



## Junior Newsletter

March 2008

Dates to remember in 2008

Please check our web site at [www.archery.ie](http://www.archery.ie) for more details

### April

5th National Training

26th/27th All Ireland and National Field Championships

### May

18th 1st Junior Euronation qualifier - St Brendan's Club

25th UL FITA shoot

31st IAAA Awards Night

31st 2nd Junior Euronation qualifier - Summerhill Archery Club

### June

31st/1st Martin Kelly Memorial Shoot - Summerhill Archery Club

7th National Training

14th 3rd Junior Euronation qualifier - Galway Archery Club

14th/15th Galway Archers National Championships

### Junior Euronations 2008

Without question the biggest event in the archery calendar for juniors every year is the Euronations. Last year was a great success with the event being held at Gormanston College in Co Meath. The competition is open to all junior archers who are members of the IAAA. It gives archers a chance to represent the country at an international competition with juniors of the same age, from Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales and England. This year the Euronations will be held in Wales during the month of July. To qualify for the Euronations squad archers have to shoot at least 585 in two out of three competitions. These competitions will be held in Galway, Summerhill and St Brendan's schools. Once the squad has been chosen, training sessions will be held with the National Junior Coach, Sinead Cuthbert and Team Manager, Gerry Deegan.

### Children's Officer

As National Children's Officer for the Irish Amateur Archery Association I would like to welcome the seven new schools and two community centres which have recently started archery classes. I would like to encourage you to work and train hard as, like most things in life, the more you put in, the more you get out. *Gerry*

### Women In Sport

In 2007 the Irish Sports Council provided grants for the Women In Sports program. The program was designed to help get more girls involved in sport and the IAAA found this to be very successful. The grant was used to buy archery equipment which is used by our two new schools' coaches, Vincent Plant and Martin Cunningham. The coaches travel to the schools to teach beginner courses. Each school was provided with three butts and stands and the coaches carry the bows with them. This has proved to be very popular with both the school management and the students. It is hoped that the program which started in Leinster will be rolled out around the country this year with schools in Galway, Limerick and Cork starting soon.

### National Training and 2012 Olympic Squad

Last year saw the start of training for the 2012 Olympic Games in London. Juniors attended training once a month with Hans Blum, Director of Coaching. Hans, working with Sinead Cuthbert and Vincent Plant, has been doing an excellent job in raising the standard of archery for those that attended. The training, which moves around the country and is held on a Saturday, has been well

attended and is open to all IAAA members. It is also hoped to send some of the junior squad to the FITA World Training Centre in Egypt this August as part of the 2012 training program.

### IAAA Web site

The IAAA has been developing its new look web site. This is just one small part of our plan to make the association more professional. It is hoped that through our web site we can make information more readily available to archers. If you or your club have any information which is suitable for the web site then this can be emailed to our web master at [archery@archery.ie](mailto:archery@archery.ie). Archers should keep an eye on the site for regular updates.

### Sponsorship

Over the last two years the IAAA has been working hard to raise the profile of archery in Ireland and the work has paid off. There has been a lot of TV and radio coverage, as well as articles in the local and national papers. All this has helped some of our top junior archers to obtain sponsorship to cover the cost of new equipment. Two community centres in Meath have also received sponsorship and have introduced archery to the local teenagers. Currently, at these two centres, a total of thirty juniors are enjoying archery.