



Irish Wheelchair
Association
SPORT

Annual Report 2017



Vision

Our vision is for everyone with a physical disability to enjoy sport, physical and recreational activities on a fully inclusive basis in any environment.

Mission

To develop and promote sport, physical and recreational opportunities for people with a physical disability to reach their full potential.

Values

Fun: IWA-Sport's ethos is that having fun should be at the heart of everything we do.

Belonging: IWA-Sport is dedicated to fostering and instilling a sense of belonging and camaraderie through involvement in our programmes.

Empowerment: IWA-Sport believes that our members will be empowered to achieve greater independence, by building confidence and self determination, through involvement in our programmes.







Image courtesy of Paralympics Ireland

Welcome Address

Once again, 2017 saw our members take part in a huge range of competitions and events all over Ireland and abroad, in a multitude of sports.

Our grassroots programmes continued with Club activity and it was pleasing to see another Club established in the form of the Tipperary Warriors who will be based in Thurles. We have exciting plans to grow our club base in 2018. In many cases our clubs are thriving with activity and growing in numbers, however there are member recruitment challenges in some Clubs and we hope that these can be overcome in the coming months and years.

Our National Events Programme continued in 2017 with five Senior Wheelchair Basketball Competitions, the Irish Wheelchair Rugby League and the National Championships in Swimming and Archery.

At junior level the growth of the Wheelchair Basketball Blitz programme was thoroughly enjoyable to witness and is a testament to everything that is great about IWA-Sport. Furthermore we also expanded the Wheelchair Basketball Programme to establish a new U23 Emerging Talent Programme. This comprised of a competitive 3 team league and a high level training component and promises to build our potential for a National Team which will ultimately feed into the Senior National Programme.

Our members competed at World Championships in Para Swimming, Para Athletics and Para Powerlifting in 2017 with great distinction. Additionally our Senior Wheelchair Basketball Team picked up their first ever podium finish in the Czech Republic at European C Championships. Our Archers, Wheelchair Rugby team and Table Tennis athletes also competed at European Championships in 2017. Congratulations

to all of our members that took part in domestic or international competitions in 2017. Please refer to the specific sports reports for the detail of their performances.

2017 also saw the launch of our 20/20 Strategy. This is an important roadmap for the next three years for our organisation and we look forward to working with our members, volunteers, sports and staff in achieving great results together.

2018 promises to be just as busy as the year gone by with major competitions in most sports. One of our key focuses will be our commitment to supporting our Clubs with their Governance responsibilities. IWA-Sport is also very proud to welcome the International Wheelchair and Amputee Sports (IWAS) World Games in July 2018.

We are in an ever growing era of compliance; the spotlight is firmly focused on GDPR, safeguarding, and finance among a number of other areas and we will provide the necessary support to Clubs to ensure they can operate to the highest standards.

Finally, thank you to everyone who has played a part in the story of 2017. Whether you wore a shirt on the playing field, held a water bottle on the side-line or simply screamed your heart out for your team, your contribution is invaluable and much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Declan Slevin

