#12

dlr Comhairle Contae County Council

DÚN LAOGHAIRE - RATHDOWN SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

SPORT IRELAND

NEWSLETTER

For an Active Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown

Ultimate Youth Reach Programme



Meet Sam, DLR Sports Partnership's Newest Member

St.Joseph's Walking Football Club Focus

dlr Elf Dash Returns!

INFORMATION | EDUCATION | IMPLEMENTATION


erasmus+
10


14


4-5


6


13


15


12


9

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What's On at DLR Sports Partnership

Looking for events near you?
Want to know more about DLR Sports Partnership?
Scan the QR Code to take you to our website.

DÚN LAOGHAIRE-RATHDOWN SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Sports Partnership was set up in 2008. DLR Sports Partnership works closely with the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council's Sports Development Office and other key partners to promote participation, inclusion and coordination in sport at a local level.

All those statutory bodies, organisations and groups operating in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown with a responsibility for or interest in sports development are invited to participate in the Local Sports Partnership.

This includes the involvement of the Local Authority, Education & Training Board, HSE, third level sector, sports clubs, schools and local voluntary/community organisations.

Support DLR Sports Partnership

Proud to support local sport?
Download the DLR Sports Partnership logo and add it to your website.
It's a simple way to show you're part of a community that champions inclusion, activity, and opportunity for all.

CONTENTS

4-5 **Ultimate Youth Reach**
8 week programme for Youths at risk!

6-7 **Updates from Ciaran**
Our ESF+ Officer on the Ground in DLR and beyond...

8-9 **SportsAbility Updates**
Gwen has the SportsAbility News.

10-11 **Active Cities**
SportsAbility Day is coming!

12 **dlr Elf Dash Returns!**
Kevina with the updates.

13 **Womens Sailing in DLR**
Louise with the updates.

14 **Club Focus**
St. Joseph's Walking Football.

15 **Meet Sam & a Word from Shane**
New Member Sam and an end of year chat with Shane.



Declan is our Sports Marketing & Information Officer and the Editor and Designer of our newsletter.
Get in touch with him if you'd like to feature your club, recognise someone doing great work in the community, or celebrate a sporting or community achievement.

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DUBLIN COLLEGE FURTHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING
SALLYNOGGIN PEARSE PARK

dlr Comhairle Contae County Council

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Lights, Cameras & Lots of Action in Sallynoggin & Beyond!











Ultimate Youth Reach was an exciting 8-week programme delivered through a collaborative partnership between Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council Sports Officers, Sallynoggin Youthreach staff and Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Sports Partnership.

The programme combined media skills development with a range of engaging outdoor, sporting and personal development activities designed to build confidence, teamwork and resilience among participants.

The course began with two Video Production Workshops, where participants learned the fundamentals of filming, editing and storytelling.

These newly acquired skills were then put into practice throughout the remainder of the programme, with participants capturing and documenting their experiences.











"We have found this project to be a very effective way to engage proactively with our young people. We are particularly encouraged by the high attendance and retention rate of the students throughout. The students have been pushed out of their comfort zone and have tried and succeeded at activities that they have never done before. We look forward to working with dlr County Council and DLRSP on this project again in the future".

Andrew Kennedy - Youth Reach Teacher





Ciaran Casey focusses on fostering social inclusion to increase participation, and create meaningful pathways for marginalised and socially excluded groups.
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Food, Fun & Flicks at Malaysia Games 2026



Our ESF+ Social Innovation in Sport officer Ciaran, was delighted to partner on Saturday 24th October 2026 with the Embassy of Malaysia in Dublin, with everyone coming together through their shared love of badminton at the Ireland Malaysia Games 2026 and ESF+ Sports For Empowerment program.
Thank you to the embassy for providing delicious Nasi Lemak, the national dish of Malaysia which added a taste of home to a wonderful day celebrating sport, culture and community.
Thank you also, to everyone who made this event a success with over 80 people attending. Also to Mark and his team at EZ Badminton for their fantastic support with the facilities.







