

# 19th World Transplant Games

## DURBAN SOUTH AFRICA



28TH JULY-4TH AUGUST 2013





Charlie Ryan and friends



Sonia Treacy



James Reynolds



Sheila Gegan





# A truly amazing experience!

**T**his year's Games saw our team travel to Durban, South Africa. Having lived in Southern Africa for many years I was excited that members of our sports team were going to have the opportunity to experience the wonders and beauty of Africa. The setting, the weather, the people and the organisation did not disappoint – it was truly an amazing experience!

Our backroom team played their part again. Harry Ward is the ace our team has that all other teams want. He is inspirational, he is thoughtful, he is hard working and he has a great sense of humour!

Our team doctor, Yvonne Ryan, again watched over us. