

## Contributions & Achievements

### Early pioneers of water skiing in Ireland:

[Hector Newenham](#), [David Nations](#), Oliver Coffey, Fred Waterstone, Desmond West, Claud Carr, [Henry Murdoch](#), Joe Acton, Richard Bewley, Roger Bewley, [Tony McCleery](#), [Deirdre Frawley](#), Ian Johnston, Brendan O’Flynn, Brendan O’Connor, Pat Grubb, Ronnie Kavanagh, Gene Kavanagh, Harold Johnson, [Roger Johnson](#), [David Johnson](#), [Margaret McDonnell](#), Noel Treacy, John Poynton, Noel Dagg, [Alan Dagg](#), Raymond Heavey, [Brenda Anderson](#), [Alan Murray](#), Brian Cullen, [Cecil Prentice](#), [Noel Hogg](#), Norman Linter, [John Glover](#), Stuart Boles, Ken McCormac, [John McDowell](#), Terry Hill, [Brian Johnston](#), [Geoff Shanks](#), [Irvine McKay](#), [Barry STJ Galvin \(Snr\)](#), [Sean Kennedy](#)

### NOTEABLE PEOPLE WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED

#### ADMINISTRATORS/JUDGES

Hector Newenham (Killaloe WSC)






The man credited with bringing water skiing to Ireland. Hector’s father, Edward Newenham owned the Lakeside hotel, Killaloe and Hector saw the potential of offering water skiing on the stretch of River Shannon, close to the hotel. In 1956 Hector invited [David Nations](#) (BWSF) to Killaloe to help promote water skiing, particularly in Killaloe and in Ireland in general. The hotel started offering the new and exciting activity, ‘water skiing’; ski lessons were 5 shillings (0.30 euro). Hector and David were instrumental in setting up the Irish Water Ski Association in 1958. Hector was the first Secretary of the Irish Water Ski Association and was later appointed President of the IWSA. To help promote water skiing, Hector, along with David Nations and Desmond West from Dublin, organised a water skiing display on the River Liffey, Dublin on 21<sup>st</sup> October 1958.

Harold Johnson (Balscadden & Golden Falls)

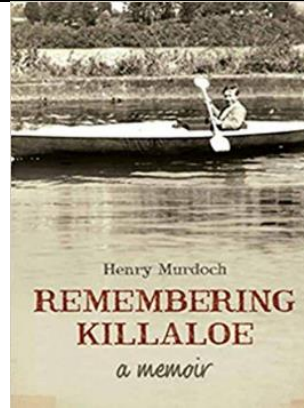


On a camping trip to France in 1957 Harold saw waterskiing on Lake Annecy and all the family had a go and loved it. On return to Ireland he bought a boat and they skied through the winter in Balscadden Bay, Dunlaoighre Harbour and Sandycove. For more sheltered water and to try and establish a slalom course they skied in Broadmeadows, an Estuary near Malahide. The ESB granted a 1<sup>st</sup> licence to Harold to waterski on Golden Falls reservoir in the Wicklow hills. The licence was for a 6 weeks

	<p>trial period. When the annual license was allowed, Harold provided the ski boat for the club. Father of Roger and David.</p>
<p>Claud Carr (Balscadden)</p>  <p><i>Celebrating his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday</i></p>	<p>Claud was proprietor of the Cliff House Hotel in Howth. He began skiing in Balscadden Bay in August 1958. Claud deserves huge credit for facilitating the early development of skiing and the establishment of Balscadden WSC and as a consequence when a number of members sought out an inland site Golden Falls WSC was established.</p>
<p>David Nations (BWSF)</p> 	<p>David, from London, had the distinction of being the sole British skier at the first World Championships in 1949. He gradually changed his attention to training, organisation and judging water ski competitions.</p> <p>David was invited by <a href="#">Hector Newenham</a> in 1956 to help promote water skiing at Killaloe and was instrumental in coaching skiers, instructing drivers and training instructors. David along with Hector established the Irish Water Ski Association in September 1958, which was admitted to the World Water ski Union in Geneva, December 1958. David returned many times to judge and hold coaching seminars.</p>
<p>Henry Murdoch (Balscadden &amp; Killaloe WSCs)</p> 	<p>IWSA Technical Officer and committee member. Skied and coached in the early days at Killaloe. In 1965 was the first from Ireland to become a 1<sup>st</sup> class judge and homologator. Henry's first international appointment was on the judging panel for the Northern European Championships in Amsterdam, 1966. He was appointed as Chief Judge for the Northern European Championships, Ruislip, England 1970 and travelled all over Europe to meetings and competitions.</p> <p>In the 60s Henry developed and introduced a grading system for skiers. The basic Grade (7) required the skier to swim 50 yards (46 metres); put on 2 skis unassisted in deep water; swim 5 yards (4.6 metres) wearing skis; carry out a deep water start; start unassisted from the dock on two skis; carry out a series of crossings of each wake; in the centre of the wake lift each ski alternatively for three seconds; return to the jetty and make a controlled and safe landing. The other grades involved more demanding standards including one-ski routines, ever increasing boat speeds, minimum jump distances and trick scores. The grading system was a good measurement of a skier's ability and an incentive for skiers to improve and aspire to the highest grade possible.</p>



Henry slaloming with a double handle



In his book 'Remembering Killaloe', Henry dedicates a full chapter to water skiing. It is an invaluable historic record of the early days of water skiing in Ireland and of some of those involved.

Leslie Thorne

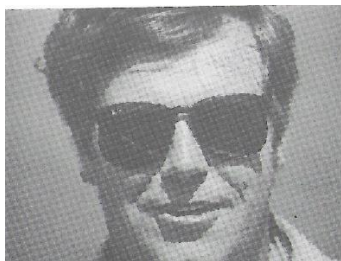
Leslie attended the National Championships and the Open Championships every year at Killaloe. He was renowned for his wonderfully entertaining and informative commentaries on the PA system. He was especially invaluable when the crowds of spectators hadn't really a clue as to what was happening! He was a great personality and had wonderful waxed whiskers, which stood out several inches on each side.

Noel Dagg (Glenbrook & Golden Falls WSC)



Extremely involved with Glenbrook WSC and later with Golden Falls. Was the PR person for the IWSA, writing regular reports for the Irish Times and provided public address commentary at many competitions. Father of Alan Dagg, multiple Irish Champion.

Barry St J Galvin (Glenbrook WSC & Cork Powerboat & WSC)



Committee member and competitor for Glenbrook WSC and Cork PB & WSC. International ski boat driver who drove at many competitions. Instrumental in setting up a ski club in Cork. President of the IWSF 2000 & 2001. Father of [Barry C Galvin](#) multiple Irish Champion.



Barry at Killaloe with Eimar Frawley, Barry's future wife.

Cecil Prentice (Golden Falls WSC)



*Cecil Prentice, President of the IWSA, in the 1960s*



Long serving IWSA Chairman/President 60s & 70s. Driving force of water skiing in Ireland. Travelled all over Europe to meetings and competitions. Cecil would urge all to get up and attend the early morning Sunday service on a competition weekend at Killaloe, as specially held for skiers. Famed for his demonstrations of water skiing on a bicycle! He attached a ski to the front and back wheels of his bike.



Chris Owen (Killaloe and Golden Falls WSCs)



IWSA committee member and elected IWSF President in 1984 & 1999. Started off skiing at Killaloe. Moved into judging and qualified as a National judge in 1973. Was the IWSF technical officer for many years. In 1984 Chris was instrumental in bringing the annual Group 2 conference to Dublin. Qualified as an International judge and calculator. Officiated at World championships in Colombia and Italy and at Disabled Worlds in Australia, Florida, and England, as well as officiating at many European tournaments and disabled Championships. Judged and calculated for many years at Irish competitions. Set out judging standards and guidelines and examined and qualified National judges. Chris' dad was the Dean of St. Flannan's cathedral Killaloe and arranged a special early service for skiers on the Sunday morning of a ski competition at Killaloe. It was popular with the skiers.