Chairperson, IWA-Sport National Sports Executive Committee

Nicky Hamill

Director of Sport, IWA-Sport

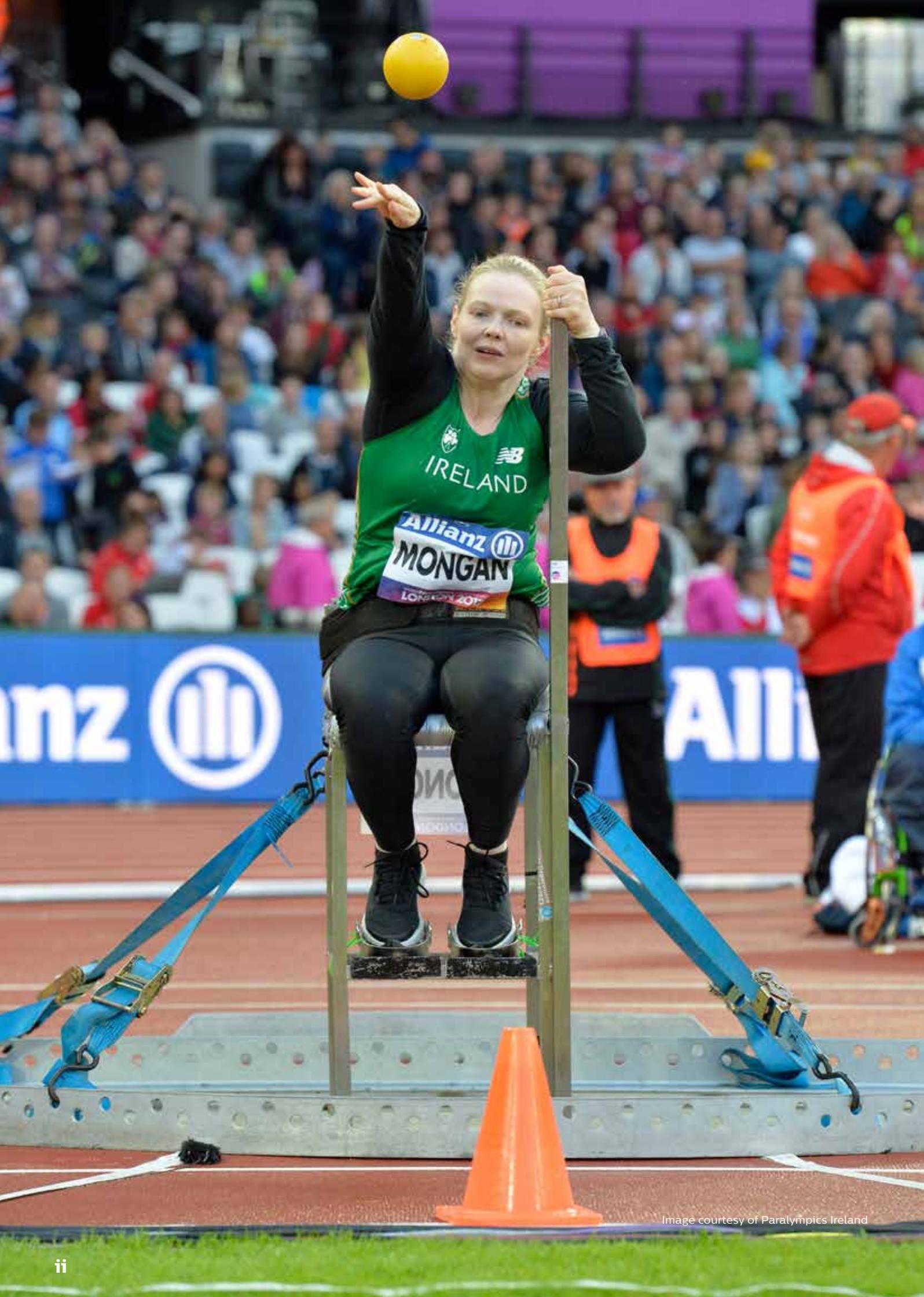


Image courtesy of Paralympics Ireland

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Image courtesy of Paralympics Ireland

Track and Field Athletics

Athletics continued with a strong programme of track and field activities in 2017 both at home and internationally.

The athletics grand prix ran from April to September in 2017 with seven regional competitions including; Leinster Championships, Connaught Championships, Laois Games, National Championships, Jamie Boyle Memorial Games, South East Games and Munster Championships. Additionally a Junior Games returned to the schedule.

A total of 49 athletes competed throughout the season; 10 of which were new competitors this year. There were 10 Irish records set during six out of the seven games and a total of 109 new personal best performances.

We also ran a Junior Games specifically for athletes under 18, which provided expert coaching opportunities, and was supported by junior parallel “come and try” sessions for new athletes at six out of seven games. The parallel sessions were attended by 43 children.

Wheelchair track racing continued in the form of monthly training sessions at Le Cheile Athletics Club where Ian Mirfin, and Irish Paralympic athlete Patrick Monahan mentored and coached throughout the year.

Our athletes made a welcome return to the Raheny five Mile in January and also raced the Dunboyne four Mile in March, 2017. Athletes took part in a number of local road races and park runs throughout the country.

On the track, members attended the IWA-Sport Nationals; the Irish Milers Club meets in Tullamore and Leixlip and also the Dublin Graded Meets in Santry.



At international level, we had athletes travelling to the London Mini-Marathon in April, the British Games in Stoke Mandeville in May, the Godiva Classic in Coventry in August and finally to the IWAS World Games in Portugal in December.

IWAS World Games

14 Irish athletes including first time competitors and masters competitors competed at the IWAS World Games in Portugal in December winning an impressive medal haul of 6 gold, 3 silver, 8 bronze.

The team that travelled was;

- Dale Barry O Sullivan
- Steven Bradley
- Eoin Cleare
- Shane Curran
- Tom Doherty
- Cillian Dunne
- Mary Fitzgerald
- Hayley Fitzsimons
- Cliona Horan
- Sinead Keon
- Dylan McCarthy
- Cian O Neill
- Oisin Putt
- Cathal Ryan

Results

Athlete	Result
Mary Fitzgerald	Discus & Javelin Gold
Hayley Fitzsimons	Shot & Discus Gold, Javelin - Bronze
Cathal Ryan	100m Bronze, Discus Bronze, Javelin Silver
Oisin Putt	200m Bronze, 100m Silver, 400m Bronze
Eoin Cleare	Shot Bronze
Dylan Mc Carthy,	Shot Gold, Javelin Silver
Cian O Neill	Javelin Gold
Shane Curran	Shot Silver
Dale Barry O Sullivan	Javelin Bronze

Seven IWA athletes competed at the World Para Athletics Championships in London achieving the following results;

Niamh McCarthy	F40/41 class Discus Silver
Orla Barry	F57 Discus Silver
Patrick Monahan	T54 1500 9th in heat, T53 800m 6th in heat
Noelle Lenihan	F38 Discus Silver
Deirdre Mongan	F53 Shot 7th
Michael McKillop	T37 800m 1500m 2 x Gold
Paul Keogan	T37 400m (5th) and 800m (7th)



End of Year Awards

Jimmy Byrne Award	Mary Boyle and Family
Anne Ebbs Award	Martin Boyle and Family
Merit Award	Hayley Fitzsimons
Merit Award	Jake Hennessy
Milestone Award	Sean Hughes
Milestone Award	Dylan McCarthy
Milestone Award	Shane McLoughlin
Young Male Athlete of the Year	Cathal Ryan
Young Female Athlete of the year	Mary Fitzgerald
Rosemary Tallon Award	1st Cian O Neill
2nd Mary Fitzgerald	Dale Barry O'Sullivan
3rd Cathal Ryan	Orla Barry
Elite Athlete of the Year	1st Niamh McCarthy 2nd Noelle Lenihan 3rd Orla Barry
Jamie Boyle Volunteer of the Year	Maria Furlong



Wheelchair Basketball

Wheelchair Basketball continued to be the most popular sport within IWA-Sport in terms of participation numbers. Our members play at all levels with the youngest playing at club level in either the specific Junior Wheelchair Basketball Clubs or in our Multi-Sports Clubs.

Junior Blitz

The next step in the pathway is provided in the form of the Junior Blitz Programme which is suitable for players up to the age of 17. The season began in October 2016 and featured eight rounds with teams from all over Ireland taking part including North East Thunder, Killester, NI Knights, South East Swifts, Kingdom Wheelblasters, Rebel Wheelers, Galway Speeders, Shannonside Stealers, Banner Spokes and the Deise Dragons.

The season concluded in May 2017 and the following All Star Team was selected;

Junior All Stars:	
Evan Whelan	Shannonside Stealers Juniors
Shauna Bocquet	Rebel Wheelers
Conor Coughlan	South East Swifts
Jake Hennessy	Killester Tigers
Oisin Putt	Killester Tigers
Damhan Hughes	North East Thunder
Britney Arendse	Clonaslee WBC
Timothy Adams	Kingdom Wheelblasters
Saoirse Murphy	Kingdom Wheelblasters

Senior programme

The 2015/2016 season saw the introduction of a classification points system with 19 points given as the limit in IWB competitions.

