federation of Ireland, Institute of sport with their team and service providers and our sponsors for their unwavering support in Rowing Ireland's growth. Without your commitment and trust of us we could not do what we do. My deepest gratitude goes to the staff at Rowing Ireland, the volunteers, and everyone dedicated to advancing the sport. A very special thanks to the Board for their integrity and commitment to our vision. I am also incredibly grateful to the many unseen volunteers who contribute behind the scenes you know who you are, and our sport could not operate without your commitment and dedication to our sport.

Conclusion

As we reflect on 2024, I am proud of what we've achieved and excited for the future. I look forward to continuing our progress in 2025, building on our successes to make Rowing Ireland a global leader in excellence and inclusivity.

Michelle Carpenter
Chief Executive Officer
Rowing Ireland

A Look Back at 2024

Introduction

As we reflect on a challenging yet successful year of rowing in 2024, the achievements of the past 12 months are a testament to a highly motivated group of athletes who have worked tirelessly and supported each other. Alongside them, a dedicated team of national coaches and support staff has worked relentlessly to ensure the athletes achieve their best possible results while representing their country.

Looking ahead, we now embark on a new Olympic cycle leading to Los Angeles 2028. This edition of the Games will introduce a vastly different Olympic rowing regatta, offering both new challenges and opportunities for Irish rowing.

2024 Achievements

The 2024 season was an outstanding year for Irish rowing on the international stage across all categories.

Olympic Games

In August, all eyes were on the Olympic regatta in Vaires-sur-Marne, Paris. Seven Irish crews took to the water, proudly representing their country on the world's biggest stage. Among the standout performances:

- Paul O'Donovan and Fintan McCarthy successfully defended their Olympic title, winning back-to-back gold medals in the LM2X.
- Daire Lynch and Philip Doyle secured a historic bronze medal in the M2X, marking Ireland's first-ever Olympic medal in men's heavyweight rowing.
- Margaret Cremen and Aoife Casey finished 5th in the A final of the Women's Lightweight Double scull in Paris.
- Nathan Timoney and Ross Corrigan finished 6th in the A final of the Men's Coxless Pair in Paris

These, along with other hard-fought and well-deserved results, saw Ireland finish 5th on the overall medal table, firmly establishing the nation among the world's top Rowing Nations.

World Championships

The 2024 season was exceptionally busy for Irish crews at the World Championships, with the Senior, U23, and U19 regattas held simultaneously in late August in St. Catharines, Canada.

A total of 30 athletes across 12 crews represented Ireland across the three age categories, delivering outstanding performances in a hugely successful regatta that resulted in four medals.

These achievements were made possible through the dedication and hard work of our newly appointed Pathway Coordinator Clara O'Brien, the invaluable support of our Pathway College QUBC, and the ongoing commitment of volunteer club coaches from across the country. The support of clubs remains instrumental in developing young athletes and making such successes a reality.

Paralympic Games

The international rowing season concluded with a return to Vaires-sur-Marne for the Paralympic Games, where Ireland fielded its first Paralympic rowing crew Katie O'Brien and Tiarnan O'Donnell since London 2012. The athletes proudly represented their country at the highest level, marking a significant milestone for the Para program.

The qualification and hard work of all athletes involved should be seen as a stepping stone towards further Paralympic qualification and greater success in both the Los Angeles 2028 and Brisbane 2032 Olympic cycles.



World Cup I, Varese

12-14 April 2024



Women's Pair

Fiona Murtagh (University of Galway Boat Club)

Aifric Keogh (Grainne Mhaol Rowing Club)



Men's Double Scull

Philip Doyle (Belfast Boat Club)

Daire Lynch (Clonmel Rowing Club)

European Championships, Szeged

25-28 April 2024



Women's Lightweight Single Scull

Margaret Cremen (University College Cork Rowing Club)

World Cup II, Lucerne

24-26 May 2024



Women's Lightweight Single Scull

Siobhan McCrohan (Tribesmen Rowing Club)



Men's PR2 Single Scull

Tiarnan O'Donnell (Lee Rowing Club)



Men's Lightweight Double Scull

Paul O'Donovan (Skibbereen Rowing Club)

Fintan McCarthy (Skibbereen Rowing Club)



Women's Pair

Fiona Murtagh (University of Galway Boat Club)

Aifric Keogh (Grainne Mhaol Rowing Club)

World Cup III, Poznan

14-16 June 2024



Men's Double Scull

Philip Doyle (Belfast Boat Club)
Daire Lynch (Clonmel Rowing Club)



Men's PR2 Single Scull

Tiarnan O'Donnell (Lee Rowing Club)



Women's Double Scull

Fiona Murtagh (University of Galway Boat Club)
Aifric Keogh (Grainne Mhaol Rowing Club)

Paris Olympics 2024

26 July - 11 August 2024



Men's Lightweight Double Sculls

Paul O'Donovan (Skibbereen Rowing Club)
Fintan McCarthy (Skibbereen Rowing Club)



Men's Double Sculls

Philip Doyle (Belfast Boat Club)
Daire Lynch (Clonmel Rowing Club)

Coupe de la Jeunesse, Day 1

9-11 August, 2024



Junior Women's Four Crew

Aida Hehir (St Michael's Rowing Club)
Cloda Phillips (St Michael's Rowing Club)
Jessica Crowley (Skibbereen Rowing Club)
Lorna McNamara (Castleconnell Boat Club)



Junior Women's Single Scull

Aoife Hendy (Skibbereen Rowing Club)



Junior Women's Quad

Sophia Young (Methodist College)

Sibéal Ní Fhlaithebhartaigh (Castleconnell Boat Club)

Sarah Walsh (Sligo Rowing Club)

Louise Forrester (Shandon Boat Club)

Coupe de la Jeunesse, Day 2

9-11 August 2024



Junior Women's Four Crew

Aida Hehir (St Michael's Rowing Club)

Cloda Phillips (St Michael's Rowing Club)

Jessica Crowley (Skibbereen Rowing Club)

Lorna McNamara (Castleconnell Boat Club)

World Championships, St Catherine's

18-24 August 2024



Men's Lightweight Single Scull

Paul O'Donovan (Skibbereen Rowing Club)



Men's U23 Light Men's Double

Donnacha Keely (University of Galway Boat Club)

Ciaran Purdy (Queens Rowing)



Women's Lightweight Single Scull

Siobhan McCrohan (Tribesmen Rowing Club)



U23 Men's Double

Brian Colsh (University of Galway Boat Club)

Adam Murphy (University College Cork Rowing Club)

Domestic Events Report

Key achievements/activities for 2024

A series of provincial Event Workshops were held online in early 2024 aimed at encouraging new ideas and initiatives to make the racing calendar and the scheduling of events as effective and successful as possible. These built on discussions the previous year and enabled a constructive open debate to take place. There was no consensus for radical change, but several issues were highlighted that will feed into planning for future years. The idea going forward will be to get the workshops back running in 2025 and see if any small changes can be implemented sporadically.