Geoff Shanks (Meteor WSC)



Chairman of the NI Waterski Association 1979 & 80. Geoff, along with [Kenny Scott](#), guided the NIWSA into the Irish Waterski Federation. Elected as President of the IWSF 1985. Chairman and a long time secretary of Meteor WSC. For many years Geoff wrote under the pseudonym of 'Red Hand', an informative and entertaining article about the NI Regional Group for the popular 'Water Skier' magazine. Geoff competed as a 3-event skier (slalom, tricks & jump) for many years and later veered into administration and judging. He qualified as a National judge in 1975 and an International



judge in 1981. A proficient bare foot skier, he competed in a number of barefoot competitions. In 1973 he was accredited as the 50<sup>th</sup> person in Ireland & UK to qualify for the '1-minute barefoot badge' [skiing on bare feet for 1 minute]. Continued to judge and be involved in skiing right through to the mid 1990s.

Sean Kennedy (Cork PB & WSC)



Founding member of Glenbrook WSC and driving force behind the Cork PB & WSC based at Farran Wood. A committed and influential Chairman of the IWSA. His family were all good skiers with Ronan his son a very strong competitive skier who attained a high standard.

Brian Johnston (Meteor WSC)



In 1959 it was all a bit trial and error. Brian along with [John Glover](#) found out the hard way that trying to do a beach start by standing in the water with skis firmly planted in the sand was a non-starter! Eventually ski pioneer Terry Hill appeared and showed them the correct method.

Chairman of the NIWSA 1984. Long-time treasurer of Meteor. Competed in many competitions over the years. Brian has always had a 'hands on approach' and able to put his hands to anything. Brian was the driving force in building Meteor's clubhouse and ski jumps.

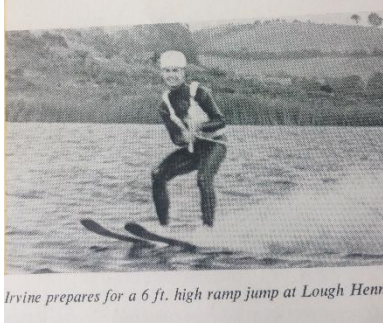
In the early 60s when water skis were rare, he was not to be deterred and is famed for making his own wooden slalom and trick skis, even using an inner car tyre tube as a back binding! The up dated versions still get an annual outing.



Irvine McKay (Meteor WSC)



Member of the Meteor WSC and a driving force for water skiing in N I. A member of the NI ski team which competed in the 1967 North European Ski Championships in Finland. Instrumental in bringing NI ski clubs together to form the NIRG. The 1<sup>st</sup> Chairman of the NI Regional Group, 1972-75. Qualified as a ski coach and was appointed as the Regional coach for N Ireland. Irvine ran many coaching courses in many venues in N I, raising skiing standards and encouraging clubs



Irvine prepares for a 6 ft. high ramp jump at Lough Henn

to join the NIRG. Worked closely with [David Nations](#) (BWSF) and arranged for David and another top skier/coach, Paul Seaton to come to NI and run coaching courses for skiers. Was the NI rep on the BWSF committee 1965-68. Irvine's major contribution and commitment to the sport of skiing was recognised in 1976 when he was awarded Honorary Life membership of the BWSF and was only the 9<sup>th</sup> person, since the formation of the BWSF, to have received such a prestigious honour.

Kenny Scott (Omagh WSC)



Chairman of the NI Waterski Association 1976-78 and a driving force in water skiing. Kenny, along with [Geoff Shanks](#), guided the NIWSA into the Irish Waterski Federation. Elected as 1<sup>st</sup> President of the IWSF 1981-83. Instrumental in setting up a ski club at Lough Muck, Omagh and then transferring it to the Duke of Abercorn's Estate, Baronscourt, Newmills. Judge, homologator, boat driver, competition organiser and competitive skier. Captained the Irish ski team at the World Championships, Thorpe, England 1981. Staged a number of international ski tournaments at Baronscourt and an International barefoot competition in 1978. As a result of his involvement in water skiing, Kenny was appointed to the board of the NI Sports Council.

George Crisp (Meteor WSC)



IWSF National judge and judged at many competitions during the 70s and early 80s. Captain of the Irish team at the 1975 World Championships, Thorpe, England. George was awarded life membership of Meteor Waterski Club for his commitment and dedication to the club and to the sport. Father of [Richard Crisp](#), Irish Champion.

John Gordon (Omagh WSC)



Member of Baronscourt WSC, Chairman of the NI Waterski Association 1981 – 83 and Secretary of the IWSF. Qualified as a National judge in 1976 and later as an International judge. An officially appointed homologator who undertook the unglamorous and generally unrecognised job of measuring slalom courses and jumps prior to competition, so as to ensure they were up to a set standard. John homologated and Judged many competitions. Father of [Robin Gordon](#), Irish Champion.

**Stuart England (Meteor WSC)**

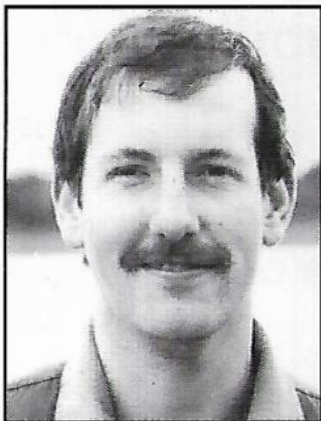


IWSF committee member and IWSF President 1996, 97 & 98. 1<sup>st</sup> competition 1970 at Meteor. IWSF ski boat driving tutor and coach. Initiated and developed a driving and coaching syllabus. National judge and qualified as an International judge 1994. In 1996 to complement the already established grading system, he developed an IWSF grading scheme for young children with 3 x Endeavor awards and 5 x Development awards.

A 3-event skier with jump being his strongest discipline. In 1978 also competed for Ireland at the Europa Pokal barefoot championships. In the top 100 in Ireland & UK to qualify for the '1-minute barefoot badge'. Captained N Ireland on many occasions and skied and captained Irish teams at many Celtic Challenge competitions. Was Irish team captain at the 1987 World Waterski Championships, Thorpe, England. Skied on the Irish Team at the 1996 E&A Seniors, Portugal. Has set a number of national records in various age categories. A long serving committee member of Meteor WSC holding positions of Chairman and Secretary. In 1993 along with [Richard Armstrong](#) organised a unique one-off ski jump competition on the river Lagan, in the heart of Belfast.

Researched and wrote the 'History of Water Skiing in Ireland' including compiling national records and national champions.

**Richard Armstrong  
(Lough Aghery WSC )**



Elected IWSF President 1990 & 91. Chairman of the N I Waterski Association and Chairman of Lough Aghery WSC. Competition boat driver, competitive skier and barefooter. Non-skiing captain of the Irish team 1989, Florida. Richard was a co-organiser of a unique jump competition on the river Lagan Belfast in 1993. Sadly, it was only shortly after this that Richard suddenly took ill and within days died of septicaemia. Shortly after his death a generous sum of money was donated by his wife Heather (a waterski judge). Donations were also made by the skiing fraternity and the Richard Armstrong Memorial Fund was set up. The trustees award a bursary each year to a skier/rider which helps with their training. Richard's enthusiasm was infectious and his commitment to the sport was outstanding.

Greg Roberts (North Down, Lough Aghery)



A competitive skier who moved into ski boat driving and was a constant figure at ski tournaments. He took great pride in his driving and was appointed an international driver and drove at many tournaments.

Trevor Hill (Meteor WSC)



Trevor was a driving force and passionate about water skiing. He was a prominent Meteor committee member and very influential in the NIWSA and IWSF. He was a strong and committed competitive skier and was appointed as an international boat driver. Trevor's enthusiasm spread around the whole country and after leaving Ireland to go back to England, he left a legacy of accurate slalom courses, jumps.

Lill Fitzpatrick (Carraig WSC)




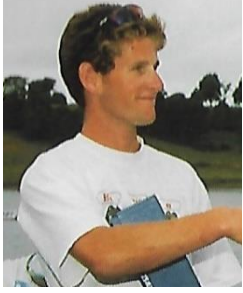



IWSA Chairperson 1987 and guided the IWSA into the IWSF. IWSF President 1988 & 1989. A founding member of Carraig ski club, Cork. Elected European President of the Disabled Waterski Council. Instrumental in promoting disabled skiing and bringing the European Disabled Waterski Championships to Ireland in 1994. Qualified as an International tournament judge and A1 disabled judge. Judged at many events including disabled competitions in Europe, Middle East and USA.




