

Clara & District Recreation Association CLG

Wellness through Water Fitness



Annual Report 2018



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Introduction

Established in the 70's Clara Swimming Pool continues to serve the people of Clara and neighbouring areas. Operated by a voluntary board of directors this community owned facility is a limited company not having a share capital, this means that all income generated at the pool goes directly back into the daily operating & maintenance of the pool.

Following a lengthy campaign by board members over many years the pool underwent a major refurbishment in 2015 underpinned by a €1.2m investment mainly from the Government, National Lottery & Offaly County Council. This has resulted in significant improvements for pool users and visitors with first class changing area, viewing area and reception area.

Local employment is a key element of the pool operation and this is made possible with the support of the POBAL community service programme. The future success of the Clara swimming pool however depends on the continued support of the whole community coupled with the regular pool users from the surrounding areas including schools and special needs groups.

In addition, the participation and involvement of **new people to serve on the voluntary board of management** will be vital to ensuring the future of Clara Swimming Pool

Directors 2018

Cllr. Frank Moran: Chairperson

Tim McMahan: Secretary

Chris Sheridan Treasurer

Cllr. Dervill Dolan

Louise O'Keeffe

Theresa Fitzpatrick

While they are not directors of the company the board wishes to extend special thanks to Yvonne Tierney and Michael McKeon for their ongoing work to promote swimming in Clara.

Operation of Board

The board of directors meet monthly to review financial & operational reports to ensure the sustainability of this important local enterprise in Clara. Board members also serve on several sub committees dealing with Finance, Staffing and Fund Raising. The board support the work of the manager and all staff to manage & operate the pool in a safe, professional, friendly & efficient manner on behalf of the whole community.

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Annual Financial Statement

The AGM of Clara & District Recreation Association CLG was held on 8th May 2018. The Director Report and Financial Statement for the year ended 31st December 2017 prepared by Joseph T Mullen & Co was approved.

An abridged copy of the audited accounts for 2017 is available on request.

Staff 2018

CSP Funded

Michael Keating:	Manager		
Frances McKeon:	Head Lifeguard	David Feely:	Senior Lifeguard
Natasha McKeon	Lifeguard	Mark Delaney	Reception/cleaning

Pool Funded (casual staff)

Ms Katie Rigney:	Lifeguard	Mr Keith McCarthy:	Lifeguard
Ms Clodagh McKeon:	Lifeguard	Ms Haley Lynch:	Lifeguard
Ms Natasha Sims:	Lifeguard	Ms Tamara Murray:	Lifeguard
Ms Nicola Higgins:	Lifeguard	Ms Jade Devine:	Lifeguard
Mr Sean Tierney	Lifeguard	Mr Tadhg Molony	Reception

Clara Swimming Pool is a registered training centre with both the Royal Lifesaving Society and Swim Ireland. All of our lifeguards undergo compulsory training each month and through their professionalism & dedication Clara Swimming Pool is widely regarded as one of the best places to learn how to swim. All staff have completed the Garda vetting process. The Board of Directors wish to acknowledge the dedication, professionalism and loyalty of our staff at Clara Community Swimming Pool, we are very lucky to have them.

Health & Safety

Our health & safety record to date has been excellent with a small number of minor incidents reported during the year. The safety of pool users is our No.1 priority, our lifeguards are fully trained and continue a regular basis to refresh their key skills.

Pool users have a duty of care to themselves and others to comply with the instructions of our lifeguards to follow the safety precautions in place. Parents and other adult visitors who accompany young children need to be aware of the safety rules, and to assist the pool staff to ensure that nobody is placed at risk.

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Activities

Efforts were made during the year to enhance the range of activities provide at the pool and the current timetable included the following:

Children's Lessons Ladies Only Lessons Adult Lessons

Aqua Aerobics Aqua Sculpt Pilates

Public Swims Lane Swims School Swims

The pool is also available for private hire for birthdays & special occasions and is used by groups including Special Needs and Swimming Clubs

Pool Tank defect

Pool users will be aware of the damage present in the pool tank. The result is that paintwork continues to degrade coupled with cracks in the seal on the floor of the tank. Immediate steps were taken to ensure that nobody was placed at risk and following consultation with our project manager it was decided to deploy rubber mats in some locations to eliminate any risk of injury to pool users.

While the root cause has not yet been determined the issue first came to light immediately after the pool reopening following completion of the refurbishment work in late 2015. Because of prolonged engagement by our project manager and the design team remedial work was undertaken by one of the subcontractors in mid-2016 to rectify the problem. This operation however was not successful.

Throughout the past 30 months there has been ongoing engagement between our project manager and the main contractor to find a solution with much of the focus on the subcontractor who carried out sealing work in the pool tank. Efforts are ongoing to find a resolution and Cllrs. Dolan & Moran are engaged with Offaly County Council to support the board of directors on this issue

The board wish to apologise for any inconvenience that may be caused by this problem.

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POBAL

The Community Services Programme gives grants to community businesses that delivers services and creates employment for people from disadvantaged groups. Funder by the Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection and managed by POBAL, the CSP supports over 400 community companies and co-operatives around the country.

Clara Swimming Pool successfully renewed its contract with POBAL for the period 2018-2020 to ensure that our local community retained the benefits on having a local swimming pool coupled with employment for a manager and 2.5 equivalent full-time employees.

Work will commence early next year on the first draft of our next business plan in preparation of our application for a contract to cover the period 2021-2023.

Plans

Work of the provision of a privacy screen for the shower area was completed earlier this year. Funding is being sought under the Sports Capital Programme to provide a mechanical lifting chair to assist people with restricted physical ability to access the pool facilities.

The board have identified several key projects that need to be implemented as soon as funding becomes available including:

- Upgrading the car parking facilities with tarmac surface and lighting
- Additional changing facilities

Offaly County Council

The Board continues to work in partnership with Offaly County Council under the Swimming Pools programme.

The board wish to acknowledge the financial support received from the council and the advice and assistance from Monica Cleary & Frank Heslin during the year.

Clara Community Playground

Weekly safety inspections were carried out during the year. The board secured funding from the RAPID programme earlier this year to carry out some essential maintenance works and it was completed by Murphy Playgrounds in April

ROSPA carried out its annual inspection in September 2018 and overall the findings were very positive with some remedial work to be carried out to address some minor defects.