Normal workload relating to scheduling (and re-scheduling) of events, appointing Observers for events and reviewing feedback, handling Tracker queries, overseeing Kit and Blade approvals (updates and new club affiliations) and reviewing Overseas entries (to ensure that all RI athletes are correctly registered to participate in overseas events and that points for overseas wins are correctly awarded.)

Looking forward 2025

Draft 2025 Calendar – the calendar has been published for final discussion at the Fixtures meeting and ratification at the AGM.

Provisional dates for 2026 and 2027 were sought in March and a 2026 Calendar will be ratified in Summer 2025. Organising Committees will be encouraged to consider the issues raised in the Events Workshops.

Ongoing review of points system – ensuring system maximises participation and promotes strong and fair competition across domestic events – and input into quadrennial 2025 rules review?

Ongoing work to develop greater alignment of Coastal procedures with Flatwater processes under a more closely structured Domestic Events arrangement

Improved Event Guidance for organising committees, especially to support new events and to help new volunteers get involved in organising and running Heads and Regattas with the hope that an Event Manual will be released in 2025.

The Domestic Events Committee is now urgently seeking new members with the skills, experience and ideas to help shape the development of domestic rowing. The Committee transacts its business largely by email and we work very closely with the core RI team who manage a significant administrative workload.

Coastal Committee Report

Chair: David Hussey

Mission statement

To provide Coastal Rowing that is inclusive, club led and in alignment with the aims and objectives of Rowing Ireland.

The primary focus of the committee was to support the various host clubs with the running of the 3 championships and the beach sprints trials. The Masters championships hosted by Olderfleet RC was up first in May. For the second year running, Olderfleet ran a very successful event in Glenarm harbour and combined senior racing with the championship categories. Castletownbere RC hosted a huge entry in the Junior championships on the August bank holiday weekend. This also combined with a full senior and masters regatta the following day to make it a weekend regatta festival of rowing. The Senior championship regatta was held for the third time in Bantry. Again, there were heats required in most categories due to the size of the entry and crews experienced real coastal conditions and an innovative course design.

The timing of the international beach sprints events required a number of qualifier events this year. With the European championships being held in June, Passage West hosted their first regatta with endurance on the Saturday and beach sprints on Sunday. Loughros Point followed suit with an endurance regatta on the Saturday and the qualifier for the Homes and Coupe beach sprints on the Sunday. The final qualifier event was for the Worlds and doubled up as the inaugural beach sprints championships and was hosted by Wicklow RC.

Looking to 2025

Coastal rowing is in an extremely strong position going forward. The full integration of Coastal into the Rowing Ireland structures has been completed and all clubs, flatwater and Coastal, now operate under the common banner of rowing. The coming year is the first step in the journey of qualification for LA28. It is planned that Ireland will be able to send a team to the Olympics to compete in coastal rowing. An important stepping stone on the journey will be the 2025 World Rowing Beach Sprints championships held in Rio de Janeiro in October. This will be one of the main qualifier events for the youth Olympics 2026 to be held in Dakar, Senegal. Investment in the development of juniors now, will give us a steady stream of talent for LA28 and Brisbane 32 and keep Ireland at the forefront of rowing in the world.

Umpire Committee Report

Chair: Andrew Tubman

Committee members: TJ Ryan, Kayla McCann, Eamonn Colclough

Introduction/Mission

- To evaluate and re-licence new and existing umpires
- To interpret Rowing Ireland rules and make any recommendations on the use of rules at regattas
- To ensure athletes are provided with safe and fair racing
- To provide training and support to new and existing umpires
- To ensure transparent pathways to World Rowing umpiring for suitable candidates
- To increase the number of active Rowing Ireland umpires

Key achievements/activities for 2024

Three online renewal seminars/ exams were held (Feb – April 2024)

- 29th February 2024 – 14 renewals
- 5th March 2024 – 5 renewals
- 10th April 2024 – 4 renewals

Four in person exams were held in early 2024.

- Dublin – 22 new umpires
- Cork – 6 new umpires and 3 renewals
- Carlow – 9 renewals
- Skibbereen – 15 new umpires and 1 renewal

New materials were designed for our umpires to assist with learning the rules of rowing and umpiring duties. This includes recorded modules that are available for umpires and new candidates to review in advance of seminars.

Kyle Hanck and Kayla McCann umpired at the Home Internationals in 2024.

The umpires committee are now tracking umpire activity across events to build a picture of umpire activity and retention. In the 2024 season less than 40% of our registered umpires officiated at an event. We currently have 261 registered umpires.

Rules of Racing were updated in line with World Rowing rules.

Looking forward 2025:

- The Umpires committee are hoping to launch Rowing Ireland Umpires Association in 2025.
- Pathways for International umpire training have been agreed, and we hope to start a new cohort of umpires on this training pathway in 2025.

Conclusion

The umpires committee would like to thank all umpires who have assisted at events across Ireland during this season and welcomes the newly appointed umpires. The committee is particularly thankful to those umpires who have retired this season after many years of service.



Safety Advisory Committee

Chair: Pat Kiely

Committee Members: Joe Cantillon, Rob Dunne, Sabrina O'Carroll, Michael O'Rourke, Steven Archibald, Leo Gibson

Introduction/Mission

The Safety Advisory Committee's mission is to support Rowing Ireland clubs by providing vital information, knowledge, and guidance on safety-related matters. Our role extends to advising the CEO and Board of Rowing Ireland on safety concerns to ensure the well-being of all participants.

Key Achievements and Activities in 2024

- "RowSafe" the new Rowing Ireland comprehensive safety manual was released. The RowSafe document was completed in collaboration with British Rowing. Gerry Farrell and Leo Gibson supported the completion of the document. RowSafe will be promoted to the clubs as a one stop shop for advice on rowing safety matters.
- Conducted a thorough review of iROWSafe reports submitted through Rowing Ireland's online incident reporting system.
- Rowing Ireland Safety Launch was used in many Events throughout Ireland.
- Collaborated with the Department of Transport to review and update the "Code of Practice: Safe Operations of Recreational Craft." Originally published in 2006 and last revised in 2017, the updated version was released in September 2024.

Looking Forward to 2025

- Rowing Ireland safety launch, Further training will be provided for crew members with the focus being on event organisers so they can crew the new safety launch at their events.
- A major safety week is planned for February 2025 with webinars and social media posts to support the event.

Multiple committee meetings were held throughout the year, and I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all committee members for their unwavering commitment and dedication to promoting safety in our sport.

I would also like to acknowledge the continue support of British Rowing with safety updates and advice.

This report outlines the crucial efforts of the Safety Advisory Committee in safeguarding the well-being of our rowing community, and we look forward to continuing this vital work in the year ahead.



2024 Rowing Championships

Report of the 2024 Rowing Championships Team *(includes the 1K Classic)*

Preface

The 2024 Championship season opened with the 1K Classic on June 29th at the Lough Rinn Regatta course, and the Irish Championships was held on July 12th, 13th, and 14th at the National Rowing Centre.