Festival of Inclusion - La Latina Community Cup



As part of the Festival of Inclusion, Ciaran was able to partner with the La Latina group to support the Community Cup with six teams playing from a diverse range of backgrounds as well as a team from Na Gaeil Nua Ireland's first explicitly international and migrant-inclusive official GAA club.
The day was a huge success with music and fun had by all and trophies handed out to the winners.

Education

A ***Sports Leadership Workshop*** was conducted by Kevin Spain with 14 members of the Ballogan Community on Tuesday 27th October 2026 in Ballogan Library.
This was a great event that provided examples of good/bad leadership, strategies for leading groups in the community and sport and also in their own lives.

EU Erasmus+ Development Trip



Learning from "Only You Determine Who You Are" Project Two-day study visit | Monday: Football • Tuesday: Basketball

The "only you determine who you are" project - uses 3 core sports – football, basketball and baseball as a means of addressing social disadvantage and helping children and young people build a more stable foundation for the future throughout Holland.

The 6 visiting ESF+ Officers focused on two of these sports, Football - Monday 12th Oct 2026 and Basketball - Tuesday 13th Oct 2026.

The project focuses particularly on young people facing barriers linked to disadvantaged neighbourhoods and integration, with multi-year support intended to make lasting social change possible. It's programme is delivered in partnership with the Dutch Ministry of Justice and Security.

The programme provides structured sport for young people aged 12–18 in practical and vocational education pathways. The trip was hugely beneficial and brought back many ideas to incorporate in DLR and wider nationally.

Up & Coming

Building on the success for the ***Spring 2026 football tournament***. Another football tournament will be held in Nov/Dec 2026 with the support of our partners Cuala GAA, DLR Local Authority Integration Team, DLR Community Sports Officers and the community garda unit in November/December 2026.

6 Weeks Yoga program has returned to the Tivoli Training Centre women's group from mid October in partnership with the Tivoli training centre and the Irish Probation Service.

SportAbility Updates with Gwen

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Gwen O'Looney *is the Sports Inclusion Disability Officer for DLR Sports Partnership. She is the point of contact for all of our inclusive programmes,events and information.*
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Rising Through the Ranks: Blackrock Student Chasing His Para Standing Tennis Dream



At just 18 years of age, Blackrock native, Cormac Goodman is already making his mark on the international Para Standing Tennis stage.

A student at Oatlands Secondary School and a member of Carrig Tennis Club, he has quickly become one of Ireland's emerging talents in a sport that continues to grow in popularity around the world. His journey into Para Standing Tennis began in an unexpected way.

"I watched a documentary called Foot Fault featuring comedian and former tennis coach Adam Hills, who was campaigning for the growth and inclusivity of Para Standing Tennis. Already committed to tennis after deciding to focus solely on the sport in 2023, Para Standing Tennis offered something unique. It gave me the opportunity to expand my game, compete on a level playing field and play alongside my peers."

That decision has already taken him around Europe representing Ireland.

In June 2025, he competed at the World Championships in Barcelona, reaching the last 16 in singles and the quarter-finals in doubles.

Since then, he has represented Ireland at the Anglo-Hibernian Cup, where the Irish team emerged victorious, and competed at international tournaments in Hungary and London, facing some of the worlds best players. One of his proudest sporting moments came at the Anglo-Hibernian Cup.



"Winning my match against Matthew Johnston helped Ireland win the Cup. That was a very special moment."

However, when asked about the one memory he will never forget, his answer came immediately.

"My first win at the 2025 World Championships against fellow Irish player James Naughton. I won 6-3, 6-3 and earned my world ranking points because of that match."

Throughout his journey, one source of support has remained constant.

"My family, especially my dad. He's always there supporting me. Seeing how happy he is after my matches means a lot."