We subsequently reduced the points once more in the 16/17 season and again in the current season which levels the playing field significantly and ultimately provides more court time for lower point players. In tandem with this change it has been necessary to ensure all players are classified at the earliest opportunity. Thanks must be given to Paralympics Ireland and their classification panel for their support in this regard.

Our 2016/2017 season comprised of five competitions; our National League, National Cup and three perpetual Cups.

NI Knights swept the board winning the domestic treble losing only one game in the process. The Knights also won the National Cup Final played as part of Basketball Ireland Cup Finals, beating Fr Mathews in the process. This competition was played on an open draw basis.



The respective combined competition results read as follows;

- 16/17 League Champions:
NI Knights
- Basketball Ireland Cup Champions:
NI Knights
- Paddy Byrne Cup Champions:
NI Knights
- Greene/Walsh – Cup Champions:
Ballybrack Bulls
- Gerard Larkin Cup Champions:
Titans Galway



High performance

The Senior National Team competed at the European C Championships in the Czech Republic under the stewardship of new coach, Todd James. The team had a hugely successful week resulting in the winning of the Bronze Medal on the final day of action when beating Portugal to the Bronze Medal. To put this result into perspective this was the first time an Irish Senior Team medalled at a major international competition.

The successful squad was:	
Matthew Rollston (Captain)	NI Knights (Belfast)
Michael Hennessy Cullen	South East Swifts (Kilkenny)
Joe Hargrow	Limerick Scorpions
James McCarthy	Limerick Scorpions
Seamus Holland	Clonaslee
Orla Dempsey	Clonaslee
Jason Ryan	Ballybrack Bulls (Dublin)
Jonathan Hayes	Ballybrack Bulls (Dublin)
Jack Shannon Cole	Ballybrack Bulls (Dublin)
Mick Cunningham	Killester (Dublin)
Todd James	Head Coach
Valene Ryan	Team Manager

Volunteer and officials support

Once again our junior and senior programmes were very well supported by a large team of volunteers and officials across a number of roles. We value the role our volunteers play very highly and we are committed to providing support in the form of Officials Training and Coach Education Training in the coming season.



Wheelchair Basketball Awards

Individual Awards	
AB Player of the Year	Paddy Forbes, Killester
Male Player of the Year	Joe Hargrow, Limerick Scorpions
Female Player of the Year	Christine Doyle, Killester
U'23 Player of the Year	Jonathan Hayes, Ballybrack Bulls
Sportsmanship Award	Richie Murphy, Shannonside Stealers
Most Improved Player of the Year	Martin Murphy , NE Thunder WBC
Ballybrack Bulls	Jonathan Hayes
Limerick Scorpions	Joe Hargrow
Clonaslee	Seamus Holland
NI Knights	Aubrey Bingham
Rebel Wheelers	Derek Hegarty
Shannonside Stealers	Richie Murphy
North East Thunder	Adrian Donoghue
Killester	Michael Cunningham
Titans Wheelers	David Kennedy
South East Swifts	Pat O'Neill

Basketball Ireland National Awards:	
Best Male Wheelchair Basketball Player	Joe Hargrow, Limerick Scorpions
Best Female Wheelchair Basketball Player	Christine Doyle, Killester WBC

All Star Awards	
Ballybrack Bulls WBC	Jonathan Hayes
Clonaslee WBC	Lorcan Madden
Fr. Mathews WBC	Derek Hegarty
Killester WBC	Michael Cunningham
Limerick Scorpions WBC	John Enright
Northern Ireland Knights WBC	Aubrey Bingham
North East Thunder WBC	Phillip Gibson
Shannonside Stealers WBC	Richie Murphy
Swifts WBC	Pat O'Neill
Titans Wheelers	Keith Connolly

Junior Year End Awards:		
Best Junior Female	Shauna Bocquet	Shannonside Stealers
Best Junior Male	Jack Mangan	South East Swifts
Most Improved player	Cathal Fitzpatrick	South East Swifts
Sportsmanship Award	Oisín Putt	Killester Tigers

Wheelchair Rugby

The Irish League continued again in 2017 with four teams; Gaelic Warriors, Munster, Ulster Barbarians and Laois Lions once again competing against each other and hosting rounds.

The finals were held in IWA Sports Centre, Clontarf in December where a rematch of the 2016 final took place, with the reverse result, which saw Gaelic Warriors emerging victorious beating Munster.

Final Placings this year were:

1. Gaelic Warriors
2. Munster Wheelchair Rugby
3. Laois Lions
4. Ulster Barbarians.

Club Players of the year:

Gaelic Warriors	Johnny Hayden
Laois Lions	Jonny Mulhall
Ulster Barbarians	Sean Smyth
Munster	Nathan Kirwan

End of year Awards:

Irish Player of the Year	Alan Dineen
Volunteer of the Year	Aaron Delaney

GB Super Series

In 2017 two Irish teams competed in Super Series, Gaelic Warriors in Division 1 and Ulster Barbarians in Division 3. Gaelic Warriors finished in 3rd place overall in the 2016/17 Division 1 league. The 2017/18 Division 1 league kicked off in Leicester in September, and round two was also held in Leicester in November.

In Division 3, in their first appearance Ulster Barbarians had a fantastic debut coming away with five wins out of five. They currently top the table in Division 3.

National Team

The Irish Team had a busy, and competitive year in 2017. They participated in The Champions League in Bernd Best, Cologne in April using it as a warm up tournament for the European Championships. The major competition of the year was The European A Championships in Koblenz, Germany which took place in June. The main objective was to maintain A championship status but unfortunately owing to the fact the team was short a number of players (due to injury), the National Team finished in 7th place and dropped back down to B division.

The National Squad that competed was:

0.5	Will Doggart	Ulster Barbarians
0.5	John McCarthy	Munster Crusaders
1.0	Alan Lynch (Captain)	Gaelic Warriors
3.0	Stephen Aylmer	Gaelic Warriors
3.0	Jonathan Mullhall	Laois Lions
3.0	Alan Dineen	Munster Crusaders
3.0	Michael O'Hanlon	London Wheelchair Rugby - Crusaders

The Swiss National Team visited for a training camp in January 2017. This was held in IWA Sports Centre, Clontarf and was very beneficial to both teams. Jade Flynn Hurley and Amy Fitzpatrick attended the Wheelchair Rugby Womens World Cup in Paris in December, where they played with the European Team who finished as runners up to a very strong Oceania Team.

Officials training

In October both a referees and table officials course were delivered by Dave Woods and Sue Aldridge from GBWR.

There were also open trials held on the same weekend to give an opportunity to players from all Clubs to try out for the development squad. These athletes underwent a range of physical tests, skills, drills, and matches. Also in attendance was Deborah Bowditch, International Level 4 Classifier who assisted in the classification of the new athletes.

Fundraising

Irish Wheelchair Rugby held a very successful fundraising event “The Kube” in Cork in March and all funds raised went towards the European A Championships in June. Sincere thanks to the organizing committee, everybody that took part and to all that supported the event. Congratulations to the overall winner, retired Munster Rugby player, Jonny Holland. Additionally we held collections at two major IRFU International matches. Thanks again to all that supported fundraising initiatives.

Exhibition events

We exhibited wheelchair rugby at the Paralympic Ireland Para Expo event in January in the Indoor Arena at the National Sports Campus in Blanchardstown, the Cork Sportsability event in the Mardyke Arena in March, the Rebel Wheelers and IWA summer camps and summer camps in the National Rehabilitation Hospital (NRH) Annual Championships





Image courtesy of Paralympics Ireland

Para Swimming

Swimmers are included in Swim Ireland's mainstream club programme nationwide. A number of young swimmers were identified and are meeting once monthly for Development Squad sessions in the National Aquatic Centre, Abbotstown. This squad now has 6 swimmers on the performance pathway.

High Performance athletes were funded and supported through Paralympics Ireland. Ellen Keane, James Scully, Ailbhe Kelly, Nicole Turner, Patrick Flanagan and Barry McClements were all Paralympics Ireland squad members who represented Ireland internationally this year.

A decision not to travel to the World Para Swimming Championships in Mexico City was made due to the altitude, health risks and performance implications.

Swimmers competed at World Series Meets across Europe throughout the season. World Series events are competed as multi-class (MC) which means all swimmers are competing for high point scores using World Para Swimming (WPS) point's calculation system. They must race as fast as they can.

The results of the World Series were as follows;

World Series Copenhagen:

- Four medals – Ellen Keane (gold MC 200 IM & silver in MC 100m Butterfly)
- Barry McClements (gold in MC 400m Freestyle & silver in MC 100m Butterfly).

World Series Sheffield:

- 1 medal – Nicole Turner bronze in MC 50m Butterfly.

World Series Berlin:

- Although no MC medals were won, the meet recognised juniors in age group brackets, individual classes and awarded medals after preliminaries. We picked up a large number of these medals.

Overall rankings in World Series:

- Ellen Keane 55th out of 320
- Barry McClements 18th out of 144 (Junior Category)
- Nicole Turner 23rd out of 140 (Junior Category)
- Ailbhe 176th out of 320
- Patrick 313th out of 447
- James Scully 299th out of 447

Swimmers also competed in National competitions which included:

- Dave McCullagh Meet
- National Long Course Championships
- Irish Age Group & Open Championships
- British National Championships, Manchester



PowerLifting

2017 was an extremely busy year for our Para Powerlifters. The World Para Powerlifting qualification pathway states that a set number of international competitions must be attended annually meaning the Irish team competed at the Dubai World Cup in February, the Eger World Cup in May followed by the World Championships in December.

Additionally the team also competed at the non-compulsory British Nationals in June, so all combined this was a hectic year for the team.

Five athletes competed across the different competitions including Tommy McCague, Chris O Connor, Jack Colbert, Nicola Dore and Britney Arendse.

Britney Arendse made her debut in Para Powerlifting on the international stage at the Dubai World Cup in February and her impact was

immediate winning the Gold medal in the junior 73kg category. Britney and her team mate Nicola Dore continued their good form throughout the year with the aim of peaking at the World Championships in December. The Worlds were originally scheduled for September but were postponed due to the serious earthquake which was experienced in Mexico City.

Britney lifted 78kg in the 67kg category finishing a creditable second place in the junior category. Just 4 days later Britney competed in the senior event and lifted an impressive 82kg.

Nicola Dore competed in the 55kg category and lifted 63kg.

The sport was also exhibited at the Paralympics Ireland Para Sports Expo, the IWA-Sport Para Sports Expo, the NRH Games and Cork Sports Ability Forum.

Other Sports

Para Table Tennis

Colin Judge had a memorable year in 2017 winning the Gold Medal at the Spanish Open, the German Open singles and the Factor 50 European Championships. This was one of the most significant results in Para Table Tennis in many years and moved Colin to 5th in the Class 2 World Ranking.

Other competitors included standing Juniors Conor O Callaghan and Paddy Vaughan competing who both competed at the Spanish Open. Para Standing Senior Tom Davies also competed at the European Championships and won a Bronze Medal in the team events at both the Spanish and German Opens. Greg Keogh also competed in the Spanish open while Des Ryan played competed in both Italy, Hungary and Spain.

Handcycling

Five IWA members were involved in the Cycling Ireland Para Cycling programme once again in 2017.

This saw 8 events being staged in the Invacare Road Series which also witnessed an increase in participation numbers. A notable achievement saw Declan Slevin win his third National Championships in a row.

Internationally Declan Slevin and Seamus Wall competed at the UCI World Cups in Belgium, Italy, and Holland, in addition to the World Championships in South Africa. Seamus and Declan also competed in European Handcycling Federation (EHF) event in France.

Para Archery

Kerrie Leonard competed at the World Championships in Beijing in September finishing 17th in the Open Compound Women.

Domestically our Archers competed at the Irish Open Field Championships, the Irish Open Target Championships and the Kilmore Open. The National Championships were held in June in Summerhill, Co Meath.





Boccia

In 2017, 32 teams, comprising of over 200 IWA members representing IWA Community Centres throughout Ireland entered the All Ireland National Boccia Championships. Regional qualifying championships saw ten teams qualify for the National Finals which took place in the Dundalk Sports Centre.