This report is a summary of the events and is for the attention of Rowing Ireland and its stakeholders.

As with every event, there are lessons learned, and they are documented. This was the second year that most of this team worked to deliver the events, and the knowledge developed in 2023 was critical to organizing the events.

The 2024 Championships Regatta team members consisted of the following:

Name	Duty Covered	Status	Club
Michelle McDonagh	Volunteer Manager	Volunteer	Shannon RC
Andrew Tubman	Race Director	Volunteer	Belfast RC
Brian Richardson	Audio Visual Manager	Volunteer	St. Michael's RC
Robert Canavan	Finance	Volunteer	Galway RC
Donal Cronin	Chief Umpire / Vice Chair	Volunteer	Cork BC
Tadgh Brannigan	NRC & Lough Rinn facilities	Employee	
Michael Hughes	Chairman	Volunteer	Galway RC
Kayla McCann	Results Co-Ordinator	Volunteer	St Michael's RC
Emer Garry	Championships Secretary	Volunteer	Galway RC
Patrick Kiely	Safety and Water based supports	Employee	
T J Ryan	Trailer / Racking	Volunteer	Skibbereen RC
Eamonn Colclough	1K Classic support	Volunteer	Galway RC

Summary

The Chair was reappointed with the Team forming up in mid-February. The resources provided by the CEO and employees of Rowing Ireland were intrinsic to the development and delivery of the event needs. The support of Leitrim County

Council for the 1K Classic was a major factor in the organizing and execution of the event in Lough Rinn.

The 1 K Classic which didn't run in 2023 due to adverse weather on three occasions, attracted close to 550 crews from 839 rowers representing 39 Clubs in 2024. The event ran successfully, thanks to the local Clubs for support with launches and volunteers.

The Irish Championships had the benefit of much improved weather from 2023 and the normal racing schedule for the event was possible. Over 900 crews, coming from 1,169 rowers, from 51 Clubs provided an exciting three days of racing. The Senior eights race on Sunday saw the history book being updated when Cork Boat Club became the first Cork Club to win the Senior Challenge Cup for Men's Eights. The Volunteer support provided above and beyond the team members is a key dependency for both events. Significant effort is required to ensure that the numbers required are found, trained and in place to deliver both events.

Championship 2025 Points for consideration

- 1 K Classic to be a two-day event
- Infrastructure improvement at Lough Rinn – pontoons, signage, launches
- Improve plan for trailer and spectator parking at Lough Rinn
- Course maintenance, pontoon replacement at the NRC
- Improve the streaming and commentary offering
- Over-reliance on volunteer support. Additional recognition measures required.

2024 Rowing Ireland Annual Awards

Coach of the Year: **Pat McInerney** (St Michaels Rowing Club, Limerick)

Up-and-Coming Rower of the Year: **Grace Hely** (DULBC)

Senior Female Rower of the Year: **Margaret Cremen**

Senior Male Rower of the Year: **Paul O'Donovan** (Skibbereen RC)

Junior Female Rower of the Year: **Anna Brennan** (New Ross RC)

Junior Male Rower of the Year: **Jack Rafferty** (St Michaels Rowing Club)

Master Female Rower of the Year: **Barbara Nugent**

Master Male Rower of the Year: **Paul Gallen** (Athlone BC)

Club of the Year: **Kilmacsimon Swimming & Rowing Club**

Umpire of the Year: **TJ Ryan** (Skibbereen RC)

Women in Sports Advocate of the Year: **Sandra Cunningham**

Rowability Award of the Year: **Peter Cassidy**

Volunteer of the Year: **Janet Walsh** (New Ross, Rowing Club)

A special presentation was made to **Olympians, Paralympians, World Medallists, and Olympic and Worlds Coaches**

The President's Award was presented to **Fintan McCarthy** and **Paul O'Donovan** for their extraordinary achievements to-date in Irish rowing.



Treasurer's Report

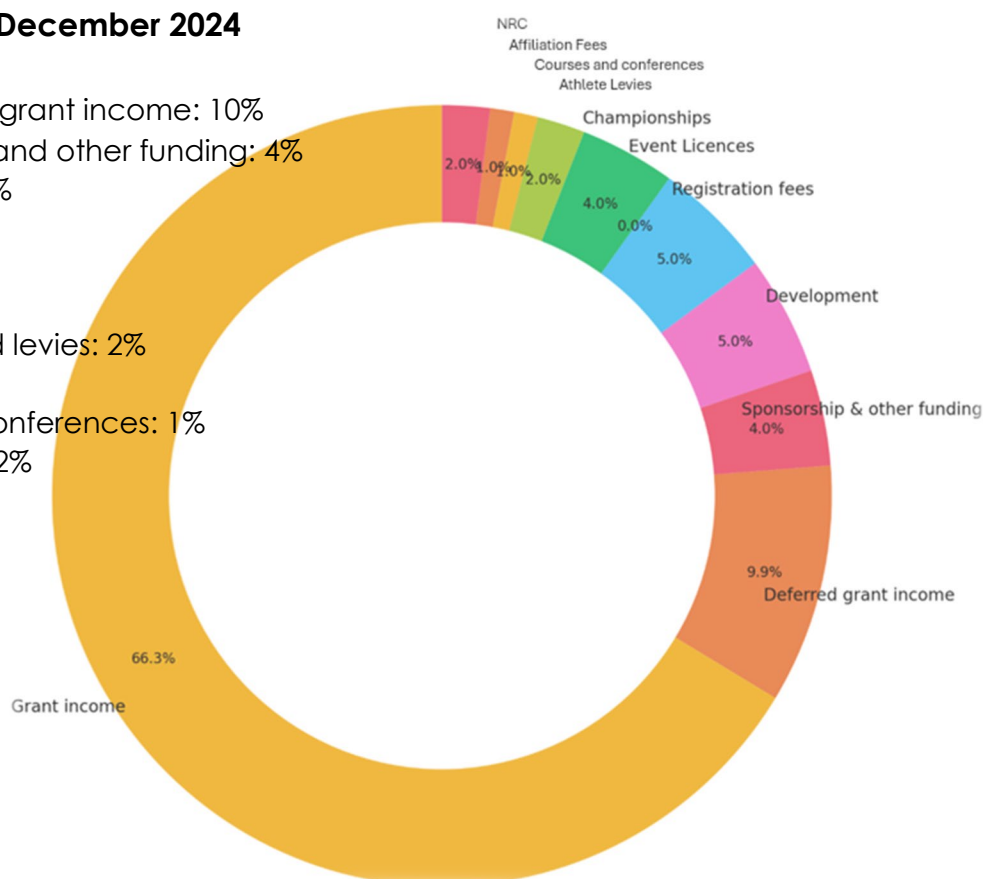
It is my pleasure to present the Treasurer's Report for the Irish Amateur Rowing Union CLG t/a Rowing Ireland for the financial year ending 31 December 2024. The attached audited financial statements (see page 53) prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2014, provide a detailed overview of our financial position, income, and expenditures during the year.

