

PRESS RELEASE

Ireland
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Important role of the active leisure sector in raising standards and providing physical activity opportunities highlighted at Ireland Active Annual Conference & White Flag Award Ceremony

17th November 2017:

Four time All Star, former All-Ireland Camogie winning Captain and Ireland Active Ambassador, Anna Geary was joined by Minister of State for Local Government and Electoral Reform, John Paul Phelan at Ireland Active's National Conference held in Lyrath Estate, Kilkenny to recognise the five category winners of Ireland Active's Annual White Flag Awards.

The White Flag Scheme, is the most sought after accolade in the leisure and fitness industry, and is awarded to facilities that meet the operational standards for leisure and fitness facilities as set out in the scheme. The standard is designed to encourage continuous improvement within the sector and recognises facilities for their remarkable standards in the areas of safety, hygiene, customer service and human resources.

The White Flag Awards are the only industry specific award for the leisure, health and fitness sector in Ireland. There is an Accessibility Award for centres that excel at making their facilities accessible for people with a disability. 90 leisure, fitness and hotel facilities were awarded White Flags with four facilities receiving special recognition as category winners as well as the Industry Supplier of the Year and Staff Person of the Year.

The overall winners were:

- Shoreline Leisure in Greystones- Leisure Centre of the Year
- Ardilaun Leisure Club, Galway- Hotel Leisure Club of the Year
- WIT Arena, Waterford- Fitness Facility of the Year
- Leisureland, Galway- Accessible Facility of the Year
- Aqualine- Industry Supplier of the Year
- Dermot Gaynor- Staff Person of the Year

The White Flag Awards are the showpiece of Ireland Active's Annual Conference which is designed to highlight the important role that the leisure, health and fitness industry play in providing physical activity opportunities. The gym remains the favoured location to get active in Ireland with 490,000 Irish adults being members of gyms and 13.7% of all Irish adults going to the gym each week up from 7% in 2007.

With a further 230,000 Irish adults swimming each week, Ireland Active's members are made up of more than 250 leisure, health and fitness centres nationwide and have a key role to play in

contributing to making Ireland more physically active. Irish adults need a minimum of 30 minutes of physical activity five times a week just to maintain health and wellbeing.

Speakers at the annual conference included health and fitness industry experts, David Minton, DCU's Senior Lecturer in Sport and Exercise Physiology, Dr. Brendan Egan, Fitness Entrepreneur and CEO My Zone, Dave Wright, Director of Programmes from Europe Active, Cliff Collins as well as personal trainer, Karl Henry.

Speaking at the conference, Minister John Paul Phelan said:

"I am delighted to open the Ireland Active Conference this year. It is fantastic to see so many industry professionals coming together and sharing their knowledge and industry insights. Leading an active healthy lifestyle has such a massive impact on both our physical and mental health, as well as our overall wellbeing. Congratulations to all of the award winners and participants who are helping to facilitate a healthier Ireland with their top-class establishments as well as making a significant contribution to local economies right around Ireland."

Conn McCluskey, CEO of Ireland Active said;

"The leisure, health and fitness industry has an important role to play in Irish society both in terms of providing physical activity opportunities for people right around Ireland but also as a significant contributor and employer in those communities. We are really proud of the standard of the facilities of our members and it is fantastic to get the opportunity to bring the industry together and reward those who have stood out in terms of service delivery to customers and staff. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate them on their achievement and on the vital role they play in ensuring more Irish people become more active more often."

For more information, visit www.irelandactive.ie

PHOTOS FROM ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND WHITE FLAG AWARDS AVAILABLE HERE:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/oct0zn02i8zwx28/AAClesgBBXYprmurOH9ULdY7a?dl=0>

Overall Winner Pictures:



Leisure Winner: Shoreline Leisure Greystones
Sponsored by Milon Circle

Hotel Winner: Ardilaun Leisure Club
Sponsored by Expert Leisure



Fitness Winner: WIT Arena
Sponsored by Podium4Sport



Accessibility Winner: Leisureland Galway
Sponsored by Aqualine



Supplier of the Year: Aqualine



Staff Person of the Year: Dermot Gaynor, The Watershed, Kilkenny

FULL LIST OF WHITE FLAG AWARD WINNERS FOR 2018

Leisure Category Awards

Overall Winner: Shoreline Leisure Centre Greystones

LEISURE CATEGORY

Facility Name	County	Award Type	Result
GOLD AWARDS			
1escape, Smithfield, Dublin	Dublin	Leisure	Gold
Active Ennis Leisure Complex	Clare	Leisure	Gold
Athlone Regional Sports Centre	Westmeath	Leisure	Gold
Aura Leisure Centre Tullamore	Offaly	Leisure	Gold
Ballymun Sports & Fitness Centre	Dublin	Leisure	Gold
Clondalkin Leisure Centre	Dublin	Leisure	Gold
Coral Askeaton Pool	Limerick	Leisure	Gold
Coral Leisure Arklow Ltd	Wicklow	Leisure	Gold
Coral Leisure Ballinasloe	Galway	Leisure	Gold
Coral Leisure Cobh	Cork	Leisure	Gold
Coral Leisure Tuam	Galway	Leisure	Gold
Coral Leisure Wicklow	Wicklow	Leisure	Gold
Courtown Adventure & Leisure Centre	Wexford	Leisure	Gold
DCU sport	Dublin	Leisure	Gold
DIT, Kevins Street, Dublin	Dublin	Leisure	Gold
DKIT, Dundalk	Louth	Leisure	Gold
DLR Leisure Meadowbrook	Dublin	Leisure	Gold
DLR Leisure Monkstown	Dublin	Leisure	Gold
DLR Loughlinstown	Dublin	Leisure	Gold
Finglas Sports & Fitness Centre	Dublin	Leisure	Gold
Gymplus Naas	Kildare	Leisure	Gold
K Leisure Athy	Kildare	Leisure	Gold
K Leisure Naas	Kildare	Leisure	Gold
Killarney Sports & Leisure Centre	Kerry	Leisure	Gold
Kingfisher Club Renmore	Galway	Leisure	Gold
Kingfisher Club Waterford	Waterford	Leisure	Gold
Kingfisher NUI Galway	Galway	Leisure	Gold
Leisureland Galway	Galway	Leisure	Gold
Leisureworld Churchfield	Cork	Leisure	Gold
Longford Sports and Leisure Centre	Longford	Leisure	Gold
Monaghan Leisure Complex	Monaghan	Leisure	Gold
National Aquatic Centre	Dublin	Leisure	Gold
Nenagh Leisure Centre	Tipperary	Leisure	Gold
Newpark School Sports Centre	Dublin	Leisure	Gold
Portarlinton Leisure Centre	Laois	Leisure	Gold
Shoreline Leisure Bray	Wicklow	Leisure	Gold

Shoreline Leisure Centre Greystones	Wicklow	Leisure	Gold
Sport and Fitness Markievicz	Dublin	Leisure	Gold
SPORTSCO, Ringsend, Dublin	Dublin	Leisure	Gold
Sportslink, Santry, Dublin	Dublin	Leisure	Gold
Swan Leisure, Rathmines, Dublin	Dublin	Leisure	Gold
Tallaght Leisure Centre	Dublin	Leisure	Gold
The Dartry Health Club, Dublin	Dublin	Leisure	Gold
The Watershed Sports and Leisure	Kilkenny	Leisure	Gold
Trinity Sport Centre, Dublin	Dublin	Leisure	Gold
Waterfront Leisure Centre, Enniscorthy	Wexford	Leisure	Gold
Waterworld Bundoran	Donegal	Leisure	Gold
Westpark Fitness, Tallaght	Dublin	Leisure	Gold
Westport Leisure Park, Mayo	Mayo	Leisure	Gold
BRONZE AWARDS			
Tranquility Leisure and Spa, Athenry	Galway	Leisure	Bronze
Trabolgan, Cork	Cork	Leisure	Bronze

Hotel Category Awards

Overall Winner: Ardilaun Leisure Club, Galway

Facility Name	County	Award Type	Result 2018
DIAMOND AWARDS			
Abbey Health & Fitness, Roscommon	Roscommon	Hotel	Diamond
Ardilaun Leisure Club, Galway	Galway	Hotel	Diamond
Arena Health & Fitness Club, Malahide	Dublin	Hotel	Diamond
Citywest Health and Leisure Club	Dublin	Hotel	Diamond
Clann Fitness, Ashbourne	Meath	Hotel	Diamond
Escape Health Club & Spa, Kilkenny	Kilkenny	Hotel	Diamond
Glenroyal Hotel & Leisure Club, Maynooth	Kildare	Hotel	Diamond
Hodson Bay Hotel, Athlone	Roscommon	Hotel	Diamond
Knightsbrook Health Club, Trim	Meath	Hotel	Diamond
Ocean Fitness, Galway	Galway	Hotel	Diamond
Slieve Russell Hotel Country Club, Cavan	Cavan	Hotel	Diamond
The Breaffy Club, Mayo	Mayo	Hotel	Diamond
The Tullamore Court Hotel, Offaly	Offaly	Hotel	Diamond
Westlodge Leisure Centre, Bantry	Cork	Hotel	Diamond
Zest Health & Fitness Club	Cavan	Hotel	Diamond
EMERALD AWARDS			
4FIT at Four Seasons, Carlingford	Louth	Hotel	Emerald
Bridge House Leisure Club, Offaly	Offaly	Hotel	Emerald
C Club, Westport	Mayo	Hotel	Emerald
Druids Glen Hotel & Golf Resort	Wicklow	Hotel	Emerald
Fitzgeralds Woodlands Hotel, Limerick	Limerick	Hotel	Emerald