The Boat Hub Collaboration

Inspired by the success of The Bike Hub, The Boat Hub was created to make Dún Laoghaire Harbour accessible to people with disabilities. At its heart is Grace, a fully wheelchair accessible electric boat, coordinated by Harbour Manager, Tim Ryan of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, Community Foundation Ireland and GreenKite.

Designed with accessibility at its core, Grace enables wheelchair users not only to enjoy free boat trips from May to September, but also to learn how to pilot the vessel themselves, promoting independence, confidence and inclusion. A qualified pilot accompanies every trip, which is free for people with disabilities and their companions.

Powered by an electric engine, Grace offers a quiet, sustainable way to experience the Harbour. More than a boating programme, The Boat Hub is breaking down barriers and creating new opportunities for people of all abilities to enjoy the freedom and adventure of being on the water.





Independent User Experience

Assisted User Experience

www.boathub.ie

info@boathub.ie

Woodlands for Health 2026: Connection, Confidence and Community

The Woodlands for Health Programme brought together Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Sports Partnership, Dublin Mountains Partnership, Mental Health Ireland, the HSE, and St John of God Community Services to support positive mental health through nature and physical activity.

Over ten weeks, 20 participants from Cluain Mhuire Mental Health Services explored local parks and woodland trails, building confidence, friendships, and wellbeing along the way.

The programme continues to demonstrate the powerful impact of partnership, social connection, and access to the outdoors.

Active Cities DUBLIN

Angela is our Active Cities Officer, working with partners across DLR and Dublin to deliver innovative projects and events, helping communities become more active!
AMONAGHAN@DLRCOCO.IE



DLRSP welcome Uniek Sporten Brabant from the Netherlands

UNIEK SPORTEN BRABANT

In October, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Sports Partnership welcomed representatives from BrabantSport in the Netherlands as part of an Erasmus+ funded project focused on increasing opportunities for people with chronic illness and disabilities to participate in sport and physical activity.



The visit brought together partners from BrabantSport, Waterford Sports Partneship and Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Sports Partnership to share knowledge and examples of good practice.
A key focus was Unique Sport, a Brabant-based initiative supporting people with disabilities and chronic health conditions to engage in sport.



The delegation visited a range of facilities and programmes across the county, including the Bike Hub, Dún Laoghaire Harbour, The Boat Hub, the Irish National Sailing & Powerboat School, Kilbogget Park and Cabinteely Athletics Track.



The exchange highlighted the importance of collaboration, inclusive programming and accessible facilities in creating sustainable opportunities for participation in sport and physical activity.



SportAbility Day

Saturday, 28 November
1pm–4pm
Sport Ireland Campus



SportAbility Day returns to the Sport Ireland National Indoor Arena on Saturday, 28 November 2026, from 1.00pm to 4.00pm.

This free event offers people with disabilities, their families, friends and support networks the chance to try a wide range of sports and activities, meet local clubs and learn about inclusive opportunities available across Dublin and Wicklow.

The day includes interactive “Come and Try” sessions, demonstrations, information stands and a dedicated Quiet/Sensory Hour from 1.00pm to 2.00pm. DJ Gordo will provide entertainment from 2.00pm onwards.

This is a great collaboration between neighbouring LSPs and Active Cities.

Book Tickets Today





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Kevina Malone is the Programmes Manager and oversees all programme development and is a point of contact for the wider team.
KMALONE@DLRCOCO.IE





dlr Elf Dash Returns This December!

Get ready to sprinkle some festive fun into your Christmas season as the dlr Elf Dash returns on Sunday, 6th December 2026!

This family-friendly event promises a fun-filled day of activity, laughter, and Christmas spirit as participants don their elf hats and take part in a festive dash suitable for all ages and abilities.

