

# IRISH HOCKEY READER



Volume 1 Issue 2 December 2011



# 2012

## IIHF Hockey Development Camp



### INTERNATIONAL ICE HOCKEY FEDERATION

The 2012 IIHF Hockey Development Camp will take place in Vierumaki, Finland on 15th July - 22nd July 2012. This will be the fourth Women's Hockey Development Camp and Ireland is one of several countries that has made a commitment to participate in the camp. Further details can be found on [www.iiha.org](http://www.iiha.org) and anyone interested in submitting an application to attend the camp should contact the IIHA via [office@iiha.org](mailto:office@iiha.org) before Sunday, 5th February 2012



**W**e are pleased to present the second edition of the IIHA's newsletter, the Irish Hockey Reader. Unfortunately, there has been a slight delay in the publication of this December issue. Nevertheless, we are sure everyone will find something of interest.

In this latest edition, we launch several new features which we hope to include in future issues. First, we are pleased to welcome a message from the IIHA's President, William Fay, along with the Club & Team Noticeboard section. This will allow William and future Presidents to communicate directly with the IIHA's members and supporters on a regular basis. Meanwhile, the Noticeboard gives individual clubs and teams of the IIHA an opportunity to have their news and notices published in the Irish Hockey Reader.

As always, we feature several updates and notices including news on recent appointments to the staff of the Irish National Teams, an update on the new ice and inline hockey rink in Santry, Co. Dublin as well as a positive update on the story of Sean Lyne and his family and friends' tremendous push to raise money to send him to Texas for life saving cancer treatment.

Also included are some reviews of recent

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IIHA events including the 2011 InLine Hockey Halloween Cup, the commencement of the 2011/2012 IIHA InLine Hockey League, the 2011/2012 Women's InLine Hockey League and the Junior Hockey Day at The Odyssey Arena in November. Also featured is news of the IIHA's Officials officiating games in the EIHL along with some feedback from the officials themselves. A photo recap of 2011 can also be found in this edition.

Regrettably, we must also mention that recent weeks and days have seen the loss of dearly loved members of the hockey community. Both Genevieve Veldhuis and Margaret McCann sadly passed away and they will each be missed tremendously. As you read through this latest edition of the Irish Hockey Reader, we ask that you keep their family and friends in your thoughts and prayers at these difficult times.

Lastly, we would like to thank all those who helped with the publication of this latest edition of the Irish Hockey Reader, particularly each of the photographers who gave permission for their work to be used.

## Dear IIHA Members and Irish Ice Hockey fans alike...

This is the second edition of the Irish Hockey Reader and everyone is welcome. In this edition, everyone is kept up to date regarding all of the IIHA's Ice and InLine Hockey events. Enjoy your reading everyone and please feel free to encourage family and friends to visit the IIHA website and read the IIHA's newsletters for themselves.

Following on from the well advertised IIHA events of InLine Hockey, there are both Men's and Women's InLine Hockey games being played in Dublin, Athlone, Belfast and the next round of Women's games are due to take place in Cork. I encourage everyone to give the sport of InLine Hockey a try and please contact the IIHA Office for further details if anyone is interested.

I am happy to confirm to everyone that final preparations for the opening of the ice rink in Santry are under way and the IIHA hope to have this facility ready for use by IIHA members in early 2012. As you will see from the update contained in this edition of the Irish Hockey Reader, there are still some of the finer details to be hammered out by the facility's management but please keep an eye on the IIHA's website for the latest information.

As noted previously by the IIHA and in accordance with what took place at the 2011 IIHA AGM, both Mr. Will Fitzgerald and Mr. Gary Harvey have now taken up their respective positions on the IIHA Executive Committee having been co-opted onto the committee. I am happy to report that both Will and Gary have settled into their respective positions well and are working very hard with the other officers of the IIHA for the development of Ice and InLine Hockey in Ireland.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Tony Griffin and Mr. Jim Tibbetts for their many years of dedicated service to the IIHA and for all their achievements with the Senior Men's Irish National Team. At this point, I would like to welcome on board the new General Manager and Head Coach of the Senior Men's Irish National Team; Mr. Jim Pepper and Mr. Kenny Redmond, respectively. I would also like to welcome Mr. Aaron Guli as the new Head Coach of the U18 and U20 Men's Irish National Teams. Aaron is new to the IIHA but brings a wealth of coaching experience from North America with him. I would ask everyone



associated with Irish Ice Hockey to welcome and support the new staff appointments of the Irish National Teams. I am very much looking forward to working with Jim, Kenny and Aaron.

In December, it was announced that the IIHA had reached an agreement with Mr. Andy French and the Elite League giving IIHA Officials with IIHF Licences permission to officiate as linesmen in Elite League games taking place in Belfast from January 2012. This is a great opportunity for the IIHA and the Officials and further details on this achievement can be found inside this newsletter.

I would like to remind everyone about the upcoming IIHA EGM that was discussed in detail at the 2011 IIHA AGM. Please keep an eye on the IIHA's website because details will be released shortly and it is very important that as many IIHA members attend as possible.

Finally, I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Genevieve Veldhuis who sadly passed away recently. Genevieve will be remembered by all of us for her great character and high spirits both on and off the ice. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends at this time. Regrettably, I must also extend my deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Margaret McCann who has passed away in recent days. Margaret will be dearly missed by all of us and my thoughts are with her husband, Aidan, and children Elaine and Brian at this difficult time.

On behalf of the IIHA, I hope you have had a pleasant Christmas and would like to wish you all a Happy New Year.

Kind Regards,  
William Fay



## IIHA Staff

### Executive Committee

William Fay (President)  
Vytautas Lukosevicius (Vice-President)  
Dean Kelly (General Secretary)  
Gary Harvey (Treasurer)  
Will Fitzgerald (Director of Player Operations)

### Officers

Mark Bowes (Public Relations)  
Martin Grant (Editor)  
Gerard Roche (IT Manager)

### Directors

Seanna Conway  
Kevin Kelly  
Vytautas Lukosevicius

Irish Ice Hockey Association,  
Sport HQ,  
13 Joyce Way,  
Parkwest Business Park,  
Dublin 12.

Telephone: +353 - 1 - 6251157  
Fax: +353 - 1 - 6865213  
Website: <http://www.iiha.org>  
Email: [office@iiha.org](mailto:office@iiha.org)  
Company No.: 488344

### Photography Contributors

Michael Cooper Photography:  
[www.michaelcooper.com](http://www.michaelcooper.com)

Derek Tuite Photography:  
[www.derektuitephotography.ie](http://www.derektuitephotography.ie)

Sean Pepper Photography:  
Check out Facebook



## New GM & Head Coaches Appointed

The IIHA are delighted to announce that it has recently appointed Jim Pepper and Kenneth Redmond as General Manager and Head Coach of the Senior Men's Irish National Team, respectively. Meanwhile,

Aaron Guli has taken on the Head Coach role for both the U18 and U20 Men's Irish National Teams.

Each will bring a wealth of experience to

the roles and are eager to begin their work with the Irish National Teams. The IIHA are extremely pleased to have each of them on board and wish them every success in their roles.

### Open Tryouts: Senior Men's Irish National Team

Open tryouts for the Senior Men's Irish National Team will take place at The Odyssey Arena in Belfast, Northern Ireland shortly. Further details can be found on [www.iiha.org](http://www.iiha.org).

org and anyone interested in attending must contact the team's General Manager, Jim Pepper, via [jimpepper@iiha.org](mailto:jimpepper@iiha.org) beforehand.

### 2011/2012 IIHA Membership & Insurance Fees

The IIHA would like to remind everyone that all memberships for the 2010/2011 season have now expired and all members (both playing and non-playing) are required to renew their membership with the IIHA for the 2011/2012 season.

Any members who have not yet renewed their membership will no longer be covered under the IIHA's insurance policies for IIHA sanctioned events.

The fees for the 2011/2012 season are as follows:

#### PLAYERS OVER 18

IIHA Membership Fee = €15 (only €10 to be paid if they paid €15 in '10/'11 season)  
IIHA Insurance Fee = €20 (only €10 to be paid if they paid €15 in '10/'11 season)

#### PLAYERS UNDER 18

IIHA Membership Fee = n/a  
IIHA Insurance Fee = €10 (only €5 to be paid if they paid €5 in '10/'11 season)

#### NON-PLAYING MEMBERS

IIHA Membership Fee = €15 (only €10 to be paid if they €15 in '10/'11 season)

#### TEMPORARY ONE DAY MEMBERSHIP

Per Player Per Day/Event = €5

Further information on the IIHA Membership and Insurance Fees can be found on [www.iiha.org](http://www.iiha.org).

Should anyone require further information, have any questions or concerns then please do not hesitate to contact the IIHA via [office@iiha.org](mailto:office@iiha.org).

## Volunteers Required For Important Positions

There are a number of important positions within the IIHA that we require volunteers for. If you are interested in helping out in any of the roles below, please contact the IIHA by email on [office@iiha.org](mailto:office@iiha.org) or by phone on +353-1-6251157.

- League Committee Chairman
- League Committee Vice-Chairman / Secretary
- League Committee Administration Officer
- National Children's Officer
- Junior Development Officer
- Women's Development Officer
- Northern Ireland Officer

We are also seeking contributors to help with writing articles and news stories to report on IIHA events. We are also seeking photographers to take photographs at IIHA events. If you are interested in contributing and helping the IIHA out in this regard, please contact the IIHA's Editor, Martin Grant, on [martingrant@iiha.org](mailto:martingrant@iiha.org).