In the team event, IWA Limerick, who are based in the Dunraven Centre, Limerick, took home the trophy in what was the second year of this popular competition.

An exciting final played over six ends saw Limerick defeat Ardee Limerick and win a very close match 4 - 3. Limerick Captain Tim O'Riordan received the trophy from IWA founding member Dr Oliver Murphy.

In the singles final Terry Kirwan and Paddy Conor went head to head. With the final score ending 4 - 1, Terry Kirwan received the winners trophy from IWA founding member Dr Oliver Murphy.

Bowls

The Blackheath Bowling club continued with their weekly programme in the IWA Sports Centre from September to May. This is a long established programme and provides a great opportunity for members of all ages to get involved in a sport which gives great social and health benefits. The Blackheath Bowlers run development programmes twice weekly for various internal IWA groups in addition to external groups.

Governance

Throughout 2017 IWA maintained its high standards of governance, its reputation for transparency and its good relationships with all its partners. We achieved this through our continued commitment to the Governance Code and the Fundraising Principles as well as through our unique structure of accountability to our members.

National Sports Council

The National Sports Council met for its annual meeting on February 25th 2017. The purpose of this meeting is to provide members and Sports Clubs with an invaluable opportunity to network and to receive important information pertaining to the running of their Club.

At the aforementioned meeting Safeguarding, Volunteer Recruitment and Garda Vetting, Finance, Anti-doping, and Governance were all presented upon. The Rebel Wheelers Club from Cork also delivered a superb presentation regarding their journey as a Club to date.

Sport Ireland compliance and International relations

We completed all requirements as requested by Sport Ireland for the 2017 mid-year review in addition to submitting the 2018 core grant application. We liaised with international governing bodies in an effective manner to ensure the smooth processing of all competition entries.

Sport Ireland Audit

IWA-Sport was 'pulse' audited by Deloitte Ireland on behalf of Sport Ireland for the first time in 2017. This entailed the sharing of our policies, procedures and practises across a range of governance and finance focused areas.

There were 3 risk categories set out within the framework of the audit; significant, important and minor. In total 14 recommendations were returned by the auditors; 6 important and 7 minor. No significant risks were highlighted.

National Sports Executive Committee

The IWA-Sport National Sports Executive Committee (NSEC) and management operated within the rules and regulations as set out by the IWA – Sport standing orders at all times.

The Director of Sport continued to be a member of the IWA Senior Management Team. The NSEC reported into the IWA Board on all activities pertaining to the sports section.

Safeguarding

IWA is committed fully to its Safeguarding responsibilities and to that end made the position of Safeguarding Officer within the Association a Full Time post in 2016.

In 2017, IWA-Sport reviewed its current capacity and responsibilities to ensure that Safeguarding had the necessary focus and resources for full compliance throughout its activities.

The National Sports Executive Committee concluded that the role of the National Children's Officer should be supported within the Associations full time resources and to that end approved the appointment of Daragh Kennedy to the Committee in July 2017.

Additionally the following workplan has been undertaken;

- Review of current status of Volunteers (National and Club Volunteers) with regard to Garda Vetting, Reference checking, Training.
- Monthly report meetings with National Sports Executive Committee
- Monthly report meetings with IWA, CEO
- Review of Child Safeguarding Statement appropriate to IWA-Sport and Clubs

We supported our professional staff in the form of bi monthly team planning and review meetings, annual staff appraisals and continuous professional development training opportunities.

At our 2017 AGM we elected the following persons to our NSEC;

Chairperson	Declan Slevin
Treasurer	Ger Scully
Secretary	Darren Healy
Committee Member	Kerrie Leonard
Co opted Committee Member	Johnny Brady
National Children's Officer	Daragh Kennedy

IWA Board representative Jack Lawler was nominated to the NSEC.

Ger Scully was nominated as the NSEC representative to the IWA Board of Directors.



109 Personal Bests

22 Irish Records

8 Irish Grand Prix Competitions

3 Silver Medals IPC World Championships

6 Gold, 8 Silver, 3 Bronze Medals
IWAS World games



Irish Para **Athletics**



Irish Wheelchair **Basketball**

- European C Championships **Bronze Medal Winners**
- **9 Irish Senior Clubs | 5 competitions**
- League Champions – **NI Knights**
- Hula Hoop Cup Champions – **NI Knights**
- Paddy Byrne Cup Champions – **NI Knights**
- Greene/Walsh Cup Champions – **Ballybrack Bulls**
- Gerard Larkin Cup Champions – **Titans Galway**
- **8 junior teams | 8 junior blitz events**



7th Place in European Championships

4 Irish Senior Wheelchair Rugby Clubs

Irish League Winners: Gaelic Warriors



Irish Para **Powerlifting**

Dubai Fazaa
1 Gold Medal,
Junior Category

Eger World Cup
World
Championships



Inclusive PE **Presentations**

- 10 third level Institutes
- 68 primary and secondary schools
- Munster TY Wheelchair Basketball Programme – 21 schools – 900 students

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

OVER 50 IWA-SPORT ATHLETES COMPETED AT;



- Wheelchair Basketball European C Championships, Czech Republic: *3rd Place*
- Wheelchair Rugby European Championships, Germany: *7th Place*
- Para Powerlifting
Dubai: *1 x Gold Medal* | Eger | Mexico: World Championships
- IWAS World Games, Portugal: *6 Gold, 8 Silver, 3 Bronze Medals*
- IPC Athletics World Championships – London: *3 x Silver Medals*
- Swimming World Series: Copenhagen, Sheffield, Berlin
- Table Tennis – European Championships: *1 x Gold Medal*

Anti doping
1 information workshop



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Junior Clubs

<i>Galway Speeders</i>	<i>Banner Spokes</i>
<i>Dublin Swifts</i>	<i>Shannonside Stealers</i>
<i>Kerry Kingdom</i>	<i>Deise Dragons</i>
<i>Wheelblasters</i>	<i>Killester Tigers</i>
<i>Rebel Wheelers</i>	<i>Tipperary Warriors NEW</i>
<i>North East Sports</i>	<i>Slaneyside Superstars NEW</i>