Des Burke-Kennedy (Golden Falls WSC)



IWSF/IWWF committee member and President for a record of 18 years (1986 & 1987; 1992 to 1995; 2002 to 2013). Represented the IWSF/IWWF at EA & World Congresses for 25 years. Chairman of Golden Falls WSC for 25 years and a driving force and organiser of the Paddy Jump classic held for 8 years at Golden Falls. Instrumental in attracting the world's best skiers to compete in Ireland. Brought 3 World Cup stops to Golden Falls and Enniskillen. 2002-17 IntWWF World marketing and Media chairman, founder of the IntWWF Waterski & Wakeboard World Cup and Joint organiser of 47 World Cup stops. Chairman of the IntWWF International Hall of Fame committee 2009-2020. Presenter of IntWWF Olympic Games bid to IOC Board in Lausanne in 2015. Commentator at numerous competitions, including 10x World Championships 2 x U21s & 2 x 35+ World Championships; 15 x World Cups; 3 x World University Championships; 23 x Moomba Masters Australia, 3 x Mediterranean Games and an Olympic Waterski demonstration in Serville 1998.



	<p>A national and international commentator at many skiing tournaments and provided TV and media commentary. Much of his vast personal photographic material has been published in magazines, websites, IntWWF and E&amp;A publications.</p> <p><b>Inducted in 2021 into the IntWWF Hall of Fame</b> for his commitment, dedication and advancement of waterskiing. This is the highest award our sport can bestow.</p>
<p>Donal Connolly (Golden Falls WSC)</p> 	<p>Homologator, experienced competitor and international skier who was no mean jump skier. A member of the Irish ski team for the 1997 World Championships Rionegro, Columbia. Inventor of 'SplashEye', a jump measuring system which is accepted by the International Waterski Federation and used worldwide. SplashEye is a photogrammetric based system requiring one camera and grid buoys. Member of the E C tournament council, which is the influential council responsible for decisions and operation control of all E C tournaments.</p>
<p>John Prunty (IASC)</p> 	<p>Elected IWWF President 2014. Owner and founder of the Irish Aqua Sports Centre (IASC), Summerhill, Co Meath, an excavated purpose man made ski site with excellent facilities and clubhouse. Father of international ski champion <a href="#">Eamonn Prunty</a>.</p>
<p>Andy McQuiggan (Lower Bann WSC)</p> 	<p>President IWWF 2015 &amp; 2016. Successfully bid at the EA congress to host for the first time in Ireland the European Wakeboard Boat Championships in Coleraine, where he was one of the main organisers. Arranged with the Irish Dept of Transport to get the Federation accredited to issue the International Certificate of Competence for boat drivers. A qualified EA wakeboard boat driver. IrWWF Ski boat driving tutor and coach as recognised by Sport Ireland. Competed in barefoot waterski competitions in Ireland and UK and twice won the Irish Barefoot National overall Championships.</p>
<p>Paul Carroll (Muckno WS&amp;WC)</p> 	<p>IrWWF President 2017 to 2021. Committee member and driving force for Muckno WS&amp;WC. Wakeboard boat and cable wakeboard judge and calculator. Father of Nicole Carroll, wakeboard champion. In 2022 Paul was appointed a director of the IrWWF, shortly afterwards he was co-opted to fill the role of the IrWWF President. Re-elected as 2023 President, resigned April 2023.</p>
<p>Linda Johnston</p>	<p>2013 to 2019 - Secretary of IrishWWF 2013 to 2017 - Secretary of E&amp;A Wakeboard Boat Council</p>

	<p>2014 E&amp;A Wakeboard Boat Championships, Portugal - Chief Calculator</p> <p>2015 E&amp;A Wakeboard Boat Championships, Netherlands - Asst Calculator; Wakeboard World Championships, Mexico - Chief Calculator</p> <p>2015 to present E&amp;A representative to World Wakeboard Council</p> <p>2016 E&amp;A Wakeboard Boat Champ's, Coleraine - Asst Calculator</p> <p>2017 E&amp;A Wakeboard Boat Champ's, Latvia - Chief Calculator</p> <p>2018 E&amp;A Wakeboard Boat Champ's, Italy - Chief Judge</p> <p>2018 to present - President EC Wakeboard Boat Council</p> <p>2019 E&amp;A Wakeboard Boat Champ's, Kiev - Chief Calculator</p> <p>2019 Wakeboard World Champ's, Abu Dhabi - Asst Calculator</p> <p>2019 Secretary of World Wakeboard Council</p> <p>2019 to present - member of IWWF Safe Sport Committee</p> <p>Mother of Paul Johnston, boat and cable wakeboard champion.</p>
<p>Cornelia Krausz -Cork PB &amp; WSC</p> 	<p>Elected IrWWF President 2022 (March -June)</p>
<p>Simon Durham-Golden Falls WSC</p> 	<p>IrWWF Ski Officer co-opted as IrWWF President (April) 2023</p>

SKIERS/RIDERS	OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS
<p>David Johnson (Balscadden &amp; Golden Falls WSCs)</p>	<p>David was the first Men's Irish National Waterski overall Champion in 1959, as held on the River Shannon at Killaloe with skiers from 4 clubs; Killaloe, Balscadden, Sandy Cove and East Coast. David was the National overall champion again on another 3 occasions 1962, 1963 &amp; 1965. He was on the Irish</p>



team which competed at the Cold Water Countries Championships in 1963 at Lockearnhead, Scotland, the European & African Championships, Rome in 1964 and at the Northern European Championships, Amsterdam 1964. David was instrumental in the formation of Golden Falls WSC.



*Brothers - David & Roger Johnson skier*

David is holding the overall national Champion Cup – the “John Player Trophy”. Roger is holding the “Bradshaw” cup for best U18 and the “Maurer Trophy” for figures/tricks.

Roger Johnson (Balscadden, Golden Falls & Fiddown WSCs)



Roger was the first National figures Champion, 1959 and best U18 skier. David Nations offered him a job at Ruislip, England as boat driver and to be coached during the Summer of 1960. He went and although he did not see DN much he did learn a huge amount from Lance Callingham and Jeanette Stuart-Wood, the 2 English champions of the day, who were both members of Ruislip. He recalls driving for Norman Wisdom, famous actor/comedian, for a film, where Lance acted as a “stand-in” for certain tricky bits of skiing. How it turned out is hard to know, because Norman Wisdom was quite a small man and Lance a very large, strong chap!

Roger was Men’s Irish National Waterski overall Champion twice, 1960 & 1961. Roger was a member of the first Irish team to compete in the Cold Water Challenge Trophy or Northern European Championships in Amsterdam in 1962 where he came a creditable 15<sup>th</sup> out of 30 in men’s figures (tricks). In 1964 he took part in the N. Europeans in Amsterdam and also in the 1964 Europeans in Rome on lake at Castlegandolfo, the Pope’s Summer residence.

Roger recalls: My abiding memory is that my wife Joan and I MISSED a private audience with the Pope for all the water skiers, at which the Pope joked about “his boss” Jesus being the 1<sup>st</sup> to “walk” on water!

Roger and his brother David had skied mainly on the sea but after a while wanted to find a more sheltered site for skiing. They skied a lot in Broadmeadows, an estuary near Malahide with a railway embankment enclosing the water. Later a



suitable site was identified in the Wicklow Hills. Roger and John Kelly wrote to ESB requesting use of the Golden Falls reservoir. They received a positive response, and a licence for a trial period of 6 weeks.

As well as being a talented skier Roger also did lots of judging and technical stuff. Perhaps it was as a Physics/Maths student, but he got involved in improving the floating jump measuring method by using trigonometry. He made large protractors with sighting arms which were erected, 2 to a table, one above the other, on the shoreline. The readings taken of the plume from the “splash” made by the landing jumper were then plotted on a master board and a jump distance worked out.

Margaret McDonnell (Killaloe)

One of the first competitive lady skiers. The first Ladies’ Irish National Waterski Champion, 1959. The competition was held on the River Shannon at Killaloe with skiers from 4 clubs represented, Killaloe, Balscadden, Sandy Cove and East Coast. Margaret took the Ladies’ Overall title again in 1960.

John Kelly (Golden Falls WSC)



IWSA committee member. In 1962 John along with Roger Johnson wrote to the ESB requesting permission for the IWSA to use the Golden Falls reservoir.