**FLYERS ICE HOCKEY CLUB**

The Flyers are one of Ireland's longest established Ice Hockey Teams and we are looking forward to having more and more players register for the team. We are currently practising Inline Hockey every Thursday night at the Ballyfermot Leisure Centre between 19:00-20:00. The Flyers have decided to set the player registration fee to zero for the 2011/12 Season. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us by emailing [publicrelations@flyersicehockey.com](mailto:publicrelations@flyersicehockey.com) or one of these links:

- <http://www.flyersicehockey.com>,
- <http://www.facebook.com/IrishFlyers>,
- <http://www.youtube.com/user/IrishFlyers>,
- <http://twitter.com/FlyersIHC>

*UCC Coconutters*

The UCC Coconutters are a Women's InLine Hokey Team based in Cork and are part of UCC InLine Hockey which has both male and female players. We train on Mondays and Wednesdays from 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm in Pres Hall, Cork. All are welcome and some gear can be provided. Look us up on facebook (UCC InLine Hockey) or contact Fiona Ryan on 086-057-5046.

We will be hosting the 3rd Round of the Women's InLine Hockey League on Saturday, 18th February 2012 at Little Island Sports Complex, Little Island, Cork. Come along and check it out!

**DUNDALK BULLS ICE HOCKEY CLUB**

The Dundalk Bulls Senior Men's roller hockey team took part in the Hawks Halloween Cup on the 7th of November and won against a well prepared Hawks side. The Lady Bulls roller hockey team are doing quite well in the ladies league despite having a shortage of players. In recent games we managed a win against Belfast, drew against the Molly Malones and a defeat against UCC after tiredness began to kick in. Some of our Junior Bulls also had a great day out in the Odyessy Arena for the IIHA's Junior Hockey Day and they couldn't wait to get on the ice and of course watch the Belfast Giants play. A fun day was had by all. Our training is held on a Thursday night for all age groups at 7pm to 8.30pm in the Redeemer Family Resource Centre, Coxes Demense, Dundalk, Co. Louth

**DUBLIN ROVERS ICE & INLINE HOCKEY CLUB**

The Dublin Rovers are a new club based in Dublin and aim to take part in both ice hockey and inline hockey. Currently, we have a women's inline hockey team, the Molly Malones, training every Tuesday evening in Ballyfermot, Dublin 10 and new players are always welcome. We are also looking for new senior and junior players who might be interested in trying out the sport.

For further information on the women's team, please contact Seanna Conway ([tigertender33@hotmail.com](mailto:tigertender33@hotmail.com)) and for information on seniors and juniors, please contact Dean Kelly ([deankell25@hotmail.com](mailto:deankell25@hotmail.com)).

**Can't Wait for the Santry Rink To Open?**

In the meantime, if you are unable to wait any longer for a permanent facility to open in Ireland, why not get in some skating and hockey at some of the ice rinks around the country that are still open following the Winter period. Some ice rinks still remain open in Dublin while the Dundonald International Ice Bowl in Belfast, Northern Ireland is open all year round.

Alternatively, many of the IIHA's clubs and teams are now taking to InLine Hockey. There are teams all throughout the country and many of them are actively seeking new players. If you would like to get involved and give it a try, please contact the IIHA via [office@iiha.org](mailto:office@iiha.org) for further information.

**KILKENNY CITY STORM ICE & INLINE HOCKEY CLUB**

Over the holiday period, the Kilkenny City Storm Ice & InLine Hockey Club and their members were fully involved with Kilkenny On Ice at Cillin Hill. The club ran Learn To Play sessions every weekend from 7:30 am - 9:30 am for players aged 5 - 14 years old at the ice rink. The sessions were a huge success with between 15 - 25 juniors turning up for every session. The seniors were also training 2 - 3 times a week in the night time and all activities were fully supported and sponsored by the Kilkenny On Ice Company.

Coach Paul Cummins and some of the senior players as well as some of the Kilkenny On Ice staff recently took part in a 12 hour Skate-A-Thon in aid of a local charity and the Club's Junior team. This involved 12 hours on the ice, including a 1 hour junior game and a 2 hour senior game with no breaks. The Aislinn Adolescent Addiction Centre was the appointed charity along with the Storm's Junior Team who is in need of safety equipment and jerseys as well as goalie equipment due to the success of their Learn To Play program. The Skate-A-Thon was a success and a lot of money was raised for both causes.

The Kilkenny City Storm will now be getting back to inline hockey for both Seniors and Juniors. Anyone interested in getting involved can contact the club via email using [manager@kilkennycitystorm.com](mailto:manager@kilkennycitystorm.com) or Paul Cummins can be contacted by phone on 086-662-9873.

*Learn To Play At Cork On Ice*

*In Cork, the IIHA teamed up with some IHI members and Cork On Ice once again over the Christmas period to operate an 8 week programme aimed at children between 6 and 12 years of age. The programme was a major success and featured work both on and off the ice. They are now continuing the programme using InLine Hockey and if you would like to get your children involved, please contact Victor O'Brien on [victor@corkonice.com](mailto:victor@corkonice.com).*

**Does your team or club have a notice that you would like to have published in the Irish Hockey Reader such as upcoming events, fundraiser nights and training times? Send your notice to the IIHA's Editor, Martin Grant, via [martingrant@iiha.org](mailto:martingrant@iiha.org)**



**Update on Santry Ice/Inline Facility**

Following reports by the IIHA in recent months of a brand new ice and inline hockey facility to be opened in Dublin we would like to provide everyone with an update on the project.