€240k

Core funding from
Sport Ireland

€80k

Dormant Accounts
(via Sport Ireland)

PARTNERSHIPS

- 12** LSP/SIDO programmes
- 10** Health / Disability Agencies
- 10** NGBS: *Table Tennis Ireland, Basketball Ireland,*



*Tennis Ireland, FAI, Cycling Ireland,
Volleyball Ireland, Paralympics Ireland,
Athletics Ireland, Badminton Ireland,
Archery Ireland.*

Other Events, Initiatives and Partnerships

LSP/ SIDO Partnerships & Events

We continued to work closely with a large number of the Local Sports Partnerships (LSP) and Sports Inclusion Development Officers (SIDO) programmes nationally. The following is a list of the events we supported or received support regarding;

- Meath LSP Disability Sport Summer Camp
- Offaly LSP Summer Camp
- 'Inclusive PE for All' training day in partnership with Offaly LSP, National Council for Blind Ireland) and Laois Offaly Families for Autism.
- Sports Ability Event Galway County Council
- Sports Ability Event Sligo LSP
- Sports Ability Event Cork LSP
- Sports Ability Forum Waterford
- Laois LSP – Football for All
- Tipperary LSP – support for IWA multisport club set up
- Wexford LSP – support for IWA multisport club set up
- Kilkenny LSP – support for IWA multisport club set up
- Waterford LSP – support for IWA multisport club set up
- Offaly/Westmeath/Longford LSP - pilot Junior Multi Sports Club

NGB collaboration

We worked with a number of NGBs across a range of programmes and events including;

- Enjoy Tennis Programme with Tennis Ireland in the NRH
- Basketball Ireland – Ongoing relationship regarding support for Irish Wheelchair Basketball, including PR, officials training and development, inclusion in the National Cup Finals.

- Athletics Ireland – Development of Inclusive Athletics Training and Resource Guide
- Paralympics Ireland – represented on the Athletics and Swimming High Performance Committees. We also supported the Paralympics Ireland Para Sports Expo.

Summer Camps

We supported a number of LSP Summer Camps nationally in the form of Coach support and or equipment. Additionally we ran our annual members summer camp in July in IWA-Sports Centre, Clontarf in addition to the community summer camp at the same venue. Two IWA-Sport Clubs, Rebel Wheelers and Deise Dragons also ran Summer Camp programmes.

Other organisations

We worked closely with the following organisations across the following projects;

- Irish Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus (IASBAH SHINE) Summer Camp
- Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown Sports Partnership Sports Ability Open Evening and Daily Mile Initiative
- Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Sports Partnership Board Member
- NRH Sports Development, CARF Survey, Community and Integration Information Day, 5th Annual NRH Spinal Sports Championships
- Laois HSE
- Crann Centre Cork – Turas Saol – Chair skills programme

Educational Institutes

We continued the promotion of our Inclusive PE Programme of work across all Educational levels in 2017. The purpose of this programme

is to educate future graduates in the sporting or educational field, the importance of Inclusion for people with a disability in either PE settings or Sports Club environments.

In summary we presented to:

- 10 Third Level Institutes
- 68 Primary and Secondary Schools
- Munster TY Wheelchair Basketball Programme – 21 schools – 900 students

Anti doping

We ran two Anti-Doping Education sessions for our members in 2017. The first was an outreach session for attendees at the National Sports Council in February and the second session was presented to the Irish Wheelchair Basketball squad in advance of their departure to the European Championships.



Dr Oliver Murphy Sports Centre

The Dr. Oliver Murphy Sports Centre continued to host training for the IWA-Sport national squads which included Para Table Tennis, Wheelchair Rugby, and Wheelchair Basketball.

Blackheath Archers, IWA Bowling club, Killester Wheelchair Basketball Club the Dublin Swifts Junior Sports Club and many other local sports Clubs also continued to train and host competitions in the facility on an ongoing basis.

The gym facility consolidated its membership base with an approximate number of 400 members of which one third are IWA members. The gym itself boasts a range of dual use fitness equipment suited to people with a physical disability or limited mobility and as a result our facility is well placed to offer expert advice in relation to rehabilitation practices.

The CRC, MS Society, Headway, National Rehab Hospital, Beaumont Cardiac Unit, community physiotherapists and Occupational Therapists, and local GP's within the north Dublin area regularly engaged.

The gym receives many referrals from GP's, consultants, physiotherapists, outpatient departments, the NRH, Cappagh and Orthopedic Hospital's. The pathway for such referrals is usually as follow-on from rehab work an individual would have received in these units. The gym serves as a successful referral centre for these clinical settings once a set period of rehab is completed within these units. Personal training, physical therapy services and disability awareness workshops also took place during 2017 to various audiences including schools, universities and corporate agencies.



Funding, Grants, Sponsorship and Other Support

Sport Ireland

Sport Ireland Core Grant - €240K.

Core funding was used to fund, strategic planning, administration; competitions; equipment, coaching and core activities including governance, safeguarding, and anti-doping programmes.

Irish Wheelchair Association (IWA)

IWA's CEO and Board of Directors continued their funding support in 2017. In addition funding was also provided towards staff salary costs and overhead costs. The financial support from our parent body is of vital importance to IWA-Sport and we thank them for their continued assistance.

Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport – Sports Capital Grants

In 2017, we submitted 13 applications on behalf of our network of Sports Clubs to the value of €252,887. We also submitted an NGB application to the value of €77k.

Of the 14 grants applied for, two received funding to the level of €2k for IWA Roscrea and €8k for the Rebel Wheelers. Whilst appreciative of the amounts awarded overall this was a very disappointing return for our many clubs.

Paralympics Ireland

We received €2000 funding from Paralympics Ireland towards the Irish Para Powerlifting Programme. We would like to extend our thanks to both the departed CEO Liam Harbison and the newly appointed CEO Miriam Malone, the Board of Paralympics Ireland and their staff for their continued support.

Dormant Account funding (via Sport Ireland)

We were awarded a grant of €80,000 from Dormant Account funding in 2016 towards the development of Access Guidelines specific to the greater outdoors. This project began in May 2017 and will run until May 2018 meaning this grant has income deferred to both 2017 and 2018.

