

PR Swimming: Scully Secures Bronze in Eindhoven

Press Release

4th August 2014

James Scully has secured Ireland's first medal on the opening day of competition at the IPC Swimming European Championships in Eindhoven, Holland.

The 2013 World Championship Bronze medallist in the 200m Freestyle went into tonight's S5 100m Freestyle Final in 3rd place after swimming a lifetime best in the morning heats of 1:21.66. And, despite the best efforts of Russia's Roman Zhdanov, it was the man from Ratoath, Co. Meath who held on to that position in the Final and collected the Bronze medal in 1:22.40.

Spain's Sebastian Rodriguez was the Gold medallist in 1:17.05 with Great Britain's Andrew Mullen picking up Silver in 1:18.44.

A delighted Scully commented after the race *"I'm really happy, it wasn't the time I wanted but to secure a medal on the first day is brilliant, this is what it's all about. I'm going to concentrate on my main event now and am looking forward to the 200Free on Friday"*.

NAC Swim Clubs Ailbhe Kelly continued her good form in her senior international debut with another personal best in the S8 100m Backstroke Final. The 15 year old who had swam a lifetime best of 1:29.40 in the heats bettered that time to 1:29.18 in the final to place 5th overall.

Jonathan McGrath made his first appearance of the championships in the S8 100m Backstroke Final. The 400m Freestyle specialist touched 7th overall in 1:17.48. McGrath, who swims at Swim Ireland's Performance Centre at UL Sport in Limerick will race his main event tomorrow.

Ailbhe Kelly will also be back in action tomorrow in the Women's S8 400m Freestyle Final.

- END -

Irish Team for 2014 IPC Swimming European Championships

Ellen Keane, S9, SM9, SM9 classes, NAC swim club, from Clontarf, Dublin 3

Ailbhe Kelly, S8 class, NAC swim club, from Castleknock, Dublin 15

James Scully, S5 class, NAC swim club, from Ratoath, Co. Meath

Jonathan McGrath, S8, Limerick High Performance Swim team, from Killaloe, Co. Clare

Laurence McGivern, S9, Invictus Swim team, from Rostrevor, Co. Down

Provisional Competition Schedule - Irish team at IPC Swimming European Championships

(All times quoted are Irish time, schedule may be subject to change)

| Day 1 – Monday 4 th August 2014 | | | Results |
|--|------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | Ailbhe Kelly | S8 Women's 100m Backstroke Heat | 1:29.40 PB 5 th |
| | James Scully | S5 Men's 100m Freestyle Heat | 1:21.66 PB 3 rd |
| | Ellen Keane | S9 Women's 50m Freestyle FINAL | 30.62 PB 4 th |
| 5.13pm | Jonathan McGrath | S8 Men's 100m Backstroke FINAL | 1:16.98 7 th |
| 5.17pm | Ailbhe Kelly | S8 Women's 100m Backstroke FINAL | 1:29.18 PB 5 th |
| 5.22pm | James Scully | S5 Men's 100m Freestyle FINAL | 1:22.40 3 rd BRONZE Medal |

| Day 2 – Tuesday 5th August 2014 | | |
|---|-------------------|---|
| 8.52am | Jonathan McGrath | S8 Men's 400m Freestyle FINAL |
| 9.00am | Ailbhe Kelly | S8 Women's 400m Freestyle FINAL |
| Day 3 – Wednesday 6th August 2014 | | |
| 10.10am | Ellen Keane | SB9 Women's 100m Breaststroke FINAL |
| 4.21pm | Ellen Keane | S9 Women's 100m Freestyle FINAL |
| Day 4 – Thursday 7th August 2014 | | |
| No Irish athletes competing today | | |
| Day 5 – Friday 8th August 2014 | | |
| 8.00am | James Scully | S5 Men's 200m Freestyle Heat |
| 4.00pm | James Scully | S5 Men's 200m Freestyle FINAL* (<i>if qualifies from heat</i>) |
| 6.10pm | Ellen Keane | SM9 Women's 200m Individual Medley FINAL |
| Day 6 – Saturday 9th August 2014 | | |
| 8.00am | Laurence McGivern | S9 Men's 100m Backstroke Heat |
| 8.13am | James Scully | S5 Men's 50m Freestyle Heat |
| 8.49am | Ailbhe Kelly | S8 Women's 100m Freestyle FINAL |
| 8.53am | Ellen Keane | S9 Women's 100m Backstroke FINAL |
| 4.03pm | Laurence McGivern | S9 Men's 100m Backstroke FINAL* (<i>if qualifies from heat</i>) |
| 4.33pm | James Scully | S5 Men's 50m Freestyle FINAL* (<i>if qualifies from heat</i>) |
| Day 7 – Sunday 10th August 2014 | | |
| 8.38am | James Scully | S5 Men's 50m Backstroke Heat |
| 9.18am | Ellen Keane | S9 Women's 100m Butterfly FINAL |
| 4.24pm | Ailbhe Kelly | S8 Women's 50m Freestyle FINAL |
| 4.28pm | James Scully | S5 Men's 50m Backstroke FINAL* (<i>if qualifies from heat</i>) |

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Note to Editor:

All heats and finals from the event will be streamed live on www.paralympicsport.tv and there is also a website at www.eindhoven2014.com The event will also be covered live and via highlights on **Channel 4**.

Swim Ireland will be tweeting results, and issuing press releases daily with details of the Irish performances, and **Sportsfile** will be issuing images of the Irish swimmers reproduction fee free during the event.

About Classification: Classification is a unique and integral part of disability sport. It provides the structure to separate athletes with similar levels of impairments into groups, or classes as they are commonly known, so they can compete in fair and equal competitions against one another, and ensure that winning is determined by skill, fitness, power, endurance, tactical ability and mental focus. This same principle exists in non-Paralympic sports where athletes are classified according to age, gender or weight divisions to allow for as fair competition as possible.

In swimming classification the S refers to swimming, in particular the Freestyle, Butterfly and Backstroke events, the SB refers to Breaststroke and the SM refers to Swimming Medley, with the numbers denoting the level of impairment, the lower numbers the more severe the impairments and the higher less so.

For a full run down on all the classifications in swimming visit
<http://www.paralympic.org/swimming/classification>

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