Work at the building is continuing and everything is beginning to take shape. The dasher boards and plexi glass along with the piping system are now in place and are just awaiting connection to the plant system before the ice can be put in place. Meanwhile, the player and penalty bench areas are currently being built and will be completed in early February along with dressing rooms.

The management have informed the IIHA that there has been a delay in repairing some

damage to the plant room equipment. This was due to be completed in early December allowing for the ice to be ready for use in mid December. However, after consultations with the overseas engineers it was decided to leave these repairs until after the Christmas period.

These repairs are expected to be completed before the end of January which will allow for the ice to be put in place at the start of February. It is expected to start testing the plant and the grid in early February. Initially,

two changing rooms with shower and toilet facilities will be installed for training purposes.

It is intended that the facility's primary uses will be the programmes and competitions of the respective National Governing Bodies of the ice sports. The management are also working very closely with the city council's planning and roads departments in obtaining all the necessary permits to ensure that everything is up to code.





**The Halloween period saw lots of** hockey take place with both ice and inline hockey action. On Halloween Night, the IIHA's Dundalk Bulls B took on the Whalers in a friendly game in Belfast. While less than a week later, the Hawks InLine Hockey Team in conjunction with the IIHA organised and hosted the 2011 InLine Hockey Halloween Cup in Athlone.

## Ice Hockey Halloween Friendly

**The Bulls B took on the Whalers on** Monday, 31st October 2011 at the Dundonald International Ice Bowl in Belfast, Northern Ireland. This was a close encounter between two teams who have played each other several times over the years. For some, it was a chance to dust off the cob-webs while for others, it was another chance to put their skills to the test having been training at the numerous IIHA Pick-Up sessions in the weeks and months leading up to the game.

The Whalers took the lead early on in the first period through Paul Cummins. Six minutes later, they doubled their tally to take a two goal lead into the second period. Despite having some good opportunities to score, the Bulls were unable to find a way past Riley Gatensby. The Whalers outshot the Bulls 9 - 5 and took a two goal lead into the second period.

The Whalers scored their third and fourth goals of the game within the first six minutes of the second period. They then took two penalties in quick succession to give the Bulls a powerplay advantage for just over three minutes. For one of those minutes, the Bulls had a 5 on 3 advantage but couldn't make the most of the opportunity. The Whalers hung on and took a four goal lead into the third period.

It was in the third period that the Bulls began to click. Less than a minute after the puck was dropped, they had pulled one back and five minutes later they had another making it a two goal game. The action was fairly tight with both teams having chances. The Bulls in particular were pressing on the Whalers' goal and created several chances. However, it was the Whalers who scored next to put the contest beyond question. They added a sixth a few minutes later with the Bulls getting a consolation goal late in the game to finish off the scoring 6 - 3.

Final Score: Bulls B 3 - Whalers 6 (0 - 2, 0 - 2, 3 - 2)  
 SOG: 17 - 28 (5 - 9, 3 - 7, 9 - 12)  
 PIM: 2 - 4 (0 - 0, 0 - 4, 2 - 0)  
 Saves: P. Halasz (22/28) - R. Gatensby (14/17)



## 2011 InLine Hockey Halloween Cup

**On Sunday, 6th November 2011 the** IIHA in conjunction with the Hawks InLine Hockey Team based in Athlone, Co. Westmeath held the first ever InLine Hockey Halloween Cup. Four teams took part in what turned out to be a riveting day of hockey in Athlone. It is planned for the InLine Hockey Halloween Cup to be an annual IIHA event organized by the winners in the previous year. It will be a tradition started by the Hawks InLine Hockey Team from Athlone.

The Dundalk Bulls, Flyers IHC, Hawks and Dublin Rovers all took part with the Dundalk Bulls coming out victors after an emphatic 8 - 1 win over the Hawks in the final. The Hawks had tied 6 - 6 with the Bulls earlier in the day but couldn't hold on in the final. The game was closer than the score suggests. In the opening minutes of the game, the Bulls were awarded a penalty shot that was saved by the Hawks' goalkeeper. The Bulls then took the lead shortly after the penalty shot but the Hawks managed to equalise before the Bulls scored 7 unanswered goals.

In the 3rd/4th place play-off, the Rovers and Flyers matched up against one another for a second time in the day with the Rovers out for revenge having lost 5 - 3 in the earlier encounter. However, the Flyers took the lead early on and were leading 6 - 4 with less than three minutes left in the game. The Rovers pulled two goals back to tie things and with less than thirty seconds left in the game, it looked like they were heading to a penalty shootout. However, a last gasp goal sealed a 7 - 6 win for the Flyers and 3rd place in their first InLine Hockey tournament.

An excellent day was had by all and a huge thank you goes to the Hawks for organizing everything on the day as well as to all those who took part including the spectators.