Financial Overview

Rowing Ireland has maintained a stable financial position in 2024, with continued support from Sport Ireland, Sport Northern Ireland, and other agencies, enabling us to deliver on our commitments to rowing at all levels.

Income Breakdown – 31st December 2024

- Grant income: 67%
- Amortisation of deferred grant income: 10%
- Sponsorship, advertising and other funding: 4%
- Development income: 5%
- Registration fees: 5%
- Event Licences: 0%
- Championships: 4%
- Athlete contributions and levies: 2%
- Affiliation fees: 1%
- Fees from courses and conferences: 1%
- National Rowing Centre 2%



Approximately 67% of our income for 2024 has been funded by Sport Ireland through various grants, including high-performance programmes, carding schemes, coaching apprenticeships, and development funding.

We thank Sport Ireland for this continued support, and we will seek to further develop our relationship with Sport Ireland to ensure our secured funding in the future.

In 2024, there were 7,774 registered participants across the two rowing disciplines; flatwater and coastal. In 2019, membership figures were 3,500, representing a 122% increase in membership registrations in the past 5 years. Whilst income has increased by 2% during the year, there has also been a corresponding increase of 4% in expenditure driven by rising costs and inflation and Paris 2024. We are cognisant of ever rising costs and have been endeavouring to manage these increases throughout 2025.

Our closing cash at bank balance as at the end of 2024 was €2.75m, a total €2m of which relates to a bequest to Rowing Ireland for the development of a new rowing centre in Blessington or other developmental rowing projects.

Expenditure

Expenditure for the year was aligned with the objectives of supporting rowing activities, including:

- Athlete development and support.
- National and international competition participation.
- Operational costs of Rowing Ireland.
- Ongoing support of governance, membership systems, and capacity building.

The audited financial statements reflect an **operating deficit** and was primarily due to non-recurring, exceptional costs associated with external consultancy, strategic services, and international championship commitments.

This reflects a deliberate and strategic investment in the long-term success of High-Performance rowing. Guided by strong governance and an athlete-centred approach, we directed resources towards strengthening our performance pathways and positioning the organisation for sustained success as we build towards LA 2028.

Balance Sheet

As of 31 December 2024, Rowing Ireland retains a healthy balance sheet with:

- Tangible fixed assets, reflecting investment in rowing equipment.
- Deferred capital grants, recognising the capital supports received for specific equipment purchases.
- Cash and cash equivalents, ensuring liquidity for ongoing operations and future commitments.

Capital Investments

During the year:

- The organisation invested in high-performance boats and equipment valued at €155,051, funded through the Sports Capital and Equipment Programme.
- These investments are critical to ensuring Rowing Ireland remains competitive on the international stage.

Outlook for 2025

Despite the inherent challenges in balancing high-performance demands and grassroots development, the Rowing Ireland continues to manage its financial resources prudently.

Looking ahead to 2025, the focus will be on:

- Continued support of our athletes and build towards LA 2028 and beyond.
- Sustaining grassroots participation and development programmes.
- Ensuring financial sustainability by diversifying income streams and maintaining tight expenditure controls while acknowledging the importance of **continued engagement with Sport Ireland and other stakeholders** to maintain funding stability.

I would like to thank our funding partners, members, and stakeholders for their ongoing support and commitment to the sport of rowing.

Hugh Carvill
Interim Treasurer

Social Media

Platform	Following	Impressions
Instagram	14200	1,176,643
LinkedIn	3000	341,039
Facebook	14000	743,371
X (Twitter)	10.400	746,508
Weekly Newsletter	1298	1113



Club Support

Introduction/Mission

As the Club Support Officer for Rowing Ireland, I am pleased to present the annual report for the year 2024. This report provides an overview of our efforts to support and enhance the development of rowing clubs across the country.

Key achievements/activities for 2024

Development of new Club Affiliation and Membership System to be launched in January of 2025

- Increase in the number of affiliated clubs
- Increase in Rowing Ireland affiliated membership
- New Good Club Governance Guide published
- Introduction of Rowing Ireland Youth Commission

Affiliations 2024

The total number of members registered in 2024 was 7,774. We have 105 clubs broken down into the following – Senior Club 70, Junior Club 4, Coastal Fixed Seat 31.

Club Development Initiatives

Throughout the year, we have focused on implementing initiatives to strengthen the infrastructure and operations of rowing clubs. This includes providing resources and guidance on governance, safety, coaching, and membership retention strategies.

Training and Education

We have conducted numerous training sessions and workshops aimed at upskilling club officials, coaches, and volunteers. These programs have been tailored to address the specific needs and challenges faced by clubs at various stages of development.

Grants and Funding

Our efforts to secure grants and funding opportunities have enabled clubs to invest in equipment upgrades, facility improvements, and grassroots development programs. We continue to explore new avenues for financial support to sustain long-term growth. Through Rowing Ireland support many of our affiliated clubs were very successful with grant application for equipment and facilities.

Community Engagement

Rowing Ireland remains committed to fostering a sense of community and inclusivity within the sport. We have actively engaged with clubs to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion, ensuring that rowing is accessible to all members of society.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the past year has been marked by significant progress in our mission to support and empower rowing clubs across Ireland. We are grateful for the dedication and passion demonstrated by club members and volunteers, and we look forward to building on our achievements in the year ahead.

Looking forward 2025

With the introduction of the Good Governance Guide we intend to complete several club governance focused webinars targeted at club officials tasked with the important tasks of funding and support our growing clubs.

Through the Rowing Ireland Youth Commission for our junior members for the first time have an opportunity to have their voices heard. We look forward to the positive impact this commission will have for our junior members.

The new affiliation and registration system will enable Rowing Ireland to produce reports targeted at all levels of our sport. We will also have the means to communicate with each individual member of our organisation.

Pat Kiely
Club Support Officer
Rowing Ireland



Get Going Get Rowing Programme

In 2024, *Get Going Get Rowing* inspired an astounding **42,104 students** across Ireland, from Belfast to Cork and Dublin to Limerick. This included:

- **1,646 classes** were delivered in **137 schools**.
- **25 weeks** of summer rowing camps.
- Participation in **19 special events**.
- Culminating in **4 blitz events** in Dublin and Munster, where nearly **2,000 competitors** showcased their skills.

But *Get Going Get Rowing* is about much more than just numbers. Our true impact lies in the stories behind these figures:

- In 2024, Get Rowing and Rowing Ireland launched the Row To Paris "Catch Us If You Can" campaign, challenging schools and clubs to match the training efforts of Ireland's Olympic rowers. Over five weeks, students tracked their physical activities—rowing, running, cycling, and more—aiming to mirror the elite athletes' regimens. This initiative not only fostered nationwide engagement but also offered a chance to win a Concept 2 rowing machine, further promoting fitness and rowing participation among youth.
- Mary discovered rowing at a women's taster evening, joined Athlunkard Boat Club, and returned to the Provinces Indoor Rowing Competition to defend her gold medal in the women's 500m age 70–79 race.
- Glen from Enable Ireland competed in an inclusive race after completing six weeks of indoor rowing with us.
- The 5th class students at Milford National School, determined and resilient, retook their two-minute rowing tests four times, striving to improve each time.
- St. Aidan's students in West Tallaght, celebrated by their school for winning 44 medals at our blitzes.

