

# people sport

## Swimming

### Coman's girls excel

It was more than their luminous yellow gear that stood Coman's top trio of Sarah Kelly, Romy Madden and Clare Geoghegan out from the large attendance at the four-day National Long Course Championships held last weekend at the National Aquatic Centre, Dublin.

They were well able to mix it up in a field bolstered by the inclusion of 52 of the top American junior swimmers from 14-18 yrs, and a large group of top performers from the UK, Slovenia and Ireland. The USA squad were selected from their National SC Championships held in March in Orlando, Florida.

The biggest attraction was, arguably, World Short Course Championship silver medallist and European Short Course record holder for 400m Individual Medley Hannah Miley from Garioch Swimming Club in Scotland. Co-incidentally, Hannah has relatives in Co Roscommon, and was delighted to meet and greet our talented threesome at the gala, and proved to be a real star in and out of the water.

Day One began with Sarah and Clare in action in the 200m freestyle. Sarah swam a personal best of 2:17.10 to finish a very creditable 36th out of a field of 109. Clare was a little below par in this event, 2:24.68 enough for 74th place. Things improved for Clare in her second event, the 200m butterfly, where she qualified for the 'B' final and finished in 14th place overall and 8th best of the Irish swimmers in 2:37.48. Sarah, however, fared even better, the incredible 12-year-old smashing her own Connacht Senior and Junior Record in winning the 'B' final in 2:29.10 to finish 11th overall and 5th best Irish performer. Sarah made Thursday a day to remember for her when she swam her way to another qualifying time for the British Age Groups Championships in the gruelling 1500m freestyle. 18:52.36 was her time, which earned her 9th place overall, an amazing fourth of the Irish.

Day two saw Romy Madden arrive on the scene with a long course personal best of 1:04.99 in the 100m freestyle to finish 42nd of the Irish and 63rd overall out of 125 starters. Clare was close behind in 71st (50th Irish) with 1:05.82, whilst Sarah posted 1:06.23 for 78th (57th Irish). Romy's second event of the day was 50m butterfly, where a disappointing 34:23 saw her finish in 36th place. Both Romy and Sarah took part in the 800m Freestyle, with Romy finishing 21st in a very respectable 10:12.89 to ensure she can swim this event again later in the summer at the Youth/Senior Championships. Distance specialist Sarah swam in the fastest heat and finished 9th in a Long Course personal best of 9:52.43.

Sarah also swam 400m IM on Friday and qualified for another 'B' final, where she was 10th of the Irish and 16th overall in another long course personal best of 5:34.93. Not surprisingly, guest swimmer and IM specialist Hannah Miley won this event.

Day three dawned on Saturday with 400m Freestyle for all three girls. Sarah Kelly made a third 'B' final with a heat time of 4:47.39, and she was 18th overall in another Long course personal best of 4:45.95. Romy Madden took four seconds off her previous long course best to finish 43rd out of 80 in 4:56.19 in her only race of the day, while Clare Geoghegan was 66th in 5:04.50, outside her personal best on this occasion. Clare and Sarah were also involved in the 100m butterfly. Clare was 39th in 1:12.47, while Sarah swam 1:10.19 to 32nd place.

The girls had a magnificent time at this event, the fun and camaraderie adding to the experience of swimming with and meeting some of the world's finest emerging and established talent. In fact, the 'Neon' colours of Coman's will fly in the USA as Romy and Clare exchanged jackets with two of their American counterparts, and Sarah has a little piece of Miley memorabilia to take home from another marvellous weekend for Coman's Swimming Club's top performers. Not many young athletes in this country get an opportunity to mix it with top internationals in their sport, and the girls will remember this weekend for many years to come.



Castlereah Community School are destined for Limerick this weekend for the All-Ireland second year 'A' boys basketball playoffs. Eighteen of the top teams in the country will play off for the All Ireland title in University of Limerick on Saturday and Sunday the 8th and 9th May. Castlereah have been in tremendous form this year, defeating Oranmore twice and running last year's all Ireland champions St. Joseph's, Galway to nine points. They have been drawn against St. Brendan's, Killarney in the first game and St. Aquinas, Belfast in their second game.

## Golf

### Castlereah Golf Club

The following are the results of the Four Club Alliance Stableford Competition: 1st Peter Hester 44 pts; 2nd Gary Finn 43 pts; 3rd Paul Glynn 42 pts; Ladies Section: 1st Patricia Callaghan 37 pts; 2nd Nuala Frain 34 pts; 3rd Ogie Moran 33 pts.

