

# Thomond Swim cements place in Limerick's sporting calendar

■ Fifty swimmers take the plunge as event revived in 2007 after 20 years goes from strength to strength

Anne Sheridan

THEY CAME from Cratloe, Coonagh and Killaloe, but in the end it was a man from Kildare who was the fastest person in the Thomond Swim race.

Over 100 people turned out this Wednesday night to watch nearly 50 swimmers taking to the waters of the River Shannon during the revived Thomond Swim.

Mayor of Limerick, Cllr Maria Byrne blew the whistle as swimmers began the handicapped race, where swimmers entered the waters at a time according to their ability.

The competition was immense, said Thomond Swim PRO John Garrett, as all wanted to look back and say they won this year's swim.

"Even describing the route engenders a sense of pride in the proud history of this great place," said Mr Garrett.

"It was absolutely wonderful to see Clancy Strand and Howley's Quay lined with people. The race is now well and truly embedded in Limerick's sporting calendar," he said.

After completing the 1.7km swim, Geraldine Hayes from Montpellier and Andrew Flanagan from Galway were the first female and male swimmers home, coming in a

time of 40 minutes and 51 seconds, and 26 minutes and four seconds respectively.

However, the fastest swimmers were Gavin Doran, from Kildare, and Jillian Coll, a member of Limerick Masters Swimming Club.

Ms Coll completed the race in 28 minutes and 53 seconds, while Mr Doran, who swims with the Aer Lingus club, was more than five minutes ahead, coming in at 23 minutes and 18 seconds.

Ms Coll has previously set Irish records in the 50m breaststroke, which she subsequently smashed in Gothenburg at the world championships.

The majority of those who took part are members of the Limerick Masters Swimming Club, but others travelled from Dublin, Cork, Galway and Athlone to take part in the race.

Now in its third year, the event was revived in 2007 after a break of more than 20 years, after being initiated in the 1950s. The organisers wished to thank Mayor Byrne for opening the race, the ESB for managing the water flow, Precision time keeping, Limerick Marine Search and Rescue, Nenagh and Limerick kayak clubs, St Michael's rowing club and Clohessy's bar.



Brian Fitzgerald, Coonagh, who was the first to start in the Thomond Swim waits for the whistle from Mayor Maria Byrne at St Michael's Rowing Club

PICTURE: DAVE GAYNOR



Anthony Hoare, Grange, Paul Kearney, Cratloe, and Tommy Molone, Cecil Street, at the finish of this year's Thomond Swim which attracted 50 swimmers



Mayor Byrne presents the trophy to Geraldine Hayes, Montpellier, after she finished first in this year's swim

## Two Mile Inn is set to close its doors

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➔ because it was judged to have "a reasonable prospect of survival" at the time, while parent company DG Hotels was placed into examinership due to sizable debts. DG Hotels is owned by Brendan and Hilda Dunne, who live on North Circular Road. The family-owned business had revenues of more than €36m in 2006.

However, the continuing downturn in the economy, plus an overstock of local hotels and declining tourism numbers, have impacted further on the Two Mile Inn. It is also thought likely that Bank of Scotland's recent decision to pull out of Ireland had a significant impact on the business.

Mr O'Riordan was not available for comment at the time of going to print.



Denis Leamy will captain the side against Gloucester

## Munster team for Gloucester match

The exciting Johnie Murphy will make his debut for Munster in their pre-season clash with Gloucester at Musgrave Park this Friday night (7pm).

Twenty five-year-old Murphy joined Tony McGahan's squad during the summer from the Leicester Tigers on a two-year contract.

Limerick-based Murphy featured for Ireland in their summer fixtures against the Barbarians at Thomond Park and against the New Zealand Maori.

Johnie Murphy made his debut for the Leicester Tigers in September 2006 against Harlequins at The Stoop and after 19 appearances ended the season with a call up to the Ireland Churchill Cup squad.

It will be Munster's final game before the competitive season begins with the opening round Magners League fixture against Italian newcomers Aironi Rugby at Musgrave Park on Saturday, September 4.

Munster: F Jones; D Howlett; J Murphy, S Tuitupou, I Dowling; P Warwick, P Stringer; W du Preez, D Varley, T Buckley; I Nagle, D Ryan; A Quinlan, T O'Donnell, D Leamy capt. Replacements: D Fogarty, Dave Ryan, S

## Woman is awarded redundancy payment

THE brother of Limerick Independent owner Declan Moylan - Geoff Moylan - had an action brought

under the Redundancy Payments Acts for employment which lasted from May 23, 2006, to February 6

## Elaine and Louise do us proud in Tralee

Petula Martyn

ELEGANT in a light blue Grecian-style dress, Elaine Rael stepped out on stage in the dome and proved