The moments of joy, determination, and triumph are countless:

- The pride of St. Patrick's Academy students as they conquered their first on the water rowing experience.
- The impressive splits achieved by a young man with one arm at Breda Academy.
- The infectious energy at Torbank Special School, where students rowed to their favorite tunes.

Across **1,646 classes**, our coaches sparked these transformations, helping students achieve things they never thought possible. Even if they don't join a rowing club immediately, these experiences plant seeds that may flourish later in life—whether in secondary school, university, or as masters rowers.

Our community impact extends further through participation in events like the Shine Festival, BeActive Festivals, VisionSports Try Day, Her Outdoors Week, and the NextGen Paralympics Taster Days.

We're also fostering the next generation of coaches. In 2024, **203 TY rowers** from clubs across Munster and Leinster gained coaching experience with us, building their confidence and staying connected to the sport. Many went on to assist with club summer camps or volunteer with new cadet rowers, and some return as *Get Rowing* community coaches in university.

Additionally, schools are sustaining the momentum. Two DEIS schools in Tallaght and Cork have established extracurricular rowing clubs, investing in rowing machines to keep their students active and engaged as part of a team.

As we work toward our goal of engaging with every school in Ireland, we're making progress with every successful grant application. Our main constraints remain equipment and coaching availability, but our vision remains steadfast.

Finally, none of this would be possible without the support of rowing clubs across the country. You provide us with facilities, equipment, connections, and junior coaching talent. Your partnership embodies the community spirit that makes our program so impactful, ensuring teachers return year after year and students remain enthusiastic about the sport.

Thank you for making 2024 an unforgettable year. We look forward to achieving even more together in 2025!



Women In Sport

Introduction and Mission Statement

Rowing Ireland is committed to increasing women's sustained involvement in the sport as coaches, volunteers, club members, officials, leaders, and participants, from grassroots to elite performance.

Rowing Ireland strives to achieve gender balance in all aspects of the sport of rowing in Ireland in each of the 4 target areas: Participation, Coaching & officiating, Leadership & Governance and Visibility.

Key activities and achievements in 2024

- **Her Outdoors** week saw 254 women take to the water
- **Women on the Water** courses run in clubs in September involved 130 women try rowing for a six-week block
- Completing the She Ergs Pilot programme as part of the **HerMoves** initiative
- Designing a new programme for HerMoves in collaboration with weightlifting Ireland.
- **Autumn/Winter Women's Health Webinars** e.g. 'Mastering Midlife' by Dr Irene Clark, which was hugely popular, with over 100 sign-ups from female coaches and masters athletes.
- The **Women in Coaching Networking Day** took place successfully for the 3rd year in a row, with over 68 coaches in attendance
- The **Women's Student Coach Academy** in conjunction with Student Sport Ireland saw 9 female student coaches begin their coaching journey supported by RI.
- 6 female club committee members joined our **Women in Leadership Programme**, facilitated by Sarah O Shea and Lisa Clancy and 5 young rowers completed a **Young Women in Leadership programme** led by Move2B

Looking forward 2025

- Deliver Lift, Row, Glow as part of the HerMoves campaign with Sport Ireland Cork schools' pilot in January & February.
- Developing and sharing guidance to clubs to provide period support for girls and women in rowing clubs. We will launch a survey in early 2025 to examine the needs.
- Continue to provide webinars on women's health topics during the autumn and winter months to educate and support female coaches and athletes.
- Expanding both our Women on the Water Programme & Her Outdoors to more locations.

- Accept applications for leadership courses beginning Sept 25
- Work with Sport Ireland to further develop our Coaching & Umpiring Pathways to ensure we are best supporting coaches and officials at all levels.

Ceara O Connor - Women in Sport Lead &
Ciara Harte - Acting WIS Lead Oct 24



Coach Education Programme

Coaching is an essential support for rowers allowing them to develop and maximize their athletic ability. The Coaching Pathway is primarily linked to the rower's pathway. It offers appropriate training and courses to coaches who wish to work with rowers in the different stages of their development. We work closely with Sport Ireland Coaching and follow their Coaching Development Plan for Ireland.

Key Achievements/Activities for 2024

- 17 Introduction to Coaching Courses - 230 coaches from 35 clubs - split 107 male/123 female.
- 5 Level One Courses - 63 coaches from 14 clubs - split 34 male/29 female.
- 1 Level Two Course in progress - 15 coaches from 10 clubs (including from 4 coastal clubs) - split 13 male/2 female.

Looking Forward - 2025

Along with delivering more Intro, Level One, and Level Two courses, we are developing workshops on specific topics such as Coaching Teenage Girls, Better Coxing, Rigging, Training Programs and other areas of interest. We will also offer Level Three modules as standalone workshops. We are conscious of adapting our courses to better service coastal rowing and are working hard on adapting elements of our courses. We will liaise closely with the HPD to develop a better pathway for Irish coaches into the HP Program.

Conclusion

Continued rolling out of our courses relies on our volunteer Coach Developers. I would like to record, on behalf of everyone in Irish rowing, our thanks to them for the many hours they put into developing and delivering courses throughout the island.

Gerry Farrell
Coach Education Program Coordinator

By The Numbers

Title	Type	Area	No of Events	Participants
Affiliation System Consultation	Meeting	Clubs & Members	3	120
Women on the Water	Training Sessions	Women in Sport	9	130
Her Outdoors Week	Event	Women in Sport	9	254
Women in Coaching Conference	Event	Women in Sport	1	68
Unconscious Bias Training	In Person	Women in Sport	1	8
Women in Rowing Webinar	Webinar & In Person	Women in Sport	3	150+
Women in Leadership	Course	Women in Sport	1	6
Young Women in Leadership	Course	Women in Sport	1	5
Women's Student Coach Academy	Course	Women in Sport	1	9
Coastal ADM	Meeting	Clubs & Members	1	40
World Coastal Championships	Event	Clubs & Members	7	38
World Beach Sprints	Event	Clubs & Members	9	17
Home International Beach Sprints	Event	Clubs & Members	7	10
Introduction to Coaching	Course	Clubs & Members	17	230
Level 1 Coaching Course	Course	Clubs & Members	5	63
Level 2 Coaching Course	Course	Clubs & Members	1	15
Irish Rowing Championship	Event	Clubs & Members	1	916 Crews (2664 Seats)
1k Classic	Event	Clubs & Members	1	545 Crews (1800 Seats)
European Championships	Event	Clubs & Members	3	3
World Rowing Championships U19	Event	Clubs & Members	3	11
World Rowing Championships U23	Event	Clubs & Members	7	15
World Rowing Championships Senior	Event	Clubs & Members	2	2
AGM	Meeting	Clubs & Members	1	127
Home International Rowing	Event	Clubs & Members	32	60
Coupe de la Jeunesse	Event	Clubs & Members	5	14

Anti-Doping

A component of funding through Sport Ireland is the annual reporting of the Anti-Doping process.