### The final results:

- 10:00 - 10:40: Hawks 5 - 7 Rovers
- 10:40 - 11:20: Bulls 9 - 1 Flyers
- 11:20 - 12:00: Bulls 6 - 6 Hawks
- 12:00 - 12:40: Rovers 3 - 5 Flyers
- 12:40 - 13:20: Hawks 7 - 4 Flyers
- 13:20 - 14:00: Rovers 3 - 9 Bulls
- 14:30 - 15:10: Rovers 6 - 7 Flyers (3rd/4th Place Playoff)
- 15:20 - 16:00: Bulls 8 - 1 Hawks (Final)

### The final standings:

- Dundalk Bulls
- Hawks
- Flyers IHC
- Dublin Rovers





# IIHA JUNIOR HOCKEY DAY AT THE ODYSSEY

**With the assistance of the Belfast Giants**, the IIHA organised a Junior Hockey Day on Saturday, 26th November 2011 at The Odyssey Arena in Belfast, Northern Ireland. The day featured over 30 children taking part in a full day of hockey activities including a two hour session on the ice in the morning, a tour of The Odyssey Arena in the afternoon followed by a great Elite League game between the Belfast Giants and the Braehead Clan later in the evening. All throughout the day, lots of fun was had by everyone involved.

On arrival at the Arena it was straight to the dressing rooms for all of the participants who were assisted by the IIHA officials and volunteers as well as the parents and guardians. Once all of the Learn to Play equipment was brought into the rink the children were fitted, some for the first time, with full ice hockey protective equipment. Then it was time to hit the ice and the children were placed in groups according to their ages and skill level. Each of the groups was then assigned IIHA coaches who went through several drills with the players.

Once the two hour session had finished each of the participants were given a well-deserved IIHA T-shirt and goodie bag. Next the children handed back the Learn to Play equipment which was packed and moved to the bus without delay as everybody had a very important engagement with Pizza Hut!!! The next stop was a tour of the Odyssey Arena with our tour guide being none other than Belfast Giants' General Manager, Todd Kelman. Todd had a great rapport with all of the attendees and made sure that he showed the kids the rooms that Justin Bieber and Beyonce had recently occupied. Then it was a visit to the Belfast Giants' changing room where they got the chance to see the setup for a professional ice hockey team. At this time Todd introduced Belfast Giants defenseman Nick Kuiper & goaltender



Andrew Dickson. The two Giants' players happily posed for photographs and answered questions from several possible professional hockey players for the future.

Once the tour of the Odyssey had been completed it was then time to get ready for the main event of the day, the Belfast Giants game where they would take on the Braehead Clan. During the fast paced game all of those in attendance were amazed at the level of skill of the players from both teams. The game proved to be an absolutely cracking one with the Belfast Giants eventually winning out six goals to four having come back when the Braehead Clan had taken the lead. The atmosphere was electric and everyone cheered as the final buzzer sounded.

Finally, it was time to hit the road and head back to Dundalk, Drogheda, and Dublin; and for some Kilkenny. Some slept but most chatted about the day they had had and

about looking forward to future IIHA Junior Hockey days.

The IIHA were delighted with the response we received from the players, parents and guardians of the players who all said they had a fantastic day. Great thanks must be extended to Smith's Supervalu, Navan for providing all of the snacks for the children free of charge. In addition, the IIHA would like to extend its thanks to Todd Kelman and the Belfast Giants for all of their assistance in making the day such a success. We must also thank The Odyssey Arena and all their staff, Pizza Hut and their staff, Jacko Smith Buses, the new national training rink in Santry for loaning ice skates to be used on the day, the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF), In Stitches Ltd. and all of those who took part in the day. Last but not least, we must thank each of the coaches who provided their services free of charge and made sure everything ran smoothly on the day.





# IIHA Officials Officiate In Elite League Games

In December, the IIHA announced that an historic deal had been agreed between the Irish Ice Hockey Association, Mr. Andy French and the Elite Ice Hockey League (EIHL). The agreement reached meant that IIHA Officials with IIHF Licences had been given permission to officiate as linesmen in EIHL games taking place at The Odyssey Arena in Belfast, Northern Ireland from January 2012.

Commenting on the agreement at the time, the IIHA's President, Mr. William Fay, said "I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the IIHA Executive Committee and IIHA Directors to express our sincere thanks to Mr. Andy French and the Elite League for giving IIHA officials with the IIHF Licences their permission to officiate as Linesmen in Elite League games in the Odyssey Arena, Belfast from January 2012."

He continued, "This achievement represents an historic venture between the Irish Ice Hockey Association (IIHA) and the Elite League and a unique opportunity for the IIHA officials to prove themselves at the highest level of competitive ice hockey in the UK. The IIHA Executive Committee and IIHA Directors would like to wish the IIHA officials who have been selected to officiate in the Elite League the very best and we are confident that they will do the IIHA and Irish standard of officiating very proud."



Vytautas Lukosevicius (left) & Jana Gerkena (top) during the Elite League game between Belfast Giants and Braehead Clan

On Saturday, 7th January 2012, two of the IIHA's Officials, Jana Gerkena and Vytautas Lukosevicius, took to the ice as linesmen in the EIHL game between the Belfast Giants and the Dundee Stars. The Giants ran out 6 - 2 victors in that game with both officials putting in astute performances. They had several difficult calls to contend with and each broke up their fair share of roughing between the two teams.

Jana explained that when she first received the news about being selected, she was "very excited about the news and begun to get nervous later on the game day." However, she went on to explain that her nerves disappeared once the game started. She commented "during the game all was good. The first minute I stepped on the ice I was myself and wasn't nervous anymore. Only when I fell first time did I hear how many spectators were at the game; they obviously like that and cheer! That was when I saw them for the first time but when I first stepped on the ice, I only see the players and other officials."

Two weeks' later on Friday, 20th January 2012, a third IIHA Official, Jamie Brannigan, acted as a linesman along with two EIHL Officials in a game between the Belfast Giants and Edinburgh Capitals. That game also finished 6 - 2 in favour of the Giants

*"This achievement represents an historic venture between the IIHA and the Elite League"*

- William Fay

and once again, the IIHA's Official put in a very strong performance and looked at home with the other Officials. When asked what his initial thoughts were and if he was nervous or excited, Jamie responded "Yes, I think nervous excitement would cover it. It's the big leagues now so you don't want to get it wrong. Proud as well, to be thought of firstly and chosen shows we as officials on this little Island hopefully have what it takes."

Jamie explained that in order to prepare for the game he "had a power nap (first in years), went over basics in rules, checked gear for the third time, a good meal and all the usual stuff. I felt really prepared." Commenting on the game itself, Jamie said he got "caught in the headlights a bit at the start but got my stride in the second. I felt sharp and really enjoyed myself. It was fantastic and can't wait to do another game (hopefully!). The level of hockey was impressive and a joy to be part of it."

The IIHA are extremely proud of all three Officials and wish them well in any further games they are selected to officiate. We will keep everyone posted on their progress in the remainder of the season.





INTERNATIONAL  
ICE HOCKEY  
FEDERATION

## IIHA Officials in Poland & Romania



**A**t the end of October, two of the IIHA's officials were selected to officiate in the First Round of the European Womens's Champions Cup (EWCC). This is the third year in a row that the IIHA has had officials selected to officiate in the EWCC.

Both Jana Gerkena and Elaine McCann were chosen to officiate in Group A and Group B of the First Round, respectively.

This was Jana's third time to officiate in the EWCC and the fourth time that she has been

selected to officiate in an IIHF competition. She found herself in Bytom, Poland with teams from Italy, Germany and Spain all competing against the local team.

This was Elaine's second time to officiate in the EWCC and she travelled to Miercurea Ciuc in Romania. This will sound familiar to fans of the Irish National Team as it

Jana Gerkena happy doing her job during the EWCC in Bytom, Poland.



was the location for the 2008 IIHF World Championship Division II Group A. Teams from Belarus, France, Turkey and, of course, Romania all took part.

The IIHA are very proud of both officials and would like to congratulate each of them on being selected to officiate at the tournaments.

Elaine McCann during the EWCC held in Miercurea Ciuc, Romania.



## Sean Lyne Cancer Treatment Fund



**The plight of Sean Lyne and his life** threatening cancer was reported in the last edition of the Irish Hockey Reader. It was also reported that the IIHA and various others were committed to assisting in raising the funds necessary to send Sean to the U.S. for urgent treatment.

Over the past few months, a variety of events to raise money have taken place including a Texas Hold 'Em Poker Night organised by the IIHA and the Flyers on Friday, 11th November 2011 in Murray's Bar on Dublin's O'Connell Street. A great night was had by all those who attended with just over €960 raised on the night while subsequent donations increased the total raised to €1,020.

A huge thank you goes out to all of those



who attended on the night to help raise money for this worthy cause and to all those who couldn't make it but sent their support. We must also thank everyone who donated prizes and helped out in anyway.

So far, in excess of an incredible €100,000 has been raised by the cumulative efforts of everyone involved with the SLCTF. Events are still being organised to raise the required sum necessary for the treatment. Sean recently had a brain sample taken for analysis and this will help determine which drugs will work with the cancer. Following this test and a subsequent MRI, an individual drug treatment therapy will be developed for Sean and it is possible that he could be receiving the treatment in Texas by as early



as March.

However, further donations are still required to ensure this happens and further information can be found on the Facebook page 'Funds for Sean' and on the website for Kevin's Hurling & Camogie Club, www.kevins.ie.

Donations can still be made to:

A/C Name: Sean Lyne Cancer Treatment Fund  
Branch: Bank of Ireland, Camden Street, Dublin  
Sort Code: 90-01-13  
Account: 87783676

### Fundraising & Donations

Throughout the 2011/2012 season, the IIHA will be running a variety of fundraising events and we hope to have everyone's continued support at these events. The support over the past few years from everyone has been immense and we are extremely grateful for this.

If you would be interested in attending any of these events, please keep an eye on www.iiha.org for all information.

If you would be interested in helping out the IIHA to organise any of these events or if you would be interested in donating money to the IIHA for the development of the sport in Ireland, please contact us directly on office@iiha.org or call +353-1-6251157.



# IIHA InLine Hockey League

The IIHA hosted the first round of the 2011/2012 InLine Hockey League at the end of November in Dublin. Sunday, 27th November 2011 at the Ballyfermot Leisure Centre in Ballyfermot, Dublin 10 was all about inline hockey as five teams took part and each team played four games.