A founder member of Golden Falls WSC, committee member and competitive skier.

Captained the first Irish team to compete at the Cold Water Countries Challenge Trophy and Northern European Championships, held on the Bosbaan, a rowing lake outside Amsterdam.

Tony McCleery (Meteor WSC)



In 1963 Tony held the titles of both North European Jump Champion and Ulster Jump Champion. Later in the same year he also took the title of British Jump Champion, jumping 109ft, beating the reigning jump champion David Nicholls by 4 inches. At the Irish Open, Killaloe 1963, he put on a barefoot waterski demonstration which was one of the first and possibly the first barefooting by a skier from Ireland.

Christine Fusco (Meteor WSC)

Christine was one of the earliest female skiers. An avid competition skier who attained a good standard in slalom and jump and excelled in trick skiing. Was a member of the first Irish team to compete in the Cold Water Challenge Trophy or Northern European Championships in Amsterdam in 1962 where she came 4<sup>th</sup> in slalom and a creditable 6<sup>th</sup> out of 10 in the ladies’ overall. In 1962 at the Irish open Championships at Killaloe, the 16 year old won the ladies’ tricks, 2<sup>nd</sup> in slalom, jump and overall. Christine was the 1963 Irish National Overall Ladies’ Champion.



John Glover (Meteor WSC)



Instrumental in the formation of Meteor WSC. Member of the successful Ulster team which won an international competition held at Meteor over Easter weekend 1963. A press report of the competition reads - 'John's trick run culminated in a swan with a 180 degree turn over the wake on one ski, it was the best ever seen at Lough Henney and he took first place with 1044 points.' In 1964 on July 12<sup>th</sup> John went to the British National Waterski Championships and took 1<sup>st</sup> in tricks – 840 pts, 1<sup>st</sup> in jump - 64ft and 1<sup>st</sup> overall with 2531.2 pts. John was the first NI rep on the BWSF committee.

Deirdre Frawley (Killaloe WSC)



A very regular skier at Killaloe along with her sisters [Brenda](#) and Emer. In 1963 Deirdre held all Ladies' National titles; slalom, tricks and jump. She excelled in jumping and was a multiple National Ladies' Overall Champion. When Killaloe ski club moved to O'Brien's Bridge, Deirdre and her husband Michael McGlynn were instrumental in organising many memorable competitions. Her sons, Andrew and Angus were both very talented competitive skiers.

Noel Hogg (Meteor WSC)



Noel Hogg a founder member of Meteor WSC. Noel, an excellent trick skier, doing 1 ski tricks which at that stage were very uncommon. Was a member of the first Irish team to compete in the Cold Water Challenge Trophy or Northern European Championships in Amsterdam in 1962 where he came a creditable 10<sup>th</sup> out of 30 in men's figures (tricks). Was selected to represent Ireland at the European & African Championships in Rome, 1964 and at the Northern European Championships, Amsterdam 1964. Noel and [John McDowell](#) (Meteor) built a kite together in his garage. It was towed behind the boat at several "ski shows". John recalls: 'Although it had a good release mechanism, we were lucky to escape without serious injury as it fluttered like a leaf in a gale when towed behind the boat!' During the 1950' & 60's, kite-skiing was under the jurisdiction of the World Water Ski Union.



L-R: [Tony McCleery](#), [John McDowell](#) & Noel Hogg preparing to kite ski.

John McDowell (Meteor WSC)



Started skiing 1958 in Ballyhalbert Bay, Co Down behind a Perkins 35hp outboard. Went to the Manor House Hotel, Killadeas, Co Fermanagh to take part in a weekend offer of motor boating and skiing. On hearing that waterskiing was happening off Islandmagee, he went to investigate. There he met John Craig, [Noel Hogg](#), Stuart Boles and Joe Taggart and from that point he was smitten. No wet suits of course! There were no ski suits, only diving suits. Wet suits still had no reinforcing inner fabric lining and were prone to ripping, no good if 3 or 4 people had to share the one suit in an afternoon! While skiing close to the Ballylumford Power Station they discovered a patch of warm water coming from the station's heat exchanger – bliss! John joined Meteor WSC and shortly was invited to spend a few days training with [David Nations](#) at Ruislip WSC, West London. In 1962 he skied on the Amsterdam Bosbann in the 'Cold Water Challenge' and again in 1964 when it was renamed the 'North European Championships'. Local success followed back in Ireland and in 1963 while working in South Africa he won its National Slalom Championship. The medal he received was similar to an Olympic medal with the 5 rings, it was at a time when all South African athletes were barred from the Olympics due to apartheid. John, like other Meteor skiers was not eligible to ski for Ireland as Meteor was affiliated to the BWSF, so to overcome this Meteor formed a parallel club, Century WSC which affiliated to the IWSA. John represented the northern clubs on the IAWSA and held the post of secretary of the Meteor/Century WSC.

Brenda Anderson (Sligo WSC)

Brenda was an avid competition skier and one of the early female skiers to attain a good standard. A good trick skier, setting Irish records and was the Ladies' National Overall Champion a number of times. In 1970 she was the first winner of the Cosgrove trophy, a trophy awarded for the highest accumulated points from the Irish Open, Irish



Nationals and the 4 x Provincial Championships. The competition was open to male and female, seniors and juniors.

Alan Murray (Sligo WSC)

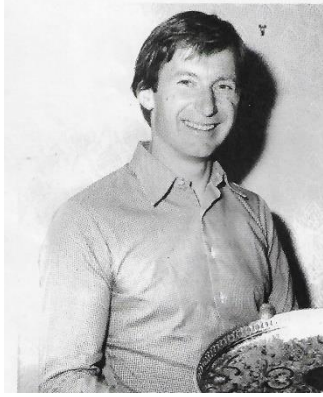


Started skiing 1960. 3<sup>rd</sup> overall at the 1964 Northern European Championships, Amsterdam. 3<sup>rd</sup> place in 1965 at the European Jumping Championships, Trier, West Germany, 2<sup>nd</sup> in 1966 and 3<sup>rd</sup> in 1967, Amsterdam. Irish National Overall Champion 1966, 1967 & 1968. Past multiple Irish National record holder in Slalom, tricks & jump. Represented Ireland on many occasions. One of the first barefoot skiers in Ireland. Alan made his own skis and is seen in the photo on a homemade trick ski.

Alan Dagg (Glenbrook WSC & Golden Falls WSC)



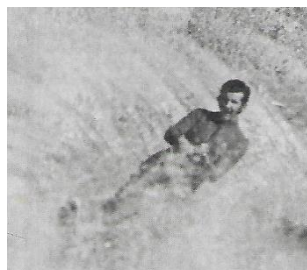
Started skiing 1961. Irish Junior champion 1964 – slalom, tricks, jump and overall. Irish team member in 1965 at European Championships, Germany. 8 x Irish National overall Championships, 4 x Irish Open Overall Championships. Irish record holder in slalom, tricks & jump. Irish team captain for 8 years. Selected in 1972 by the WWSF to compete in a water skiing Olympic trial, Munich, he was only 1 of 14 skiers selected worldwide to participate. Numerous European Championships representing Ireland in Germany, Belgium, Holland, Spain and UK. Competed in 4 x World Waterski Championships (tournament) representing Ireland in Spain '71, London '75 and Canada '79. IWSA committee member



1967 – 1982. President of IWSA 1979 – 81. Alan was a driving force for the set-up of the Irish Federation and was instrumental in guiding the IWSA into the IWSF. Alan was honoured in 1974 by being included in the Guinness International Sport Roll of Honour for the sport of water skiing.

Since emigrating to Perth, Australia in 1982 Alan has continued to compete and has been involved with the administration, holding many offices. He has taken local and national titles on numerous occasions and in a number of senior age categories. WA champion many times, State record holder 4 x times. Australian National age division Champion 15 times. In 2014 he skied for the Australian team at 35+ Worlds, Florida and made the finals in slalom, tricks and jump, finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> overall to win bronze medal. He has set many records, Australia & New Zealand (IWSF Group 3) 65+ record holder in slalom, jump and overall. Australian 70+ slalom (2@12m!) and overall record holder. A Western Australia Sportsman of the Year nomination 1988 and inducted into the Western Australian Water Skiing Hall of Fame in 2015.

Jimmy Leyden (Killaloe WSC)

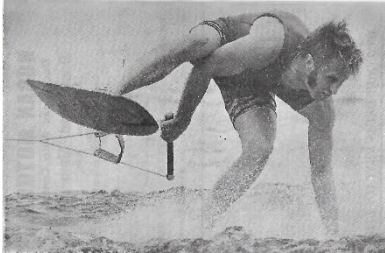


An early skier of considerable ability. Famously, when all other wet suits were plain black rubber, he had a red wetsuit. He rarely travelled to competitions beyond the Limerick area. Jimmy was a driving force in the Killaloe club and when due to Hire Cruise boats Killaloe was no longer an option for skiing, he moved the club to O'Brien's Bridge.

Richard Crisp (Sligo WSC & Golden Falls WSC)

Richard learnt to ski at Killaloe in 1960. His big break came while on holiday in Sligo when he linked up with [Alan Murray](#) who was the North European Champion and the Murray family who were the driving force at the Sligo WSC. Alan showed Richard that there was more to skiing than just slaloming and taught him to jump and trick. As a reward for having a go at jump and tricks Alan made him a pair of wooden trick skis and a slalom ski. Later Richard joined Golden Falls WSC and went on to be one of the top skiers in Ireland and to ski for Ireland. Golden Falls was one of the dominant clubs in Ireland and held several competitions,





these included International events, to which teams from Scotland, Wales and England were invited, but no return invitations to Internationals ever came. The solution - Richard together with [Alan Dagg](#) joined Charlie McCooke, Newferry WSC and entered the 1972 British Inter Club Championships, which were held in Scotland that year. [Cecil Prentice](#) was the team Manager. Well they proved a point and they won! Richard was on the Irish team for the World Waterski Championships (tournament) representing Ireland in Spain in 1971 and London in 1975.

Richard joined the Geelong WSC, Victoria, Australia in 1973 and has continued to ski at a high level, representing Australia on several occasions. He is also a judge, coach, treasurer, team manager, selector, committee person, media, statistician, tournament organiser, calculator and scorer. Wow! The ski genes have passed on - Richard's son Patrick skied on the Australian ski team at the 2021 World Championships.

'The trick skis in the photo are wooden ones that I made from marine ply. I steamed them to soften the glue to let them be bent in a press. The bend usually came out after being left in the sunshine too long!'

Roger Bewley (Golden Falls WSC)



Started skiing 1965. There is a big Bewley family connection with skiing.

David, Roger and Ruth Johnsons' mother was Doris Bewley.

John and Kathleen Poyntons' mother was Sylvia Bewley.

Richard Bewley was the son of Alfred Bewley.

Roger Bewley was the son of Joe Bewley.

(Doris, Sylvia, Alfred and Joe were all brothers and sisters.)

Katie/Kathleen Poynton then married Anthony Warnock, the National tournament boat driver.

Roger along with Alan Dagg worked as ski instructors and boat drivers (the first) at Golden Falls WSC. Member of a 4-man Republic of Ireland team which competed against 4 skiers from Wales and 4 from Northern Ireland at Golden Falls WSC in Aug 1970. Involved in the development of the GFWSC over many years.

Jackie Crawford (North down WSC & Meteor WSC)



Started skiing at Ballywalter, Sandycove 1964. A member of North Down WSC and was a proficient and competitive tournament skier. Jackie moved into barefoot skiing and in 1974 made his international debut at Banolas, Spain. Jackie had not actually been over a barefoot jump before but decided to 'give it a go'! Not only was he successful in landing a jump, but he jumped the 2<sup>nd</sup> longest distance in the competition of 13.5mtrs and with a clean landing (feet-to-feet) he was given bonus points and awarded 1<sup>st</sup> place. This was the first of a many outstanding international bare foot achievements. 1975, took a Bronze in the European Barefoot Championships. 1976 Jackie won the jump at Palzenn, Amsterdam and in the Netherlands again won the jump with a 3<sup>rd</sup> in tricks and 2<sup>nd</sup> in slalom, giving him 2<sup>nd</sup> overall. In the 1976 Europeans he was 2<sup>nd</sup> in starts, 4<sup>th</sup> in wake slalom, 5<sup>th</sup> in tricks, 4<sup>th</sup> in jump and 3<sup>rd</sup> overall. In the 1977 International in Amsterdam was 3<sup>rd</sup> tricks, 2<sup>nd</sup> jump and 3<sup>rd</sup> overall. In the 1<sup>st</sup> Barefoot World Championships, 1978 in Canberra, Australia Jackie was placed 8<sup>th</sup> in jump. In 1979 Jackie went to America on a training trip and with a jump of 47ft, beat the then American record! The 1979 barefoot European Championships were held in Thorpe, England and Jackie took 2<sup>nd</sup> in jump. At the European Pokal in Bergan, Holland he was 2<sup>nd</sup> starts, 4<sup>th</sup> wake slalom, 3<sup>rd</sup> tricks, 1<sup>st</sup> jump and 2<sup>nd</sup> overall. Jackie also competed in the 1980 barefoot worlds in San Francisco, US and Mexico in 1982. Holder of the Mastercraft boat franchise and has provided many boat for many competitions over many years. Jackie recalls one particular trip when in the late evening after the first day's competition he looked out over the lake and noticed a number of sparkling lights – Crocodile eyes!!




Billy Hamilton (Newferry WSC)



Member of North Down WSC and later associated with Newferry WSC, the 2 major sites for barefooting in N Ireland. Considered the 'Father of Barefoot Skiing' and a driving force for barefooting. He coached and developed anyone interested in barefoot skiing. The first from Ireland, to ski 1 minute on bare feet and to get a '1-minute badge'. Was registered as the 23<sup>rd</sup> person in the UK to ski a minute. Billy (Willie) formed the NI Barefoot Club in 1975 and was instrumental in promoting, coaching and expanding the sport of barefoot skiing in Ireland.

Joe Crawford (Carrybridge Aqua Club)

Joe was into long distance skiing on Lough Erne. In 1971 he was the first to ski from Carrybridge to Enniskillen then to Belleck with a non-stop turnaround, returning to Carrybridge and continuing to Belturbet and back to Carrybridge. It took 4hrs 51mins. In 1972 he completed a skiing marathon. It was a 10-mile circuit taking in Carrybridge, Bellisle and Knock Island. With the

	<p>help of 3 boat drivers, Joe completed 20 circuits = 200 miles in approx. 8hrs. This was claimed as an Irish long-distance record and as far as is known, it still is. Both events raised a large amount of money for the Ulster Cancer Foundation. Joe chronicled water skiing activities in a meticulously detailed booklet 'A short history of water skiing in Co. Fermanagh 1956 - 1977'.</p>
<p>Robin Gordon (Omagh WSC)</p> 	<p>A multiple Irish Overall Champion in the 70s and early 80s. Set a number of Irish slalom records with a record of 1-13@58 in 1981 which stood for 8 years. Set an Irish trick record in 1980 with 3180pts which stood for 7 years. Competed at World Championships at Milan 1977, Toronto 1979 and London 1981, best result in a World Championships was 26<sup>th</sup> in slalom. A certified WWSF competition boat driver in 1982 and drove several major waterski events. Robin moved to Columbus, Ohio, USA in 1988 and along with former Omagh WSC member, David Maguire who had also moved to Columbus, bought a ski boat and continued to ski.</p>
<p>Malachy Devlin (Newferry WSC)</p> 	<p>Prominent member of Newferry WSC and a specialist in barefooting. Mal was successful in many competitions achieving a 5<sup>th</sup> place in barefoot jump in the World Championships in Holland 1981. Competed in the Barefoot World's in Mexico in 1982. Emigrated to Brisbane, Australia and was selected and skied on the Queensland State Barefoot team. Having returned to N Ireland, Mal is back barefoot skiing with his Newferry club mates.</p>
<p>Charlie Dundee (Newferry WSC)</p> 	<p>In the days before YouTube videos, it was a case of trying to work things out by trial and error, such as what boat speed to do a tumble turn, how to barefoot deep backwards start, etc. After hard work, hard falls and much termination, Charlie became a very skilled, proficient, and competitive barefoot skier. He has been a stalwart of the barefooting scene at Newferry WSC, constantly pushing standards up and encouraging others to give it a go. Looking for a new challenge he has also mastered surfboard foiling and AirChair hydro foiling.</p>
<p>Barry C Galvin (Cork Powerboat &amp; WSC)</p>	<p>Started skiing at the age of 4 and first represented Ireland at the age of 12 at the European Juniors and Dauphins in 1981. Represented Ireland at 7 x World Waterski Championships; 1985 France, 1987 England, 1989 USA, 1991 Austria, 1993 Singapore, 1995 France and 2005 in Tianjin, China. In 2016 was awarded bronze medal in the World +45 Championships in Sesena, Madrid. Has held all Irish Dauphin (U16) slalom, trick and jump records, all Irish Junior (U18) slalom, trick and jump records and all Irish Open Men's slalom, trick and jump records. Set an Irish jump record of 52.3m (173ft) in Golden Falls in 1988. Remarkably 19 years later in 2007 he was still pushing</p>



as hard as ever and at McCormicks, Florida jumped a distance of 53.2m.