The former anti-doping officer, Margherita Pacini, looked after Anti-Doping in 2024 working closely with Sport Ireland Clearinghouse for results.

Anti-Doping Figures and Key Activities in 2024:

- 298 samples were collected from rowing/para-rowing athletes between January and December 2024.
- 16 samples were collected In-Competition. 282 samples were collected Out-of-Competition.
- Testing was conducted at the following competitions:
 - Irish Rowing Championships 2024
 - Cork Regatta 2024
- All negative results were reported through the Clearinghouse; in the instance of any positive cases both the Athlete and Rowing Ireland would be notified – of which there were none in 2024.
- 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 where testing of competitors can be carried out.
- Paris 2024 Olympics: Athletes completed the Sport Ireland e-learning programme.

Looking forward to 2025:

- Keeping relationships with stakeholders (Sport Ireland Anti-Doping Unit), ITA and WADA.
- Sending Clubs' secretaries up to date information and posting information on the Rowing Ireland Website.
- Monitoring High Performance athletes: whereabouts, tests results, RTP.

Audit & Risk Committee

Chair: Aoibheann Treacy

The Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) is responsible for overseeing Rowing Ireland's financial management and risk oversight. 2024, an Olympic year, was a very significant one for the organisation.

Financial and Budget Overview

- Financial Review, Cashflow Projections, and 2025 Planning, along with regular review of the management accounts
- The committee discussed cashflow projections through the remainder of 2024 and into 2025, noting that spending requirements during the Olympic year placed additional pressure on cashflow management.
- Timely funding is crucial - the committee closely monitored the management accounts and cashflow forecasting, coupled with engagement with Sport Ireland to ensure adequate support.

2025 Budget Development

Draft budgets for Core and High-Performance (HP) activities in 2025 were presented, with the understanding that they will be refined following discussions with Sport Ireland. These budgets are crucial for outlining Rowing Ireland's yearly financial needs, and final adjustments will be made after further negotiations later in the year.

Audit and Risk Oversight

Internal and External Audit Reviews - looking ahead, the ARC continues to maintain regular engagement with Rowing Ireland's external auditors, ensuring clear communication and effective oversight of financial activities. Engagements with the Auditor in Q4 included preparation for auditing of 2024 accounts in Q1 2025.

Risk Management

The ARC conducted an initial review of the updated Risk Register, which categorizes key risks facing the organization. Feedback on the document was provided, and a final version was reviewed and signed off at the November 2024 meeting. The Risk Register is a live document and will continue to be updated and reviewed through 2025 to reflect potential risks that may occur.

Terms of Reference (TOR) Review

The committee also reviewed its Terms of Reference (TOR).

Conflict of Interest

The committee confirmed that no conflicts of interest were reported by its members during the period.



Connacht Ulster Branch Report

Chair: Paul O'Donovan

To commence with an acknowledgement of the wider Branch network and the Branch was delighted to welcome all member clubs from the Coastal Rowing community to the newly named Connacht Ulster Branch.

Branch Committee

- Martin Hogan - Director
- Paul O'Donovan – Chairperson
- Mick O'Rourke – Hon Treasurer
- Mark Butler – Hon Secretary

Rowing Ireland Committees

The Branch currently have several members actively supporting Rowing Ireland Sub-Committees and we want to thank them for their ongoing support, engagement and commitment.

Umpire exams

Athlone BC hosted an umpire exam for the Branch, while the online option remains a welcome alternative. The Branch would like to acknowledge Eamonn Colclough for his time and hard work in delivering umpire education and course co-ordination.

Coach Education

A number of coaches from the Branch have engaged in coach development and education. It is welcome to see progress in this area supported by Rowing Ireland. The Branch again would like to thank the clubs and athletes that have facilitated education and coaching sessions from their clubs.

Connacht Ulster Rowing Youth Development

It is hoped to create a youth development programme in the branch network with a specific focus on Junior 15's and Junior 16's in a collaborative and supported environment where athletes will get the opportunity to train and row with athletes from other clubs to help develop rowing skills and experiences. There is significant support from the clubs to enable this initiative and Athlone BC have offered to host the programme in the commencement phase.

Lough Rinn

The Lough Rinn rowing facility continues to develop as a significant piece of national rowing infrastructure. It has now successfully hosted the annual Grand League regatta, the Home International Regatta 2023 and the 1K classic in 2024. It is becoming a training destination and Leitrim County Council have invested in two launches available for coaching and streamlined to booking arrangements through Rowing Ireland. Many clubs are now using it for training and selection camps. Further information can be found on the Rowing Ireland website.

Events

The calendar of events for the branch continues to grow with the addition of the Athlone Head of the river and the welcome return of the Tribesman Head of the River in 2023 and 2024.

Congratulation to all clubs and athletes from the branch who raced in this year's 1k Classic and the National Rowing Championships.

National Championships wins include:

- University of Galway - W Inter 8+
- University of Galway - W Senior 4-
- University of Galway - W Inter 4+
- University of Galway - W Inter 2-
- Athlone BC – W J18 2x
- Athlone BC - M J18 4x-
- Athlone BC - M J18 1x
- St. Josephs RC - M J18 2-
- St. Josephs RC - M J18 8+

Congratulations to the Olympic Rowing Team on their performances and success with a special acknowledgement to Women's 2- of Aifric Keogh and Fiona Murtagh.



Munster Branch Report

Chair: TJ Ryan

Introduction

The Munster Branch acts so that club delegates can air their views and vote on issues affecting their clubs and to guide and advise the Clubs in the region to understand and be compliant with the RI Constitution and Rules.

Officers

At the last Munster Branch AGM, the following were elected:

Chairperson – TJ Ryan – Skibbereen Rowing Club

Hon Secretary – Nollag Dwyer – Clonmel Rowing Club

Hon Treasurer – Emily Duloherly – Skibbereen Rowing Club.

Munster Director – Pat Kinsella – Clonmel Rowing Club.

The next date for rotation of the Munster director will be at the 2027 AGM. The Munster Director is the Munster Branch representative on the Board of rowing Ireland.

Paris Olympics

The Paris Olympics had the greatest number of Irish rowing finalists in seven events and in the para-Olympics with one finalist. Medals in the Men's Lightweight double and Open weight men's double thrilled all. The men's lightweight double of Paul O'Donovan and Fintin McCarthy from Skibbereen retained their Olympic title in impressive fashion coached by Domnic Casey and in the Men's Open weight double Daire Lynch from Clonmel and Philip Doyle took bronze coached by Fran Keane, Irelands first ever men's open weight Olympic medal.

Achievements/activities for 2024

The two grand league regattas by Munster clubs Skibbereen and Cork City were successfully completed this year.

