

Annual General Meeting 2008 of the Mountaineering Council of Ireland

**Lynham's Of Laragh Hotel, Laragh, County Wicklow.
Saturday 16 February 2008**

The AGM of the MCI was held on Saturday 16th February 2008 at 4 p.m. This late afternoon timing allowed for a range of walks and other activities to take place earlier in the day including a well attended Member's Forum to consider current matters and a request from Michael Gibbons concerning MCI support against the dumping of building spoil from remedial works on Skellig Michael. This request was supported by those present.

Directly prior to the AGM, the guest speaker, Mary Davis, of Special Olympics Ireland, gave a talk on her work and the importance and use of volunteers, something that is inherent to the functioning of the excellent work around the Special Olympics and highly relevant to the MCI.

Approximately 45 Members attended the AGM, many back from a pleasant day in the hills. In his President's address, the outgoing President Declan O'Keefe, referred to the Annual Review document which had been circulated at the meeting and which is available. He highlighted the changes which had taken place in the last year with the appointment of a new Board of Directors and of a suite of staff ranging from Stuart Garland as Chief Officer, to dedicated Training, Access and Conservation, and Member Services Officers. Commenting that the MCI was now better than ever equipped to act on behalf of its membership, he thanked the staff for the much that had already been achieved and urged all present to work together for the good of the hillwalking and climbing community.

In standing down from his role, he paid special tribute to those who had supported him notably Patrick O'Sullivan as Treasurer, Se O'Hanlon as secretary until 2007 and latterly Dawson Stelfox in his role as Chairman of the re-formed Board of Directors. In closing, Declan made reference to the importance of giving something back to the mountains

whether it was through active conservation work such as that of Mountain Meitheal or simply through passing on the flame in our Clubs.

As Honorary Secretary of the new Board, Ross Millar also paid thanks to the work of the staff and highlighted the many changes that had taken place over the last year. He thanked his fellow Board Members and paid tribute to those who for various reasons had decided to stand down, namely Jane Fenlon, Moira Creedon and Declan O'Keefe. Commenting that the development of the new Strategic Plan meant that we were at a particularly exciting time in the evolution of the MCI, he urged new people to put themselves forward whether at Club, regional or national level and underlined the importance of new young blood in the activities of the organisation.

Patrick O'Sullivan, in his role as Honorary Treasurer, then presented the financial statements which showed that this had been a year where we had received extra funding but reminding us of the cost and indeed responsibilities of now employing 7 staff. For work reasons, Patrick himself was standing down as Honorary Treasurer but highlighted how much the role had changed with the employment of professional staff and promising his successor an easier time than he had had up until such appointments. A number of people made reference to the sterling work that Patrick had done in his role as Treasurer and his attention to detail for all the right reasons.

Following an earlier decision of the Board to rotate the role of Auditors, Buggy McLean Chartered Accountants were appointed to take over from Ken Whittaker who had been the MCI's Auditor for quite a number of years. Although not present, Patrick thanked Ken for his work and support over that time.

Following due process the following were elected to the Board for 2008/2009.

Alan Tees was proposed and agreed as President. In nominating Alan, Dawson Stelfox made reference to his standing in mountaineering and hillwalking circles as an all-round mountaineer and active member of both the North West Club Mountaineering Club.

Ross Millar was proposed and elected as Honorary Secretary for the incoming year and the following Directors were duly elected: Tomás Aylward, Ursula MacPherson, Vincent McAlinden, Deirdre McCarthy, Jerry O'Dwyer, and Patrick O'Sullivan

Immediately following the AGM, the incoming Board had a special meeting at which Ruairí O Conchúir was elected Chairman of the Board and Dawson Stelfox was seconded onto the Board. The post of Honorary Treasurer remains unfilled until the next Board meeting. At the following Board Meeting the post of Honorary Treasurer was filled by David Batt.

*Ross Millar
Honorary Secretary MCI
March 2008*