Irish National Men's Overall Champion on 28 occasions, 1987 to 2011 inclusive and 2013 to 2015. The longest consecutive overall championship holder in Ireland. It is likely that no other person in the world of water skiing has achieved this and possibly in sport in general. It deserves to be in the Guinness book of records, but for authenticity purposes all judging records need to be presented and unfortunately these are no longer available.

Barry has also competed in wakeboard boat competitions and was the 1st National Open Wakeboard Champion in 1996 taking the title again in 97, 98, 2000 & 01. Competed in the World Wakeboard Championships at La Grande Motte, Montpellier, in France in 2000.

He has worked at a number of ski schools in England, Spain, USA and Australia. Has been on the IWSF / IWWF committees and held a number of posts. Is a coach, driver, competition organiser, motivator and a major driving force in Irish water skiing. Operates his own waterski and wakeboard school.

Carl Cautley (Golden Falls WSC)



Joined Golden Falls WSC in 1975, long serving committee member and has held the positions of treasurer and Club Captain. Instrumental in bringing World number 1 tournament waterski coach, Ray Stokes to Ireland over a 20 year period.

Represented Ireland at 4 x World championships, Thorpe, England 1981, (reserve) Thorpe, England 1987, West Palm Beach, Florida 1989 & Rougebrunne, France 1995. Won 7 x Open National titles, broke the Irish Jump record in 1982 and in 1986 was the Irish overall Champion. Competed at European Senior Championships 1998, 4<sup>th</sup> Overall and again in 2000 where he was 3<sup>rd</sup> in jump.

Devised the National governing body strategic plan for Irish Water skiing in 2002, which was adopted by Sport Ireland and the IWSF was granted funds for the first time in 10 years.

Chairman of the IWSF ROI from 2000 to 2015 and has been an IWSF/IWWF committee member and an IrWWF treasurer.

Robin Skelton (Stillwaters WSC)



Started skiing with Dublin Balscadden in 1968 and later competed for Golden Falls then Stillwaters. Excavated and developed his own 3 event site at Stillwaters, Naas. Robin has set numerous Irish records over many years and has represented Ireland 26 times in World, European and Celtic Challenge competitions. Has captained the national team on many occasions. In 1982 was Irish men's overall champion and since 1986 has been overall champion in all +35 age categories. Won the prestigious Paul Seaton Jump Classic in 2001. World Bronze jump medal, 2003 Balakova, Russia and again in 2004, Moissac, France. European Silver jump medal, 2004, Moissac, France and European Bronze Overall medal, 2004, Moissac, France. In all has in the region of 50 caps and has also won a few wakeboard titles. Always committed and exciting to watch, particularly when jumping.

Cormac Fitzpatrick (Meteor WSC)



Long serving committee member of Meteor WSC and the first Secretary of the IWSF. An experienced 3-event skier who competed for many years and represented Ireland at many competitions, including World and European championships. Irish Overall Champion in 1985. In 1985 Cormac broke the Irish men's jump record and then again in 1986.

Chris McBrinn (Meteor WSC)



Started skiing at 14 behind his father's small cabin cruiser (Dorsit with a 35HP Chrysler outboard) on Lough Erne, Castle Archdale. Joined Meteor in 1980 and attended a number of training courses at Meteor and also at Thorpe, England where it was normal to have six ski sessions a day. Competed throughout Ireland from 1981 to early 2000s. Skied in a number of Celtic Challenges, several European Championships and three World Championships (Gothenburg Sweden 83, Toulouse, France 85 and West Palm Beach, Florida 89) and reserve on the Worlds team at Thorpe Park 1987. Irish Overall Champion in 1983 and 1984. In 1985 was the first in Ireland to jump over 40 meters off a 5ft 6" ramp (40.5mts at Lough Aghery). Broke the Irish jump record again in 1987.

In 1983 Chris had a unique (and dangerous) experience in Dubai when he and some other skiers were asked to be part in a night display. They had backpacks strapped to them with

	<p>a protective metal plate and fireworks! As they skied along, they were to set the fireworks off. (Night skiing, a heavy metal weight on your back, fireworks -explosives- fired off from your back --- H&amp;S!! -- <i>Don't try this at home!!</i>)</p>
<p>Donal McGuiggan (Muckno WSC)</p> 	<p>Donal was chairman of Muckno WSC a regular at ski competitions and represented Ireland many times in Men's and Senior age categories.</p> <p>Was a driving force in the hosting and organisation of the 1992 European Cup which attracted the best skiers in Europe to Lough Muckno Leisure Park, Castleblaney, Co Monaghan.</p>
<p>Janet Gray (Meteor WSC)</p>  	<p>3-event visually impaired (V1) category water skier who started skiing at Meteor in 1996. At EAME Championships in Denmark 1997 and Jordon 1998, achieved silver in slalom and bronze in tricks. In 1997 took bronze in slalom at World's in Florida. In 1999 at the World's Janet set world records in audio slalom and wake slalom, taking Gold in each, a world record in tricks (prelims) and silver in tricks and jump and awarded Gold overall. At the World disabled champs in Australia in 2001 Janet took Gold in audio slalom, tricks and jump with a world record of 12.2m in jump and Overall Gold. In 2002 Janet set 2 world records of 12.9m and 13.2m in Jump. Took Overall Gold at the 2003 World's in Florida with Golds in slalom, tricks and jump and world records in tricks with 660pts and jump of 14m. In 2004 she had a serious accident when she collided with the jump while training in Florida. It would be 3 years before she competed again. After under-going many surgeries Janet was determined to get back to skiing and in 2007 went to the World's in Australia where she took Gold in slalom, tricks, jump and overall. Repeating this at the 2008 Europeans in Italy. Due to additional surgeries and further injuries it was not until 2012 before Janet was back competing and at the British National's she took Gold in all 3 disciplines and Overall Gold with 3.5 buoys at 11m and 810pts (British records).</p> <p>Janet was awarded an MBE in 2002, a Doctorate from Queen's University Belfast in 2007 and the Freedom of the City of Lisburn 2009, all for services to sport.</p>
<p>Geoff Clarke (Golden Falls WSC)</p>	<p>Following many years successfully competing as a 3-event skier, Geoff started concentrating on jump and became a specialist in this discipline. Represented Ireland 11 times in EAME Senior Championships, winning medals at all of them. In his 1<sup>st</sup> International competition, the Senior 1 division in 1996, Barcelona, he took Silver, the first senior skier from Ireland to get a medal. In Lisbon, Portugal 2005 he took Gold in Senior 2 jump. In Lacanau, France in 2011 he took Gold in Senior 3 jump and at the end of the season was the number 1 ranked Senior 3 jump skier in the world. In all he won 2</p>



Pic after jumping 43.3 m for a new Irish Senior 3 record.

Golds, 4 Silvers and 5 Bronze at EAME Senior Championships and was the 1<sup>st</sup> Senior 3 EAME skier to jump over 40mtrs. Geoff competed in the Paul Seaton Classic in 2003 and jumped 47.2mtrs, a Senior 2 Irish record. He has broken the jump record 14 times, the last being in Senior 3 with a distance of 43.3mtrs in 2012 at Hazlewood's, England.