Hotel Killarney (Club Vitae)	Kerry	Hotel	Emerald
Ocean Spirit Leisure, Hotel Westport	Mayo	Hotel	Emerald
Shearwater Hotel, Ballinasloe	Galway	Hotel	Emerald
The Lyrath Estate, Kilkenny	Kilkenny	Hotel	Emerald
Vital Health & Wellbeing, Kinsale	Kerry	Hotel	Emerald

Fitness Category Awards (no swimming pool)

Overall winner: WIT Arena, Waterford

FITNESS CATEGORY

Facility Name	County	Award Type	Result 2018
dlr Leisure Ballyogan	Dublin	Fitness	Gold
Donabate Portrane Community Centre	Dublin	Fitness	Gold
Fit2Go Club at DIT Grangegorman	Dublin	Fitness	Gold
Icon Health Club, Camden St, Dublin	Dublin	Fitness	Gold
Lucan Leisure Centre	Dublin	Fitness	Gold
Newbridge Sports & Leisure Centre, Kildare	Kildare	Leisure	Gold
Shoreline Sports Park, Wicklow	Wicklow	Fitness	Gold
Sports & Fitness Irishtown	Dublin	Fitness	Gold
The Peace Link, Clones, Monaghan	Monaghan	Fitness	Gold
WIT Arena	Waterford	Fitness	Gold

Accessibility Awards Category

Overall Winner: Leisureland Galway

ACCESSIBILITY CATEGORY

Facility	County	Award Type	Award
GOLD AWARDS			
Active Ennis	Clare	Accessibility	Gold
Althone RSC	Westmeath	Accessibility	Gold
Clondalkin Leisure Centre	Dublin	Accessibility	Gold
Courtown Leisure	Wexford	Accessibility	Gold
DLR Leisure Ballyogan	Dublin	Accessibility	Gold
DLR Leisure Loughlinstown	Dublin	Accessibility	Gold
DLR Leisure Meadowbrook	Dublin	Accessibility	Gold
DLR Leisure Monkstown	Dublin	Accessibility	Gold
K Leisure Athy	Kildare	Accessibility	Gold
K Leisure Naas	Kildare	Accessibility	Gold
Killarney Sports and Leisure	Kerry	Accessibility	Gold
Kingfisher NUIG	Galway	Accessibility	Gold
Leisureland Galway	Galway	Accessibility	Gold
Leisureworld Churchfield	Cork	Accessibility	Gold
National Aquatic Centre	Dublin	Accessibility	Gold

Newpark School Sports	Dublin	Accessibility	Gold
Sportsco, Ringsend	Dublin	Accessibility	Gold
Westport Leisure Park	Mayo	Accessibility	Gold
SILVER AWARDS			
Aura Tullamore	Offaly	Accessibility	Silver
Coral Leisure Ballinasloe	Galway	Accessibility	Silver
Coral Leisure Cobh	Cork	Accessibility	Silver
Coral Leisure Monaghan	Monaghan	Accessibility	Silver
Coral Leisure Tuam	Galway	Accessibility	Silver
Donabate Portrane Community Centre	Dublin	Accessibility	Silver
K Leisure Newbridge	Kildare	Accessibility	Silver
Nenagh Leisure Centre	Tipperary	Accessibility	Silver
Shoreline Greystones	Wicklow	Accessibility	Silver
Tallaght Leisure Centre	Dublin	Accessibility	Silver
The Peace Link, Clones, Monaghan	Monaghan	Accessibility	Silver
BRONZE AWARDS			
Coral Leisure Askeaton	Limerick	Accessibility	Bronze
Coral Leisure Longford	Longford	Accessibility	Bronze
Kingfisher Waterford	Waterford	Accessibility	Bronze

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Notes to Editor

The White Flag National Quality Standard is based on the four essential areas when operating any leisure or fitness centre: Safety, Hygiene, Customer Engagement and HR. The standard is designed to encourage continuous improvement and it is categorised into three levels for the fitness and leisure sector: Gold, Silver and Bronze. Awards are also given for the hotel sector at two levels: Emerald and Diamond and an Accessibility Award is given for centres which excel at making their facilities accessible for people with a disability.

Ireland Active is the national association for active leisure and represent over 250 leisure centres, gyms, swimming pools, education providers and outdoor recreation facilities nationwide. Members come from across the private, public and not for profit sector and are united by Ireland Active's longstanding and uncompromising commitment to getting more people, more active, more often.