The national championships held at the NRC with the big screen coverage greatly enhancing the experience. Congratulations to Cork Boat club on winning the Men's Senior Eight for the first time in their history.

The 2nd Munster Branch regatta in early June was another successful one-day event. A big thankyou to all the volunteers, without your supports these events could not be successful.

Governance

A TOR for the branches is currently being formulated by the Governance committee.

Club Engagement

Munster Rowing support clubs seeking to get Level 1 coaching training with financial assistance. The branch supported the Coaching the girl's workshop in Lee RC in September 2024 developed by Sport Ireland and adapted by Rowing Ireland Coach Education.

Branch Award

Fran Keane was chosen by the members of the branch for this year's branch award in recognition of the fact that he was coach to the first crew to win an open weight medal at the Olympics (M2X).

World Champs

The 2024 World Rowing Championships, featuring Senior, Under 23, and Under 19 categories, was held as a combined event in August in St. Catharines, Canada.

The following clubs were represented:

Cappoquin, Castleconnell, Fermoy, Lee, Lee Valley, St. Michael's, Presentation, Skibbereen, Tralee, UCC and UL.

Coupe de la Jeunesse

August, Racice, Czech Republic.

The following Munster clubs were represented:

Castleconnell, Muckross, St. Michael's, Shandon and Skibbereen

Home international Strathclyde

The following Munster clubs were represented:

Bantry, Cappoquin, Castleconnell, Cork, Presentation, Shandon, Skibbereen, St. Michael's, UL and UCC

Conclusion

Thank you to all the Club representatives who attended and contributed to the Branch meetings and the willingness to partake in the online versions. The bursary award for 2024 will be finalized at the first branch meeting of 2025.

Northern Ireland Branch Report

Chair: Brenda Ewing (Acting)

Committee Members: V Chair: D Webb, Sec: G Reid, Treasurer: T Dunlop,
Governance + Events: D Webb, + 1 rep from each NI Club affiliated to RINI Branch, +
Board Rep – B McWilliams

Key Achievements/Activities

Branch Meetings – meetings have been held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month with the usual breaks taken in July and December. All but 1 held by Zoom.

Branch Agenda Items:

1. Board Business – updates given by B McW. An active link between the Board and the NI Clubs.
2. Governance
 - SNI recognition / RI - GR provided updates on progress. A useful meeting with RI CEO was held and it was agreed to retain the position of the NI Branch within RI. Sport NI have been notified. NI Branch to be informed about funding in NI
 - RI Gov Committee - Supplementary changes were made to the NI Branch Constitution.
 - Safeguarding – BE regularly reminded Clubs about Vetting applicants / procedures involved . The RI NI Branch was audited in June 2024 and is Dept of Justice Access NI Compliant. New Access NI procedures have been circulated to NI Club Children's Officers
 - Memo of Understanding – As above regarding SNI Recognition.
 - Branch Constitution – Agreed with RI Governance Committee.
 - Branch Strategy – The RI Strategy was discussed over 2 meetings with Clubs encouraged to see what parts suited them and develop a plan.
 - Safety – S Archibald – updated branch members when necessary with new information and RI resources.
3. Rowing Activity
 - Commonwealth Games – No further details until a venue for 2026 is confirmed following the withdrawal of Australia to host the event.
 - Coaching courses – Several courses have been held in NI and online, to facilitate NI coaches.
 - Umpires – Andrew Tubman (Chair Umpires Committee) stressed the shortage of umpires in NI. Currently 17 registered umpires in NI with 16 participating in the NI 2023 and 2024 Regattas. DW encouraged Clubs to persuade new people to come forward.

- RINIB / Newry RC HOR 01/02/25. The event has been developed over the past few years with DW working with Newry RC. Entries have increased and Clubs who assisted with launches / drivers / help shared in the profits.
- Event dates - D Webb (Chair of Domestic Events Committee) co-ordinated the NI Clubs event date requests for the 2025 and 2026 Calendar.
- NI Events – Branch members discussed the loss of NI events over recent years and possible re-instatement in the future. Currently NI Clubs host Lagan HOR (x2) / Lagan Scullers HOR / Erne HOR / Bann HOR / QUB HOR / Erne Fours HOR / Belfast Sprint Regatta and Portadown Regatta.
- GGGR – Branch members were pleased to hear the GGGR programme is to be funded via SNI and a full time staff member was employed from September 2024 – see separate report regarding this programme.
- 2024 Championships – QUBBC M2X and M4X / Enniskillen RBC MJ4+ and WJ 8 and WJ4-

4. Finances

- Branch accounts - The Treasurer provided monthly updates.
- Grants - Any known information regarding external grants was circulated to all Branch Reps throughout the year.
- Craigavon Lakes equipment – agreed to itemise and value all equipment and sell off.
- Mary Peters Trust – In October 2024 Fergus Bryce received £2000 under the Make it Happen Award Scheme.

5. International Representation

- 2024 World Cup 1 - Philip Doyle (Portora BC) M2X / Nathan Timoney (QUBBC) M2- / Ross Corrigan (Portora BC) M2- / Konan Pazzia (QUBBC) M1X
- 2024 World Cup 2 - Ross Corrigan (Portora BC) M2-
- 2024 World Cup 3 - Philip Doyle (Belfast BC) M2X / Konan Pazzia (QUBBC) M1X
- 2024 Home International – Molly Ann Flynn (MCBBC) Jun W Sweep Team / Rohan Nolan (QUBBC) M Sweep Team / Harry McCartney (MCBBC) Jun M Sculling Team
- 2024 Coupe de la Jeunesse – Sophia Young (MCBBC) Jun W 4X
- 2024 Olympic Games – Philip Doyle (RI – Belfast BC) M2X Bronze Medal / Ross Corrigan (RI – Portora BC) M2- / Nathan Timoney (RI- Enniskillen RBC) M2- Rebecca Shorten (GB – ex MCBBC) W4- Silver Medal and Hannah Scott (GB – Ex Bann RC) W4X Gold Medal
- 2024 U23 World Championships – Fergus Bryce (QUBBC) Men Sculling Team / Ciaran Purdy (QUBBC) LM2X

Looking Forward 2025

- Coach Education – Encourage new and existing coaches to engage with RI coach Education programme to improve the quality of coaching in our Clubs.
- Events – To support and develop Events in NI.
- Umpires – To address the urgent need for new umpires in NI
- Governance – to continue working to develop agreement with RI
- Safeguarding – ensure RINI Clubs are compliant with statutory and RI requirements
- RINI Clubs – encourage all affiliated NI Clubs to be involved with the Branch activities and discussions. Promote retention and recruitment of active club members and volunteers.

Conclusion/Closing Statement

Thanks to all the Club representatives who attended and contributed to the Branch meetings. The Branch functions well when there is sharing of ideas and information – along with issues which may affect rowing in a particular area. Your support is valuable to other Clubs and to RI in general.