Rodney Watson (Killyleagh, Quoile, Lough Aghery & Meteor WSCs)



Started skiing in the sea at Killyleagh where he and others built a ski jump in his parents' back garden. Went to a Novice competition at Meteor in the 80s and got bitten by the ski bug! He successfully competed in slalom, tricks and jump but later concentrated on slalom only. A many times Irish slalom champion and record holder who has represented Ireland at World Championships Italy 1999, China 2005 and Austria 2007 and at numerous European Championships. One memorable occasion was at the Worlds in Austria when he was to be first off the dock at 6.35am! and recalls having to wait, with rope and handle in hand, along with the driver and officials for the sun to come up. He set a score of 3@11m@58k which put him in top position for 3 days and it was only when the Pros' skied that he was knocked down the leader board. He holds the Irish 'Native' (set in Ireland) men's slalom record of [3@11.25](#) 18m set in 2006 at Golden Falls. Rodney has always been precise and consistent in his skiing and continues to set slalom records. He holds National Senior 35+ and 45+ slalom records. In 2022 at the Irish Nationals, he set a score for 55+ slalom of 1@55 11.25m and pushed it further in 2023 at Wake N Ski with 2@55 11.25.

Jonathan Crawford (North Down WSC, Meteor WSC, Cable & Wake)

Under the guidance of his father Jackie, an International barefoot skier, Jonathan was probably the youngest in Ireland and one of the youngest in the world ever to waterski unaided on a rope and on skis. He was only 1 year 8 months old!! Jonny is an experienced all-round skier, tournament, boat wakeboarder, cable wakeboarder and bare foot skier who has competed at a high level at many competitions. He has represented Ireland at European boat wakeboard Championships and had many successes. Jonathan and his



wife Samantha set up and ran N I's first 2-point cable system at the famous Belfast Harbour, Titanic Dock, the very spot where in 1911 RMS Titanic was launched.

Jody Waterworth (Lough Aghery)



A very skilled and competitive slalom and jump skier. Boat driver and coach at Peterson's Waterski School, USA in 1999. Was on the Irish team for the Celtic challenge 2000, 2001, 2004, 2005 and skiing team captain in 2008, 2009 and 2010. Represented Ireland at the World Championships in 2003 Orlando, Florida (slalom) and in 2005 Tianjin, China (slalom & jump). Skied as a wild card entry at the Waterski World Cup, Enniskillen 2007 (jump). Represented Ireland at the Stokes jump Pro-Am in 2008,2009,2010,2013 and 2015. Best scores – slalom 2½@12m58kph; 6@12m@55kph; jump 49.8mtrs.

Eileen Galvin (Cork PB & WSC)



Secretary of the IWSF for many years. Ladies' Wakeboard (boat) Champion 2000 & 2001. Competed in the World Wakeboard Championships at Montpellier, in France in 2000. Holds the Ladies Senior 1 trick record of 1140, set in 2009. Has been 2<sup>nd</sup> in the National slalom and tricks on numerous occasions. In 2020 was appointed as Women in Sport Officer for Waterskiing & Wakeboarding in Ireland and has been instrumental in many imaginative initiatives encouraging women and girls to try and participate in our sport.

Dianne Kirby (Meteor WSC)



Experienced 3-event skier who previously skied in England and was on the British ski team. Since moving to N. Ireland in 1999 Dianne has represented Ireland at many competitions, including World and European championships. A multiple Irish Ladies' National Champion and record holder. A multiple European Champion at various age groups. Set a European Senior 3 Ladies' jump record of 23.8mtrs in Segrate, Italy 2010 which she held for 9 years. After a hip replacement in 2018 she was determined to make the 2019 European +65 in Greece. Undeterred by her hip she was 1<sup>st</sup> in ladies' tricks, 1<sup>st</sup> in jump and took the ladies' 65+ overall title. With no E&A 35+ Championships in 2020, due to Covid restrictions, Dianne defended her 65+ jump and overall title in Italy in 2021. In competition with all sports in the Borough, Dianne was declared 'August 2019 Sports Personality winner' by Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council. Dianne retains her +65 age overall at the 2022 E&A in Greece. At the 2022 World Senior Championships in France Dianne took 1<sup>st</sup> place in jump and was 3<sup>rd</sup> in tricks. In 2003, 1<sup>st</sup> in jump and awarded overall.



Jake Bridges (Golden Falls WSC)



Living close to Golden Falls and with dad Harry Bridges a committed skier, Jake was destined to be a skier. Jake started competing at the age of 12 and in Prague in 2005 at the U14 Europeans he achieved 5<sup>th</sup> place with a jump of 31.8m, which was a new U14 Irish record and is still the current record. With good coaching by Ray Stokes, Jake's skiing was getting better and at a tournament at Golden Falls he set a new U17 Irish slalom record of 6@12m, which still stands. In 2007, his last year in the U17s, he was 2<sup>nd</sup> in jump at, Roquebrune, France, jumping 46.3m and giving him 5<sup>th</sup> overall and setting a new U17 Irish record. This also placed him 5<sup>th</sup> in Europe in the U17 jump rankings.

The family upped sticks and moved to Spain, a positive move with better weather and a ski club near the house. In his first year in U21s he jumped 52.5m, a new Irish record. In the Europeans, after a big crash in practice he jumped 56m giving him 5<sup>th</sup> place. Within days at Hazlewoods, England he had another big crash which unfortunately put him out of skiing for 1½ years and it was 3 years before he got back to the same level, but back he came. In 2012 he jumped 59m and broke the Irish slalom record with 4@11/58, which is still the U21 Irish record. In 2013, now skiing in Open Men's he jumped **62.6m** at the Ray Stokes Jump competition, Hazlewoods and at the end of the year was ranked 12<sup>th</sup> in Europe in Open men's jump. In 2014 he set a new Irish slalom record of **2@10.75/58**. Jake got a scholarship to ski for the University of Louisiana, Monroe, with famous skiing alumni - Freddy Kreuger, Ryan Dodds and more. For 4 years he had considerable success on the college ski scene, the only difference being that the boat speed for jump goes down to 51k and the ramp to 5ft, still he managed to jump 53.6m.

Eamonn Prunty (I A S C) & (Wake N Ski)



A 3-event skier, competing in the seated men's category MP3 (reclassified as MP5 in 2015). Started skiing in 1993 at Carrig, Cork and entered his 1<sup>st</sup> competition in 1994. Has gone on to win- 6 x EAME trick Gold medals, 2 x EAME Overall titles, 2 x World trick Gold medals, 3 x World Overall titles and set a world tricks record.

#### EAME Championships

1994 Cork (Ire) 3<sup>rd</sup> tricks; 1997 Denmark 3<sup>rd</sup> tricks; 1998 Jordon 1<sup>st</sup> tricks; 2002 Belgium 1<sup>st</sup> tricks, 3<sup>rd</sup> jump, 3<sup>rd</sup> Overall; 2006 Heron Lake (UK) 3<sup>rd</sup> jump & Overall - and 1<sup>st</sup> tricks with a new WORLD RECORD of 1190 points. 2008 Italy 2<sup>nd</sup> jump and 1<sup>st</sup> Overall; 2010 Italy 3<sup>rd</sup> slalom, 3<sup>rd</sup> tricks, 2<sup>nd</sup> Overall; 2012 France 1<sup>st</sup> tricks, 3<sup>rd</sup> jump 1<sup>st</sup> Overall; 2014 Italy 2<sup>nd</sup> tricks 2<sup>nd</sup> jump; 2016 Norway 1<sup>st</sup> tricks; 2018 France 1<sup>st</sup> tricks 3<sup>rd</sup> slalom.

#### World Championships

2001 Australia 2<sup>nd</sup> tricks; 2005 Belgium 1<sup>st</sup> tricks



2007 Australia 3<sup>rd</sup> tricks, 2<sup>nd</sup> jump & 1<sup>st</sup> Overall  
 2009 France 1<sup>st</sup> tricks 3<sup>rd</sup> jump 2<sup>nd</sup> Overall  
 2011 USA 3<sup>rd</sup> slalom 3<sup>rd</sup> tricks 1<sup>st</sup> Overall  
 2013 Italy 1<sup>st</sup> Overall  
 Eamonn wins seated 2022 Men's tricks at IWWF E&A Disabled Championships held in Austria and he also took 2<sup>nd</sup> place in slalom in his division.  
 In the seated men's category at the 2023 Disabled World Championships in California, USA, Eamonn was placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in slalom with [5@49/18.25](#), a new IrWWF MP5 record. Eamonn was also 3<sup>rd</sup> in tricks with 1630, on reviewing the score it was increased to 1730, a new E&A seated men's record, and IrWWF record.