A fantastic day of hockey was had with some excellent games taking place. The majority of teams were closely matched on the day but it was the Hawks A team who excelled the most. They notched up four victories with their back and forth encounter against the Flyers at the end of the day, the most eye catching. Both teams led throughout that game with the Hawks A finishing the scoring off late in the second period.

Other notable games included the opening game between the Bulls and Flyers which ended in a five goal tie. A fantastic way to open things on the day. The action was end to end with the Bulls looking extremely impressive early on but the Flyers got better as the game went on. The Hawks B then gave the Hawks A a run for their money after they took the lead early on in the game but were unable to hold on, eventually losing by five goals. Early in the afternoon, the



Flyers and Rovers squared off in what was a thrilling match with the Rovers almost nipping it at the end. However, the Flyers proved to be the better team on the day.

The Hawks A are clearly ahead in the standings but only three points separate the Flyers, Bulls and Rovers. Meanwhile, a couple of wins for the Hawks B will easily have them moving up the standings.

The results from Round 1 of the IIHA's

2011/2012 InLine Hockey League were as follows:

1. Bulls 5 - 5 Flyers
2. Hawks A 14 - 9 Hawks B
3. Rovers 4 - 9 Hawks A
4. Hawks B 2 - 7 Bulls
5. Flyers 6 - 4 Rovers
6. Hawks A 14 - 7 Bulls
7. Rovers 12 - 12 Bulls
8. Flyers 8 - 0 Hawks B
9. Hawks A 9 - 6 Flyers
10. Hawks B 0 - 6 Rovers

Details on the further rounds of the IIHA's 2011/2012 InLine Hockey League will be released on [www.iiha.org](http://www.iiha.org) when available. Anyone interested in assisting the IIHA with the 2011/2012 InLine Hockey League or in playing for any of the teams, can contact the IIHA via [office@iiha.org](mailto:office@iiha.org) for further information.

## Standings

	Team	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1st	Hawks A	4	4	0	0	46	26	+20	12
2nd	Flyers	4	2	1	1	25	18	+7	7
3rd	Bulls	4	1	1	2	31	33	-2	5
4th	Rovers	4	1	2	1	26	27	-1	4
5th	Hawks B	4	0	4	0	11	35	-24	0

# Women's InLine Hockey League

In recent months, the IIHA has worked closely with four teams to start a Women's InLine Hockey League during the 2011/2012 season. So far, two rounds have been played with Round 1 taking place in Dublin in November followed by Round 2 taking place in Belfast in December. The four teams featured are the UCC Coconutters, the Dundalk Bulls Ladies, the Molly Malones and the NIIHA Women's InLine Team.

Round 1 took place at the Ballyfermot Leisure Centre in Ballyfermot, Dublin 10 on Sunday, 13th November 2011. This was a fantastic start to a new league which will assist the IIHA in developing the women's side of the game throughout Ireland. All of the games on the day were extremely close and the most impressive thing was that all games except one were one goal games. The experienced team from Northern Ireland were by far the strongest team on the day and finished the day with three wins.

Round 2 took place at the Valley Leisure Centre in Belfast, Northern Ireland on Sunday, 4th December 2011. This was another day full of close games with every team winning at least one game. There were



a few surprises on the day with the Bulls Ladies defeating NIIHA by four goals to two. NIIHA had won that encounter 1 - 0 in Round 1. Meanwhile, the Molly Malones defeated the Cork Coconutters 6 - 5 having lost the encounter in Round 1.

These results have made for some very interesting and entertaining games. In the standings, NIIHA are clear at the top of the table having won five of their six games. On the other hand, the Bulls Ladies, the

Coconutters and Malones are all separated by just two points. This makes for a very interesting league with the final two rounds going to be pivotal.

The results from Round 1 were as follows:

1. Malones 2 - 2 Bulls Ladies
2. Coconutters 1 - 3 NIIHA
3. Bulls Ladies 0 - 1 NIIHA
4. Bulls Ladies 1 - 1 Coconutters
5. Malones 1 - 2 NIIHA
6. Malones 4 - 5 Coconutters

The results from Round 2 were as follows:

7. NIIHA 2 - 4 Bulls Ladies
8. Coconutters 5 - 6 Malones
9. Malones 0 - 0 Bulls Ladies
10. NIIHA 10 - 4 Coconutters
11. Coconutters 5 - 2 Bulls Ladies
12. NIIHA 2 - 1 Malones

Round 3 of the Women's InLine Hockey League has been confirmed for Saturday, 18th February 2012 in Cork. Further details

will be released on [www.iiha.org](http://www.iiha.org) when available.

