

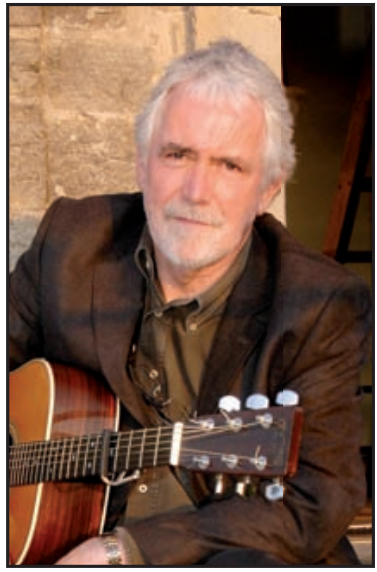
Jigs and Reels on Saturday night

The waiting is finally over for the dancers of Roscommon Celebrity Jigs and Reels, 2010. Following months of rehearsals, they and their partners will get the chance to showcase their talents at this year's event, which takes place this Saturday, May 22nd in Kilbride Community Centre at 9.30 pm.

This year's show, with a specific Eurovision theme, will involve a spectacular, choreographed combination of disciplines in dance, film, music and song.

A host of local and national talent will be present with Eurovision stars Charlie McGettigan and Donna McCaul both performing and judging at the event. The evening will be co-hosted by RTE Showhouse star, Neville Knott and Roscommon's very own Rose of Tralee candidate, sportswoman and journalist, Roisín Ní Dhoncha.

A specially commissioned film will be shown on the night followed by an 'Ice' cool performance is currently creating quite a buzz. "For those who may have been out and about around Roscommon and Fourmilehouse over the weekend, they may have witnessed two tall blonde-haired characters be-



Charlie McGettigan and Donna McCaul both performing and judging at the event.



ing followed by very busy film crew, 'under pressure' trying to keep up to them," added cameraman and technical director for the night, Alan Moran.

Creative Director for the evening,

Colette Glynn said, "The dancers have all been very brave, nothing has fazed them. The standard has been amazing and their talents have allowed them to develop spectacular dance routines



RTE Showhouse star, and Boyle native, Neville Knott will host the event.

which I'm sure everyone will love on the night."

This year's event is in aid of the RosFM Disability and Training fund, which will assist in the provision of

new training facilities and programmes for people with disabilities.

RosFM Chairperson, Bernie Kearney, was fulsome in his praise for the dancers and their partners. "All the dancers have put in an extraordinary amount of time. They have given up many nights to put on a great show and support an important local service for people with disabilities. He added, "Fundraising is an important source of revenue for this project and people from all over have been very generous with sponsorship and donations, given the tough times that are in it."

Each of the dancers will also be performing to potentially benefit a nominated charity of their choice. All the candidates have generously agreed to donate the winning prize of €1,000, whoever should emerge as Roscommon Celebrity Jigs and Reels winner for 2010.

Tickets for the event can still be purchased at the Jigs and Reels ticket shop at the top of Castle Street, opening hours from 10 am to 6 pm. Tickets can also be purchased through RosFM by calling (087) 790 8904. For further information of Saturday night's event, stay tuned to 94.6, RosFM.

This week we complete our mini-profile of contestants in Celebrity Jigs & Reels....

PADRAIG WALSH

Why did you agree to take part in Celebrity Jigs & Reels? Matt Rogers asked me! The fact that money would be raised for charity was an influence. My charity is the Irish Stroke Foundation.

Are you an experienced dancer? How do you laugh on paper?! That's a no!

Who is your dance idol? Sure I suppose it would have to be the main man himself, Michael Flatley.

How are you finding the rehearsals? Good craic! I'm picking up a few tips along the way.

Who is your dance partner and how would you describe her dancing skills? A young girl from Knockcroghery, Patricia Mulligan, she's very good!

Can you win? I think it's going to come down to Joan O'Shea or Regina Kelly. As for my chances, I'm a slim each-way bet – and that's slim!



JOAN O'SHEA

Why did you agree to take part in Celebrity Jigs & Reels? Because it's for charity. I'm fund-raising for the Brothers of Charity and because of the great services they provide.

Are you an experienced dancer? No... but I have a sporting background so I suppose I have a certain amount of co-ordination!

Who is your dance idol? Kevin Glynn – he's superb.

How are you finding the rehearsals? Good, enjoyable and a real learning experience. Good craic!

Who is your dance partner and how would you describe her dancing skills? Louise Keane...she's a superb dancer, very graceful, a very good mentor.

Can you win? I suppose we can all win it in that we all have a chance. If I don't, my tips are Regina Kelly or Annette McGeeney.



SELINA RAMOS

Why did you agree to take part in Celebrity Jigs & Reels? I work as a volunteer in RosFM and Matt asked me one day if I could dance. I didn't answer directly. I went to see what it was all about and then I agreed to take part. I am raising money for the Diabetes Federation of Ireland.

Are you an experienced dancer? Certainly not an experienced Irish dancer...I did some Brazilian dancing about 25 years ago.

Who is your dance idol? The late, great Michael Jackson.

How are you finding the rehearsals? Enjoyable... difficult... but I feel I am improving.

Who is your dance partner and how would you describe his dancing skills? Christopher Hurley. He's very good... he flies on the floor.

Can you win? I don't think so! If I don't win I think Padraig Walsh will win it. The choreography for his performance is brilliant. He is my tip.



VINCENT COLLINS

Why did you agree to take part in Celebrity Jigs & Reels? I'm raising funds for Breast Cancer research and delighted to be involved.

Are you an experienced dancer? No...very limited experience!

Who is your dance idol? Eamonn Gleeson.

How are you finding the rehearsals? Good craic, going really well, if only we could have more time to rehearse!

Who is your dance partner and how would you describe their dancing skills? I have two mentors, Maria and Catherine Quigley, brilliant dancers. I feel myself improving all the time!

Can you win? Hopefully I can win but if not I think P. Walsh is the big threat. He's a potential winner, even bearing in mind the yellow card which he and I got from Collette (Glynn)!



IVAN CONNAUGHTON

Why did you agree to take part in Celebrity Jigs & Reels? I got a call from John Crean of RosFM. I'm collecting for the Cuisle Centre in Donamon.

Are you an experienced dancer? Absolutely not. Well, I did a bit of Irish dancing as a young lad, when I was about seven, and actually I do have a bronze medal to show for it.

Who is your dance idol? Kevn Glynn Junior. He's brilliant.

How are you finding the rehearsals? Going well. We're all progressing well. I've noticed the competition has really stepped up since last week.

Who is your dance partner and how would you describe her dancing skills? Megan Healy...she's brilliant, she has won more medals than I've eaten hot dinners.

Can you win? I'll give it a good lash. If it's not me then watch out for Joan O'Shea, she's going very well in training.



LAURA HANLON

Why did you agree to take part in Celebrity Jigs & Reels? It's for a good cause, which is why I got involved. I'm fund-raising for the Brothers of Charity.

Are you an experienced dancer? Absolutely not.

Who is your dance idol? It has to be Derek from Crystal Swing.

How are you finding the rehearsals? Great...really enjoyable... the only part I'll miss!

Who is your dance partner and how would you describe their dancing skills? Jacinta Reilly and Megan Healy... I'm really impressed by their ability... maybe they'll take the spotlight off me!

Can you win? I'd like to think I can but if not my tip would be Ivan Connaughton, for his outfit alone (oh and also for his dancing).

