High Performance Report
Irish Orienteering Association
Annual General Meeting
2017

2016 was a busy year for the National Team. In addition to the World Championships, there was also the European Championships and World University Championships.

Events that the National Team participated in during the past year:

European Orienteering Championships 2016 – Czech Republic (May)
A team of 7 represented Ireland at this competition:

- Cillín Corbett
- Regina Kelly
- Eoin McCullough
- Colm Moran
- Seamus O'Boyle
- Conor Short
- Ruairí Short
- Nicolas Simonin

Seamus O'Boyle withdrew from the team before it travelled due to an injury.

Notable results was Nicolas Simonin finishing 24th in the Sprint, with the Men's Relay team finishing in 22nd place.

WOC Selection Races 2016 & WOC Training Camp – Sweden (June)
12 people attended selection races that were held in Strömstad at the beginning of June. A training camp in preparation for WOC also took place, with training both before and after the selection races.

World Orienteering Championships 2016 – Sweden (August)
Held over a week last August the World Championships are the most important event on the National Team's calendar every year.

The Irish Team at the 2016 World Championships was:

- Olivia Baxter (Sprint & Sprint Relay)
- Cillín Corbett (Sprint)
- Roisín Long (Relay)
- Áine McCann (Relay)
- Jonathan Quinn (Sprint Relay)
- Niamh O'Boyle (Sprint, Sprint Relay, Middle, Long & Relay)
- Caoimhe O'Boyle (Sprint & Sprint Relay)
- Kevin O'Boyle (Sprint & Sprint Relay)
- Nicolas Simonin (Sprint, Middle, Long & Relay)

- Conor Short (Relay)
- Ruairí Short (Relay)

Featured Results
Sprint Relay – The Irish Team finished in 25th place.
Sprint – Nicolas Simonin finished in 23rd place.
Long – Nicolas Simonin finished in 29th place and Niamh O'Boyle in 55th place.
Middle – Nicolas Simonin finished in 37th place and Niamh O'Boyle finished in 54th place.
Relay – The Women's Team finished in 24th place and the Men's Team also finished in 24th place.

Based on the combined results of 2016 and 2015, the Irish Men's team have secured promotion to Division 2 for 2017. This means one extra starting place for the Middle and Long Distance Races.

The Rocky Orienteering Circus (WOC spectator races) was held in conjunction with the World Championships which resulted in there being a lot of Irish support for the team. For this the team would like to express their gratitude.

World University Orienteering Championships 2016 – Hungary (July/August)
This competition took place at the end of July and beginning of August. In conjunction with Student Sport Ireland the following were selected to run:
- Niamh Corbett
- Roisín Long
- Aoife McCavana
- Eoin McCullough
- Colm Moran
- Conor Short

Results achieved at the World Universities are worth mentioning. The Men's relay team finished in 15th place with the Women's team finishing in 16th. The Sprint Relay team was 18th. The best individual result was Eoin McCullough finishing in 33rd place in the Sprint.

On behalf of the IOA, I would like to thank John McCullough for being Team Manager at WUOC.

Senior Home International 2016 – Wales (October)
This event was held in Wales, with both the individual and relays taking place in Newborough Forest on Anglesey. Ireland finished in 4th place overall.

Squad Funding
The Squad receives the majority of its funding from the IOA. We are very grateful to the IOA for this funding, in particular for the additional support in 2016. In the coming year this funding will go towards entering Irish Teams in events (e.g. World Championships), and also towards training.

Athletes will still fund a large part of their attendance at the events they are selected for themselves, including attendance at selection races, this illustrates the commitment that the team have to representing their country and should be acknowledged. The support from their families must also be acknowledged.

Squad Development
Over the winter a High Performance Committee has been set up. This committee is made up of myself along with 5 members of the Squad. This will help facilitate an increased focus on squad development. To date two training weekends have already been held in 2017.

The main event for 2017 will be the World Championships which are being held in Estonia.

Darren Burke
Director of High Performance Orienteering
Irish Orienteering Association