Andy McDonald (Newferry WSC)

3-event barefoot skier who has competed for many years and represented Ireland at many competitions, including World and European Barefoot Championships. Irish record holder.

Ryan McDonald (Newferry WSC)



3-event barefoot skier who has represented Ireland at many competitions and has had many notable successes.  
 Multiple EAME Junior team medals in Italy & France.  
 1<sup>st</sup> jump, 2<sup>nd</sup> slalom, 3<sup>rd</sup> tricks & 2<sup>nd</sup> Overall at 2006 EAME Junior Championships, Duisburg, Germany.  
 1<sup>st</sup> Benelux Open Junior Championships, Lommel, Belgium 2006  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Men's Jump & 2<sup>nd</sup> Overall, EAME Championships, Wallsee, Austria 2009  
 1<sup>st</sup> Benelux Open Men's Championships, Maurik, Netherlands 2008 & 2010  
 Irish Men's Barefoot National Champion, Newferry 2018

Barry T Galvin (Cork PB & WSC)



Started skiing at the age of 4. Has set numerous Irish trick records; U10 – 1300pts; at the age of 11 at Lough Aghery in 2009 and in very difficult weather conditions, he set an U12 tricks record of 5250, but more amazingly it was a new Irish tricks record set by any age of skier. At the Irish Nationals, Cork in 2016 he set a new U21 record of 5330 which extended and is currently the Irish Open Men's tricks record. Barry was placed 4<sup>th</sup> at the European Tricks Championships, Ukraine in 2011. Irish National Men's Overall 2016 Champion.

Daniel Galvin (Cork PB & WSC)



Started skiing at the age of 4. A strong 3 event skier who is the current Irish National Open Men's Overall Champion and has been overall champion for 3 consecutive years; 2017, 2018 & 2019. In 2018 was 9<sup>th</sup> overall in the E&A Under21 Championships, France. Has won the Irish Slalom League; 2017, 2018 & 2019. In both 2018 & 2019 Daniel took 1<sup>st</sup> place in the U21s at McCormick's Fall Classic, USA and U21s at the Holy Cow Cup, USA. Current PBs: Slalom – 2@11m 58kph; Tricks 5210; Jump 48.8m.

Sian Hurst (Lough Erne)



Sian with Des Burke-Kennedy,  
IWWF President

Boat and cable wakeboarder and the first to gain success at an international wakeboard competition when she took Silver in the EA 2008 Junior Championships. Sian was second in Open Ladies' at the 2012 European Championships, Kiev, Ukraine. In 2013 Sian received the 'Athlete of the Year' award from the IWWF Europe and Africa. She was the first Irish athlete ever to win this award which is based on performances at major events. Sian was presented with her award in Unterageri, Switzerland where 24 countries were represented. Irish Team Rider Sian Hurst competed in the Open Ladies section and made history by performing the first ever Mobius Invert at the Europe Africa Championships where she took the Gold Medal and again at Chill & Ride. Sian was invited to take part in the World Cup, an exclusive event where only the top 10 female wakeboarders in the world are invited. Sian has also competed in cable wakeboarding and has won a number of national titles.

David Coates (Meteor, Cable & Wake, Let's Go Hydro)






Boat and cable wakeboarder who has been prominent in the Irish wakeboard scene and has had international success. 2009 was 9<sup>th</sup> in the World wakeboard championships in Korea and crowned Irish National boat champion after landing the first 'mobe 5' in an Irish contest. 9<sup>th</sup> at the world championships in Chuncheon Korea 2009. Spent four years riding with and coaching at Xtreme Gene. 2011 UK Pro tour Champion and 2<sup>nd</sup> in Spanish Nationals. 4<sup>th</sup> in the 2012 European Wakeboard boat Championships. In 2013 was invited to compete in the World Cup and achieved 13<sup>th</sup> in Perth, Australia and again in Indonesia. 11<sup>th</sup> in the World Championships in Busan, Korea. Irish National champion at the 2013 inaugural cable Nationals and again in 2015 & 2018. 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Masters' Men, European (boat) Championships 2017 Coleraine. Made the Finals of the 2019 World Wakeboard (Boat) Championships, Abu Dhabi and placed 5<sup>th</sup> in Men's 30+ and makes the final of the 2022 World Masters in Italy.

Peter 'Pete' Stewart (LowerBann)



Irish National Wakeboard Boat champion 2004 – 2010  
Took Bronze at the EA Championships.  
Masters national wakeboard champion 2011 – 2017  
2016 EA Championships, Gold in Men's Masters  
Made the Finals of the 2019 World Wakeboard (Boat) Championships, Abu Dhabi and placed 6<sup>th</sup> in Men's 30+ and makes the final of the 2022 World Masters in Italy and is placed 4<sup>th</sup>.

<p>Paul Johnston</p> 	<p>A boat wakeboarder who can skilfully transfer to cable. Has coached at Xtreme Gene, Spain. Awarded Silver at 2009 EA Junior Wakeboard Championship. Gold at 2014 Flanders Lowland Wakeboard Tour. In 2018 was 3<sup>rd</sup> in the European Pro stops in both France and Portugal. Took 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the 2019 Euro Wakeboard tour stop, Cordoba, Spain. The 2019 Open Men's winner of the first Irish National cable championships held on a full-size loop cable system. In 2019, against stiff competition, was elected by riders as the 'riders' representative' (for 2 years) on the European Council. Paul wins the 2022 Masters Gold medal at the Europe and Africa Wakeboard Boat Championships in Cologne, Germany.</p>
<p>David O'Caomh (Muckno WWC)</p>  	<p>Boat and cable wakeboarder who has been a dominant national rider and prominent on the world stage. David has been Irish National Champion multiple times and has achieved so much in the sport.</p> <p>David took part in the World Cup in 2014 and was placed 4<sup>th</sup>. This is an elite event to which only the top 20 male and top 10 female athletes from over 90 countries are invited. Notably in 2012 he was 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Junior Men Worlds (Italy) and 3<sup>rd</sup> in World Games (Columbia). In 2014 took 4<sup>th</sup> place at the Wakeboard World Cup in China. David was European Champion in 2015 (Holland), 2016 (Ireland) and 2017 (Latvia). 1<sup>st</sup> in the 2018 Euro Pro tour at stops in Portugal and the UK. 2<sup>nd</sup> European boat super final.</p> <p>He received an unprecedented prestigious honour when he was elected EA Wakeboard Boat Council Male Athlete of the Year in 2016 and then again in 2017. David has his own YouTube channel (David OC), his tutorials have greatly increased interest and involvement in wakeboarding both nationally and worldwide.</p> <p>Participated in the inaugural ANOC Beach Games, Qatar 2019. Made the Finals of the 2019 World Wakeboard (Boat) Championships, Abu Dhabi, UAE and placed 4<sup>th</sup> in Men's Open. 2019 Wakeboard Magazine readers Poll voted David the Number 1 Boat Wakeboarder.</p>
<p>Aisleen Deegan (Long Island)</p>	<p>Bronze in the girl's category at EA Wakeboard Boat Championships 2013, Poland. In 2015 Aisling took 1<sup>st</sup> place in Pro Ladies' at the Irish Lowlands Tour Stop. Irish National Wakeboard boat Ladies champion 2017 &amp; 2018</p>



Nicole Carroll (Muckno)



In 2013 competed at European Wakeboard (Boat) Championships, Poland and was placed 5<sup>th</sup> in 'Girls' category. Since then has competed at many EA and World Championships. At the 2019 World Wakeboard (Boat) Championships in Abu Dhabi, UAE, Nicole made it to the semi-finals.

Sylvia Ryan (Ballyhass)



Cable wakeboarder has dominated the ladies cable scene for many years, winning multiple Irish National Cable Wakeboard competitions.

Arthur Murphy (Meteor)



Arthur has been a competitive skier for many years and has had many successes. In 2022 at the Irish Nationals, he set a new 70+ men's slalom score of 4@52 18m