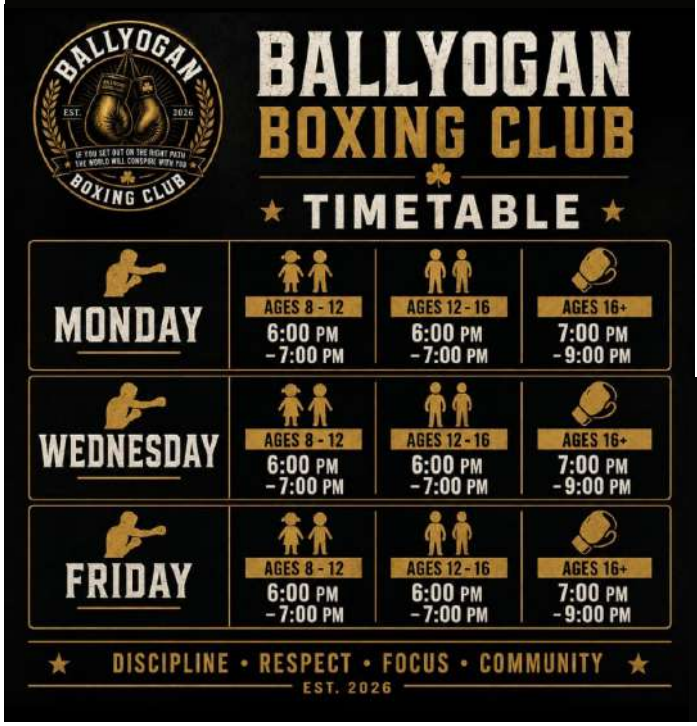
Whether you're running, jogging, wheeling, or walking, the Elf Dash is all about getting active, spending time together, and embracing the joy of movement during the holiday season.

The Christmas period can be a challenging time to stay active, but even small amounts of exercise can make a big difference. Taking part in events such as the dlr Elf Dash can help improve physical health, boost mood, increase energy levels, and provide valuable opportunities for families and communities to connect outdoors.

Hosted by Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Sports Partnership, the Elf Dash is a fantastic way to kick-start the festive season while supporting positive health and wellbeing for all.

Date: Sunday, 6th December 2026
Time: From 4:15pm
Tickets: On sale now!

A Knockout Addition to the Community as Ballyogan Boxing Club Opens Its Doors



Founded by local volunteer coaches including Aaron Wall, Ballyogan Boxing Club opened in August 2026, offering boxing classes for children, adults, and women in a welcoming and inclusive environment. A great opportunity to improve fitness, build confidence, and learn new skills.

Ballyogan Parish Hall | Contact Aaron - 085 840 8758

Louise is our Community Sports Development OFiicer and also our Women in Sport Lead. Find out more about her work, Scan the QR Code here.



Women's Beginner Sailing Programme Makes Waves in DLR



This September, 20 women took part in the DLR Sports Partnership Women's Beginner Sailing Programme, delivered in partnership with INSS. The programme provided an accessible introduction to sailing while giving participants the opportunity to achieve their RYA Keelboat Level 1 Certificate.

Participants developed sailing knowledge, practical skills and confidence, while enjoying the social benefits of learning alongside other women.

A Level 2 course is planned for Spring 2027, providing a clear pathway for those who wish to continue their sailing journey and become more involved in the sport.

The success of the programme highlights the growing interest in women's sailing opportunities across Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown and the importance of creating accessible pathways into lifelong participation in sport and physical activity.



Final Tea Dance of 2026



November marked the conclusion of the DLR Sports Partnership Tea Dance Programme, which brought together more than 800 older adults across four events in 2026. Participants enjoyed afternoons of dancing, music, refreshments, and great company.

Over the past three years, the Healthy Ireland funded programme has helped older adults stay active, social, and connected within their communities.

While the programme has now concluded under DLR Sports Partnership, we're delighted that Southside Partnership will continue the tea dances from next year, ensuring this popular social activity lives on.

A sincere thank you to everyone who attended and supported the programme over the years.