Athlete Contributions and fundraising

It is the policy of IWA-Sport for athletes to contribute to programmes and competitions. It would not be possible for IWA-Sport to coordinate the full programme of events each year without athletes contributing. The level of personal and financial commitment shown by the athletes and staff to their sport is greatly appreciated by the National Sports Executive Committee.

Many sports sections and clubs were committed to fundraising initiatives throughout the year to support the core activities of their club or section.

Ireland Funds

We are extremely grateful to the Ireland Funds for funding the role of an IWA-Sports Development Officer (SDO) in the South East Region.

The impact of this role has been extremely positive with new children's sports Clubs formed in Wexford, Waterford and Tipperary in recent months in addition to the SDO supporting the national events programme. We wish to extend our thanks and appreciation to the Ireland Funds for this support.

Sponsorship

IWA-Sport continued its partnership with Invacare Ireland in 2017. This partnership sees Invacare sponsor our events programme throughout the year. In addition to the financial investment, we received excellent support from Invacare Ireland in the form of sports chair loans and product advice.

There were also two significant developments in this area during 2017 which auger well for the future; we developed a commercial strategy which we look forward to implementing and IWA appointed a Commercial Director to its Senior Management Team. This appointment will ensure there is a dedicated focus to maximising the revenue potential of our activities.

Acknowledgements

The National Sports Executive Committee would like to thank the following people and organisations for their continued support;

- Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport – Shane Ross. T.D.
- Junior Minister- Brendan Griffin. T.D.
- Sport Ireland – John Treacy and staff.
- Dormant Accounts
- IWA CEO – Rosemary Keogh.
- IWA Board – Michael Hickey (Chair), Eileen O'Mahony (President) and Board members.
- IWA Senior Management Team.
- IWA-Sport National Sports Council.
- Coaches and Co-ordinators.
- Paralympics Ireland – CEO Miriam Malone, Members Forum, Board of Directors and Staff.
- Coaching Ireland.
- City Electrical Factors.
- All volunteers, athletes, families and friends of IWA-Sport.
- Invacare Ireland – Neil Harvey and Invacare Ireland staff.
- Our corporate sponsors who support our programmes.
- The many agencies and organisations that support our work at so many levels.



Sports Club Activity Report

Club activities were ongoing in 2017 catering for all levels of participation.

The number of IWA-Sport and affiliated club programmes grew in 2017 from 21 to 25. At Junior Club Level the new Clubs that formed were; Tipperary Warriors, Slaneyside Superstars and Killester Tigers. At senior level a new senior Wheelchair Basketball team was formed – Kingdom Wheelblasters and they will join competitions in the 2018/2019 season.

We are currently working towards the start up of an additional 4 clubs in 2018.

A Club Information Workshop was held in February 2017 where information was shared with Club representatives in the areas of safeguarding,

recruitment and vetting, governance, and IWA policies and procedures. Similar support will be provided in 2018 and information will be shared regarding General Data Protection Regulations and the preparation of a child safety statement for the Association.

It is important to acknowledge and sincerely thank the many IWA-Sport Volunteers all over the country who give so much of their time to both local Club and National activities and events and who ultimately make a hugely positive impact on the lives of our members.

A breakdown of our current club structure is as follows:

Multi Sport Junior Clubs	
1.	Galway Speeders
2.	Dublin Swifts
3.	Kerry Kingdom Wheelblasters
4.	Rebel Wheelers
5.	North East Sports
6.	Banner Spokes
7.	Deise Dragons
8.	Tipperary Warriors NEW
9.	Slaneyside Superstars NEW
10.	Killester Tigers (wheelchair basketball only) NEW
11.	Shannonside Stealers (wheelchair Basketball only)

Wheelchair Rugby	
12.	Gaelic Warriors Wheelchair Rugby Club
13.	Munster Wheelchair Rugby Club
14.	Ulster Barbarians Wheelchair Rugby Club
15.	Laois lions Wheelchair Rugby Club

Wheelchair Basketball	
16.	Clonaslee
17.	Killester
18.	Limerick Scorpions
19.	North East Thunder
20.	South East Swifts
21.	Ballybrack Bulls
22.	Rebel Wheelers
23.	Titans Galway (affiliated)
24.	NI Knights (affiliated)
25.	Kerry Kingdom Wheelblasters (NEW)

20/20 Strategy

We launched our 20/20 Strategic Plan in July 2017. The all-encompassing ambition for IWA-Sport over the next three years is to enhance recreational and competitive sporting opportunities through a programme of quality events and activities.

As the National Governing Body for physical disability sports in Ireland, IWA-Sport have 24 sports clubs around the country providing a wide range of recreational and sporting opportunities for all levels and ages

In summary, following a comprehensive period of consultation, review and planning the following was outlined;

Our Values

Fun: IWA-Sport's ethos is that having fun should be at the heart of everything we do.

Belonging: IWA-Sport is dedicated to fostering and instilling a sense of belonging and camaraderie through involvement in our programmes.

Empowerment: IWA-Sport believes that our members will be empowered to achieve greater independence, by building confidence and self determination, through involvement in our programmes.

Our vision

Our vision is for everyone with a physical disability to enjoy sport, physical and recreational activities on a fully inclusive basis in any environment.

Our Mission

To develop and promote sport, physical and recreational opportunities for people with a physical disability to reach their full potential.

Our Three Year Goal

Irish Wheelchair Association-Sport is recognised as Ireland's leading organisation for people with physical disabilities. We are a thriving NGB, facilitating, advocating, and promoting inclusion in the sporting environment, both recreational and competitive, through a programme of quality events and activities.

Focus areas

Growth and Development - To grow and develop to ensure we continue as the leading physical disability National Governing Body in Ireland.

High Performance - To support our athletes, teams and coaches to compete and perform for Ireland at the highest international level.

Technical development and education - To develop and provide technical information about our sports and inclusive practises and to support and increase the quality and quantity of our coaches, officials and volunteers.

Business operations - To develop best practise strategic governance and operational management practises to ensure efficient, effective and innovative leadership.