## Standings

	Team	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1st	NIIHA	6	5	1	0	20	11	+9	15
2nd	Coconutters	6	2	3	1	21	26	-5	7
3rd	Bulls Ladies	6	1	2	3	9	11	-2	6
4th	Malones	6	1	3	2	14	16	-2	5



Captain of the U18 Men's Irish National, Rian Larkin, receives his Irish Player of the Tournament Award at the 2011 IIHF World U18 Championship Division III B in Mexico City, Mexico



The U18 Men's Irish National Team at the 2011 IIHF World U18 Championship Division III B in Mexico City, Mexico



The Dundalk Bulls team get ready for a game at the Dunleer InLine Hockey Tournament in Dunleer, Co. Louth



Adam Pepper (left) receives his Senior Men's Irish Player of the Year Award from IIHA President, William Fay, at the IIHA Bar-B-Q



Lorna Hoey (left) and Sonya McEaney (right) in action at the IIHA's event for World Girls' Hockey Day in Ballyfermot, Co. Dublin



Craig Fay (right) & Phil Catherwood (left) in action for the U20 Men's Irish National Team in Dundee, Scotland



Sean Coleman (standing, 3rd from right) with his team, Team White, at the 2011 IIHF Hockey Development Camp in Vierumaki, Finland



Participants at the Learn To Play Programme at Cork On Ice in Cork, Co. Cork



The IIHA's Jana Gerkena in action at the 2011 IIHF World Women's Championship Division IV in Reykjavik, Iceland



The Kilkenny City Storm's Junior Team after a training session at Kilkenny On Ice



Participants at the Learn To Play Programme at Cork On Ice in Cork, Co. Cork



Jana Gerkena (left) & Gabriela Vlasankova (right) meet IIHA President, Rene Fasel, at the 2011 IIHF Women's Coaching Symposium in Zurich, Switzerland



Participants at the Learn To Play Programme at Kilkenny On Ice



The IIHA's 2011 AGM



The IIHA's Sonya McEaney (second row, first from the right) & Jamie Cummins (front row, third from the right) at the LTP Instructor Programme at the 2011 IIHF Hockey Development Camp



Some of the players in action at the IIHA's event for World Girls' Hockey Day in Ballyfermot, Co. Dublin



The Senior Men's Irish National Team on tour in Zagreb, Croatia during the 2011 IIHF World Championship Division II B



Kilkenny City Storm's Paul Cummins Steps off the ice after a 12 hour Skate-A-Thon at Kilkenny On Ice



The Senior Women's Irish National Team training at The O2 Arena, Co. Dublin



Senior Women's Irish National Team meet Irish Ambassador to Bulgaria, His Excellency John Rowan during the 2011 IIHF World Women's Championship Division V in Sofia, Bulgaria

# In Remembrance

## Genevieve Veldhuis

**Genevieve Veldhuis** passed away on Friday, 13th January 2012 with her family at her bedside. A Guard of Honour took place at the mass for Genevieve and featured members from both the ice and inline hockey communities as well as members from her local horse riding school.

A minute's silence in respect of Genevieve was also held at the IIHA's Pick-Up Hockey



Session at The Odyssey Arena in Belfast, Northern Ireland on Saturday, 14th January 2012. In attendance for the minute's silence were a variety of members from various clubs as well as representation from both the IIHA and IHNI.

Genevieve had been heavily involved in Irish Ice and InLine Hockey. She previously played with the Dundalk Lady Bulls and later went on to establish the Cubs Ice Hockey Team. She also featured as part of the 2011 Ireland All-Stars Team that travelled to Latvia in May. Genevieve was also involved with the Kilkenny City Storm Ice & InLine Hockey Club and was a great ambassador for the sport, particularly at encouraging women to take up the sport.



She will be sadly missed and we would like to extend our deepest sympathies to family and friends at this time. They are all in our thoughts and prayers.



## Margaret McCann

**Margaret McCann** peacefully passed away at Beaumont Hospital Dublin on Wednesday, 25th January 2012. Margaret will be sadly missed by all those involved with ice and inline hockey in Ireland.

The entire McCann family are well known to the hockey community and loved by everyone due to their tireless commitment and dedication to the sport over the years. The entire family has always brought a



positive attitude to everything they've been involved in and Margaret's laughter and optimistic outlook will be sorely missed.

Margaret's husband, Aidan, volunteered his time as a timekeeper at the IIHA's leagues and events at the Dundalk Ice Dome, often taking pictures at the same time. Margaret's daughter, Elaine, is also heavily involved with the IIHA as a player, having first played with the Dundalk Lady Bulls and also as an on-ice official at IIHA and IIHF events. Margaret's son, Brian, also played ice hockey with the Dundalk Bulls and later the Dublin Wolves.

Margaret reposed at her residence

Oakvale Park from 12 noon on Friday, 27th January 2012. Removal took place on Monday morning at 10:30 am to The Church of The Holy Family, Muirhevnamor, arriving for Funeral Mass at 11:00 am. This was followed by burial in Saint Patrick's Cemetery, Dundalk, Co. Louth.

The Funeral Mass was extremely well attended which is a testament to how much Margaret will be missed by everyone who was fortunate to have met her. Members from the hockey community throughout the Island of Ireland held a Guard of Honour for Margaret at the Funeral Mass.

We would like to extend our deepest sympathies to all of Margaret's family and friends at this time, most particularly to Aidan, Elaine and Brian. You are each in our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.