CLUB FOCUS

Every Newsletter edition we focus on highlighting great work done by many local sports clubs and organisations. This edition we look at St. Josephs Walking Football.

Older Adults: Come play the beautiful game and get your steps and a coffee in...



In just three short years...

In its 3 years of existence St Josephs have entered various tournaments culminating in our entrance into an AUL league this year playing against the likes of Shamrock Rovers, Bohemians, St Patricks Athletic and Bray Wanderers.
Whilst that is seen as the serious side of the sport, we also enter tournaments organised by Age & Opportunity under the auspices of Sport Ireland where players of all ability can play competitively if they so wish.
If you do not want to play competitively, everybody can enjoy a session every Tuesday & Thursday from 10.30am to 12pm.

Welcome Edition!

Walking Football at St Joseph's is a welcome addition to the community, proving that you are never too old to enjoy a game of football!

Sport, Friendship & Community Spirit

The Walking Football programme at St Joseph's FC aims to bring people together through sport, friendship, and community spirit.
Whether participants have played football all their lives or are complete beginners, everyone is encouraged to get involved. St Josephs currently have 34 people signed up and have had the likes of ex professional footballers Eugene 'Pooch' Davis & Sean 'Sheets' Sheehy in their ranks and a St Josephs stalwart Martin O'Connor.
We currently have a Walking Football Ireland international in our ranks in Kevin Fitzgerald.





Get Involved

Phone Kevin Fitzgerald
086 8175766

Scan for St. Joseph's Walking Football Facebook Page

The Walking Football programme marks another positive step in promoting health, inclusion, and community participation at St Joseph's FC.
There is a place for everyone, regardless of previous football experience or ability. The most important thing is to come along, get involved and enjoy the experience.

Meet Sam Hurley: DLR Sports Partnership's Newest Member

We're delighted to welcome Sam Hurley to the team as the newest Administrator with DLR Sports Partnership. Sam joins us at an exciting time as we continue to grow opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to get active across Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown.

We look forward to the energy, enthusiasm and skills Sam brings to the role, and we're excited to have him supporting the delivery of our programmes, events and initiatives. On behalf of everyone at DLR Sports Partnership, we wish Sam every success in his new position and look forward to working together in the years ahead.







"I'm delighted to be joining the Local Sports Partnership team as the new Administrator. Sport has always been a big part of my life. I studied Sports & Exercise Management in UCD during my college years.

Through my studies, I developed a strong interest in how sport can positively impact individuals and communities, and I'm excited to now be working in a role that supports participation and engagement in sport across the county.

Most recently, I was working with the IRFU, and I'm looking forward to bringing that experience with me as I start this new chapter with the Local Sports Partnership.

Outside of work, you'll usually find me watching football or keeping up with the latest action across a wide range of sports. Whether it's a club match, a major international event, or anything in between, I enjoy following sport but am currently suffering from being a lifelong United fan...

I'm looking forward to getting to know our partners, clubs, and participants over the coming months, and I'm excited to contribute to the great work being done by the Local Sports Partnership.

I look forward to meeting many of you soon!"

Sam

A word from Shane McArdle - DLR Sports Coordinator

"As we come to the end of another year, I would like to thank our Board, staff, partners, volunteers, clubs, schools and community organisations for their continued support and collaboration.

Together, we have created more opportunities for people of all ages and abilities across Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown to participate in sport and physical activity, helping to build healthier, more active and more connected communities.

This year has seen tremendous engagement across our programmes and initiatives, and these achievements are a reflection of the commitment and enthusiasm of everyone involved.

On behalf of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Sports Partnership, I wish you and your families a peaceful Christmas and a happy, healthy and active New Year."

Shane



VOLUNTEERS IN SPORT AWARDS 2026

Nominations are now open

Scan the code to find out more

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NATIONAL NETWORK OF 29 LOCAL SPORTS PARTNERSHIPS

SPORT IRELAND LOCAL SPORTS PARTNERSHIPS

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