Income and Expenditure Statement

For the year ended 31st December 2017 | Irish Wheelchair Association - Sports Section

		Note	2017	2016
EXTERNAL INCOME			€	€
	Irish Sports Council Core Funding		240,000	240,000
	Paralympics Ireland		2,000	2,000
	Other Grants		34,655	21,203
	Sport Ireland - Dormant accounts		32,308	-
	Sponsorship and Fundraising		134,321	137,358
	Membership Fees		3,270	4,590
	Core Activities Programme		15,615	7,910
	Equipment Income		170	128
	Bank Interest Received		4	5
	Total External Income		462,341	413,194
INVESTMENT BY IWA			€	€
	IWA - Grant		60,000	60,000
	IWA - Additional support		43,748	32,124
	IWA - Cost of National Shared Services		51,582	46,227
	Total Investment by IWA		155,330	138,351
PROGRAMME AND OTHER EXPENDITURE				
	Programmes and Activities	2	(137,266)	(121,967)
	Staff-Related Costs	2	(372,541)	(324,906)
	Support Costs	2	(41,760)	(42,924)
	Cost of National Shared Services		(51,582)	(46,227)
	Total Programme and Other Expenditure		(603,150)	(536,023)
CAPITAL: ASSETS AND GRANTS				
	Amortization: Sports Capital Grant		35,751	32,004
	Depreciation	3	(50,272)	(47,526)
	Net impact of Capital Assets and Grants		(14,521)	(15,522)
Surplus / (Deficit) for the Year			0	0

Balance Sheet

For the year ended 31st December 2017 | Irish Wheelchair Association - Sports Section

		Note	2017	2016
FIXED ASSETS			€	€
	Tangible Assets	3	45,164	78,436
CURRENT ASSETS			€	€
	Debtors	4	17,108	15,862
	Cash at bank and on hand	5	101,246	111,677
			118,354	127,540
CREDITORS			€	€
	Amounts falling due within one year	6	466	3,670
NET CURRENT ASSETS			€	€
			117,888	123,870
OTHER LIABILITIES			€	€
	Deferred Income	7	98,317	149,883
NET ASSETS			64,735	52,423
FINANCED BY:			€	€
	Net Investment by IWA in IWA Sport Section	8	64,735	52,423

IWA-Sport National & International Events Calendar 2018

January		
6th January	Wheelchair Basketball National Cup Semi-final	IWA, Clontarf
13th January	Wheelchair Basketball Irish Senior League	Galway & Kilkenny
14th January	Wheelchair Basketball Junior Blitz	Carlow
25th January	TY Wheelchair Basketball Regional Final	Cork
26th January	Wheelchair Basketball National Cup Final	NBA Tallaght
27-28th January	Wheelchair Rugby, Super Series Division 3 Round 2	Fenton Manor, U. K.
February		
1ST February	TY Wheelchair Basketball Regional Final	Waterford
8th February	TY Wheelchair Basketball Regional Final	Meath
10th February	Wheelchair Basketball Irish Senior League	Cork & Dublin
11th February	Wheelchair Basketball Junior Blitz	Dublin
17-22nd February	Para Powerlifting Dubai Fazza	Dubai
22nd February	TY Wheelchair Basketball Regional Final	Galway
24th February	IWA-Sport AGM	NSC, Dublin
24-25th February	Wheelchair Rugby Super Series, Division 1, Round 3.	Walsal, U.K.
March		
3rd March	Wheelchair Basketball Irish Senior League	Bray & Galway
4th March	Wheelchair Basketball U23 Preliminary Round 3	IWA, Clontarf
10-20th March	Athletics Fazza/Sharjah Games	Dubai
13th March	TY Wheelchair Basketball All Ireland Final	NBA, Tallaght
17-18th March	Wheelchair Rugby, Division 3, Round 3	Reading, U.K.
24TH March	Wheelchair Basketball Irish Senior League	Limerick & Ardee
25th March	Wheelchair Basketball Junior Blitz	Tralee
April		
2-7th April	Wheelchair Rugby World Championship Qualifiers	Nottwil, Switzerland
TBC	Wheelchair Rugby GB National Championships	Leicester
7th April	Wheelchair Basketball Irish Senior League	Belfast & Dublin
8th April	Wheelchair Basketball U23 Finals	IWA, Clontarf
15th April	Swimming National Championships	NAC, Dublin
21st April	Athletics Leinster championships	Kilkenny

28th April	Wheelchair Basketball Irish Senior League	Clonaslee & Dublin
29th April	Wheelchair Basketball Junior Blitz	Cork.
May		
12th May	Athletics Throwsfest	Tullamore.
19th May	Wheelchair Basketball Irish Senior League	IWA Sport, Clontarf.
20th May	Wheelchair Basketball Junior Blitz	IWA Sport, Clontarf
25-30th May	Para powerlifting European championships	France
26th May	Athletics, Connaught Games	Galway
26th May	Wheelchair Basketball IWA Sport Cup Finals	NSC, Dublin
June		
16th June	Athletics Laois Games	Crettyard
July		
1-6th July	Athletics IWAS World Youth Games	Athlone
14th July	Athletics National Senior Championships	Santry
16-20th July	IWA Sport Members Summer Camp	IWA sport, Clontarf
21st July	Athletics Jamie Boyle Memorial Games	Templemore
28-29th July	Athletics AAI National Championships	Santry
August		
4-10th August	Rugby World Championships	Australia
4-12th August	Cerebral Palsy World Games	Barcelona
13-19th August	Swimming IPC European Championships.	NAC, Dublin.
18th August	Athletics South East Games	Waterford
20-26th August	Athletics IPC European championships	Berlin
27th August-3rd September	IWAS Women Events	Worcester
September		
8th September	Athletics Munster Championships	Cork
15th September	Athletics National Junior Championships	Carlow
October		
TBC	Wheelchair Basketball Irish Senior League	TBC
TBC	Wheelchair Rugby European B Championships	TBC
November		
TBC	Wheelchair Basketball Irish Senior League	TBC
December		
TBC	Wheelchair Basketball Irish Senior League	TBC







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