### Roscommon Golf Club

Men's Competition Results: Friday April 30th: Winner: John Fitzmaurice 43 pts 2<sup>nd</sup> Ollie Hannon 40 pts; Gross Mario Costello 34 pts. Sunday 2nd May, kindly sponsored by AIB. Winner: Robert Hill 41 pts; 2<sup>nd</sup> Tom Greally Jnr 40 pts; Gross Mario Costello 35 pts; 3<sup>rd</sup> Anthony Duignan 39 pts. Ladies competition results Tuesday 27th April, kindly sponsored by NBCRI. Winner Angela Hewitt 42 pts; 2<sup>nd</sup> Paula Keane 40 pts; Gross Mary Seymour 34 pts; 3<sup>rd</sup> June Halliday 40 pts; Junior Winner Blaitthin O'Brien 47 pts. Friday 30th April: Winner Yvonne Waldron 39 pts. Sunday 2nd May, kindly sponsored by AIB. Winner: Kate Walshe 40 pts; 2<sup>nd</sup> Anne Quirke 40 pts; Gross Paula Quinn 27 pts; 3<sup>rd</sup> Claire Keane 35 pts. Junior Winner Chloe Burke 44 pts.

## Handball

### AGM at Mount Talbot Handball Club

The New Handball Club at Mount Talbot held its first AGM recently. All issues in relation to progression of the club were discussed. It was unanimously agreed that the initial season had been a great success on and off the court.

Development of facilities was discussed and a development plan created with initial works to commence immediately. Election of officers included adding to the committee to spread the workload associated with an expanding club. It was decided to call on our resident Picassos in the local national school to assist in designing the club's official crest. It's anticipated the winning entry will incorporate elements

Results of the Mary Fitzgibbon Trophy for Connacht Girls played in Roscommon on Saturday 24th April: 1st: Blaitthin O'Brien and April Timothy; 2nd: Roisin Timothy and Laura Neilan. These girls qualify to play in the All Ireland Finals in July. On June 5th and 6th the club is holding a golf classic to raise funds for course development. Teams of four, any combination. Entry fee €200 to cover green fees and meal.

The Club now has on board the PGA professionals from Athlone Golf Academy as teaching professionals at Roscommon Golf Club. They have started a junior academy where junior golfers can have regular structured coaching to encourage and develop their golf skills. Also they have coaching classes for beginners/improvers for both ladies and gents, these have both proved very popular and will be running throughout the summer months at the club, so should you wish to take part in these contact the club for further information

Roscommon GCs first Inter Club outing will be held against Ballinasloe on Monday 10th May in the Jimmy Bruen Shield. The team selected is as follows: Home Charlie Farrell and Liam Casey; Dan O'Brien and Lorcan Dowd; Brendan Penney and Frank Ferguson. Away: Eddie Mi-

ley and Roger Hynes; Brian Daly and Peter Geraghty. All support welcome on the evening. The Inter Club Season will be in full flow shortly with trials being held for the various teams so keep an eye in the Clubhouse for more information.

The Fred Daly team (U18) recently put up a gallant performance against Belmullet GC (three home and four Away) but were unlucky to be beaten overall, wishing them luck in the Plate Match on 16th May against Castledargan or Ballyhaunis.

The Fred Daly Panel is Cathal Gunn, David Hill, Alan Hill, Ethan O'Connell, Ross Murphy Sweeney, Niall Donnellan, Mark Kearney, Robbie Fallon. Beginners and 18+ Club will commence on Monday 24th May, keep an eye for notices in the Clubhouse for more details. Group and individual lessons now available on practice ground, contact Shane at (086) 1006804.

President's Prize continues with all second round matches to be completed by Thursday 6th May. Liam Casey is leading the Golfer of the Year - a new format being used this year with points being awarded for the top eight nett finishers in each Sunday competition (excluding Open competitions) with points also awarded



Pictured at the new Mount Talbot handball club.

synonymous with the local area and the club colours of

green and black.

The club is eagerly an-

tipicating Lá na gClub this Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> of May. A fami-

ly fun day is planned which will include an introduction to the game for beginners, various novelty games and culminating with a number of exhibition games with proceedings commencing at 2 pm.

All are welcome. So for anyone interested in playing handball and joining the new club, you can contact Liam or J.P. on (087) 7687785 or (086) 3339444 or better still why not join us this Sunday from 2pm.

So, whether you have played handball before or never played the game now is the time to get involved in a new club and play a truly great game.

Hope to see you Sunday!