Brenda Ewing
(Acting Chair)



Leinster Branch Report

Chair: Leo Gibson

Committee members: Louise Watson, Dermot Keogh, Noreen Maguire, Mary Moore, Brendan O'Dea, Eimear Muldoon, Jane Prendergast, Eoin McGrath, Dervla O'Brien, Cait Ryan, Isabel Doyle, Mary Coughlan, Marie Moran, Hannah Devitt.

Introduction/Mission

The mission statement for the Leinster Branch is to:

- Assist existing Clubs.
- Co-ordinate co-operation between Clubs.
- Bring Provincial issues to the attention of the provincial Director.
- Develop new river clubs and integrate Coastal Clubs into the Branch.

Key achievements/activities for 2024

- Continuation of the re-establishment of the Branch structure.
- Completion and submission of an ecological survey of bird life on Blessington Lake for inclusion in a Bord Pleanála court hearing.
- Provision of subsidies for coaching course applicants.
- Development of a vision for the Branch.
- Monitoring of progress in respect of the development of the lower Liffey Island.
- Monitoring of progress in respect of the repair of the Liffey weir.

Looking forward 2025/26

- Plan for the development of the new shared Blessington boathouse including detailed presentations to Leinster Clubs about the boathouse and related issues.
- Assist existing Clubs and Co-ordinate co-operation between Clubs.
- Bring Provincial issues to the attention of the Provincial Director.
- Commence the process of developing new river clubs and integration of Coastal Clubs into the Branch.
- Monitoring of progress in respect of the development of the lower Liffey Island.
- Monitoring of progress in respect of the repair of the Liffey weir.
- Evaluate the Terms of Reference for RI Branches.

Commercial Report

Purpose

Rowing Ireland's commercial strategy aims to drive sustainable private-sector investment through strategic partnerships, sponsorships, and activations. This work complements Sport Ireland funding and supports the growth of the rowing across participation and high-performance levels by increasing brand visibility, aligning with shared values, and reinforcing its place in Irish sporting excellence.

2024 Summary & Highlights

In 2024, Rowing Ireland experienced strong commercial momentum, both in terms of revenue and sponsor engagement. This year focused on deepening existing partnerships, creating new commercial opportunities, and preparing for a post-Olympic landscape.

In 2024, the commercial function focused on four key areas:

- Revenue Growth – surpassing our cash sponsorship target for the year.
- Sponsor Retention & Activation – building value for long-term partners.
- New Opportunities – identifying commercial prospects in content, merchandise, and corporate experiences.
- Brand Visibility – leveraging national and international events to increase exposure for our partners and the sport.

Notable Sponsorship Developments:

- Renewals: Successful renewals with Kinetica Sport, Powerhouse, MG Motor Ireland, Rowfit, Swift Racing, Coillte, WHOOP, Avison Young, Total Cleaning Supplies, Cork International Hotel
- New Partners: Egis,

Activation Highlights:

- Live streaming of the 1k Classic and Irish Rowing Championships with sponsor branding and commentary mentions.
- Increased sponsor visibility across digital, social media, and at Domestic and International events.
- Ongoing discussions with partners around Olympic year celebrations and activations post-Paris 2024.
- A Corporate Team Building Programme was launched at the National Rowing Centre, providing companies with a unique blend of on-water rowing and off-water engagement, while also serving as a valuable platform for sponsorship prospecting.

- Sponsorship products featured in the Rowing Ireland Awards Night goody bags, offering partners a direct engagement opportunity with attendees.

2025 – Looking Ahead

- TG4 partnership bringing Irish Rowing Championships to new audiences.
- Corporate Team Building Campaign.
- Networking Lunch at the Irish Rowing Championships focused on engagement with key stakeholders and partners.
- Delivering on all sponsorship commitments and ensuring partners receive strong value and a positive experience through well-executed activations.
- Collaborating with partners to secure new commercial sponsorships for the upcoming Olympic cycle – LA2028
- Introduce a tiered sponsorship model for more structured partner benefits.
- Following the completion of the Transform for Sporting Organisations programme with Sport Ireland, we are exploring the use of CRM and analytics tools to enhance reporting, engagement tracking, and sponsor relationship management.
- Challenges & Learnings - focus on refining internal processes, enhancing cross-department coordination, and improving sponsorship delivery. Feedback from sponsors and stakeholders will guide our ongoing efforts to strengthen engagement and maximise impact.

We would like to thank our sponsors for their continued support and to all who contributed to our growing commercial success in 2024. We would like extend our appreciation to our High Performance athletes, whose professionalism and engagement are key to delivering impactful sponsorship activations.



President's Report



Jane Williams
President

Being the newly elected President of Rowing Ireland (September 29th last), I am very lucky to be presenting this report on an unprecedented successful year for Rowing Ireland in competition. I invited my predecessor, Neville Maxwell, to collaborate with me on this report, as he was in the role for 9 months of the last year.

'2024 has been a remarkable year for Rowing Ireland, marked by significant achievements and milestones across various levels of competition. This year saw a record number of rowers of all ages competing at our club regattas, showcasing the growing interest and enthusiasm for rowing in Ireland. The success of our national championships for coastal, beach sprint and flatwater rowing was a testament to the dedication and hard work of our athletes and coaches. High levels of participation and outstanding performances were evident throughout the year, reflecting on the strength and depth of talent within our rowing community.'

Our international teams also excelled, achieving more success at the Junior and U23 World Championships. These accomplishments, layered year after year, set new benchmarks for future competitions and highlighted the potential of our young athletes on the global stage. The pinnacle of our achievements came at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, where Rowing Ireland experienced its most successful Olympics in history. Our athletes' dedication and hard work culminated in an unprecedented number of medals, and ranking finishes. These accomplishments reflect the dedication and hard work of our athletes, coaches, clubs and families. Seeing Irish athletes standing on the podium not once, but twice, in Paris filled everyone with pride and joy, capturing the heart of not just the rowing community, but of the whole nation and possibly beyond. A moment I personally will never forget.'

The challenge now, for Rowing Ireland, is to build for the next period, not just High Performance towards the LA Olympic Games in 2028, but also to support the continued development of our member clubs, our infrastructure and our systems. The significance of rowing, on the health of people who row throughout their lives,

has been demonstrated in research. The growth of women's rowing has opened the sport even more towards the female half of the population.

The inclusion of coastal rowing, in the form of Beach Sprints, in the LA games widens the concept and appeal of rowing in Ireland. Indoor rowing is a weather immune sport. Rowing now appeals to people of all ages as recreational and competitive sport for a lifetime. We now have a Masters competition category for 90+ years of age!

The current success and attraction of rowing is due to the efforts and commitment of clubs and families, coaches, athlete support staff, volunteers and the staff of Rowing Ireland, supported by funding from Sport Ireland and our sponsors and brought to world screens by our outstanding athletes, in their impressive and authentic fashion.

Jane Williams

President September 2024 to date

Neville Maxwell

President 2022-2024

2024 Financial Statements

 [Irish Amateur Rowing Union CLG 31 12 2024 - Fully Signed for AGM..pdf](#)

