

UL rower reaches Barbados

Rachael Fincune
rfinucane@limerickindependent.com

THE operations manager of the UL Activity Centre is celebrating being part of a crew which recently completed the massive feat of rowing 5,000km across the Atlantic.

A jubilant Mike Jones was one of two Irish members on an international team-reaching Barbados on March 10 almost 58 days after setting off from Morocco.

Meanwhile, this week Limerickman Sean McGowan has less than 1,400km to go on his own epic attempt to be the first Irish person to row solo across the huge ocean.

Mr Jones, and fellow Cork native, Peter Williams, were on the six strong team on the boat 'Sara G' and each rowed 12 hours a day.

The Irish duo became the seventh and eighth Irishmen to achieve the goal.

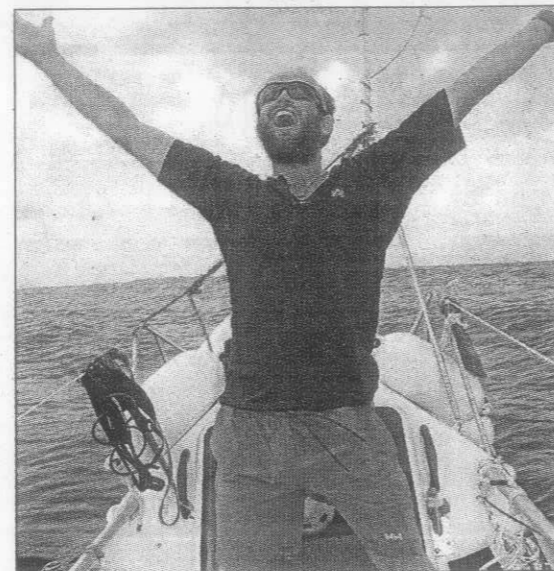
Mr Jones, a keen out-

door enthusiast and adventurer, applied for the crew even though he had never rowed before.

"I'd had the idea in mind for a few years but I figured I'd have a year or two to learn how to row, however the last September the opportunity came up and it seemed like the right time. I was very fortunate in my line of work to have the backing from my employers the UL Sport Department and to have access to the renowned sporting facilities of the university including the new boat house which hosts Irelands only indoor rowing tank," he said, adding that he drew on his experience at sailing and as a member of the Irish Coast Guard.

"I am delighted to have completed this challenge and I have to say I enjoyed almost every moment of it, there were so many highs and of course some lows but it was an amazing experience."

In the coming weeks, UL President, Professor Don Barry, is expected to host a reception in the university to honour the achievement.



WE DID IT! Mike Jones celebrates in Barbados

Mr Jones was also raising money for Limerick's Milford Hospice and Marymount Hospice in Cork and donations are still coming in.

Mr McGowan, while weak from his grueling effort, is said to be in good spirits and according to his webpage, "his form has definitely picked up" since he went under the 1,000 miles to go mark and he is making great progress since. He must feel like he

is on the home stretch now with around four weeks left to go...a skip when you consider he has 12 weeks behind him!"

He has raised over €8,600 and counting for charity, Soweto Connection.

He is regularly updating his progress via Facebook and www.atlantic09.com.

To read Mr Jones' account of his journey or make donations, see www.atlantic5000.com

Coffee morning for Special Olympics

THERE will be a fund-raising coffee morning in Bobby Byrnes' Bar on O'Connell Avenue in aid of Special Olympics Ireland tomorrow, Thursday March 25, between 9am and 11am. A spokeswoman said: "We would really appreciate your support for a very worthy event. So please come and enjoy some freshly brewed coffee and freshly baked scones/pastries whilst making your donation to the Special Olympics!"

Family crafts day

LIMERICK City Gallery will hold a Family Easter Crafts Day on Thursday April 8. Facilitated by Mariethers Schulze, the event will run from 11.30am to 1pm and from 2 to 3.30pm. In connection with the exhibition 'Sustainable Future's this workshop uses

and recycles waste materials. Bring in Easter egg boxes, foil, egg boxes, and other reusable materials to create new objects. Family Days are free; booking is recommended. Children must be accompanied. For more information, see <http://gallery.limerick.ie/>.

Commemorating 1916

THE annual 1916 commemoration, organised by Sinn Féin, will take place in Limerick on Easter Sunday, April 4. The parade will assemble outside the Munster Fair Tavern at 12

noon and proceed from there to the Republican plot at Mount St Laurence Cemetery. The main speaker will be Cllr Maurice Quinlivan. All are welcome to attend.

Macra Easter Ball at Woodlands

LIMERICK Macra will hold its Easter Ball in the Woodlands Hotel Adare on April 4 at 7pm. This is one of the most important dates in the Macra calendar with members and friends travelling from near and far to meet local Macra members. For queries contact Siobhan Dunne on 086-8667032 or Anna Holland on 087-7822135.

Production lines at Saab are back in business as Spyker Cars comes to the rescue



The new Saab 9-5 saloon, first off the line following Spyker Cars' rescue of Saab from a proposed shut-down by General Motors.

THE production lines at Saab's Trollhättan factory in Sweden plant began rolling again this week following the rescue by Spyker Cars from a proposed General Motors closure of the business.

Saab says that the first cars to be built by Saab as an independent company will soon be delivered to customers.

First on the line was a new Saab 9-5 saloon, destined to join a test fleet prior

to the model's official launch later this year.

Further down the line was a Saab Convertible, now also being produced in Trollhättan as part of the concentration of Saab operations in Sweden.

With the introduction of the new 9-5 SportCombi next year, a total of five model lines will be produced at the plant.



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2009	Honda Civic 1.4 5dr	€18,950	€1,500	€17,450
2007	Toyota Rav 4 2.0 5dr	€19,950	€1,500	€18,450
2007	Kia Sorento 2.5TD GLS	€23,950	€2,000	€21,950
2007	Honda Accord 2.2 Dsl Ex	€18,450	€1,500	€16,950

€10,000 - €15,000		Retail Price	Scrappage Available	Scrappage Price
2009	Honda jazz 1.2 5dr	€14,750	€1,000	€13,750
2009	Peugeot 308 1.4 5dr S	€14,450	€1,500	€12,950
2008	Nissan Tida 1.4 4dr	€11,950	€1,500	€10,450
2008	Opel Astra Auto 1.6 H/B	€11,950	€1,500	€10,450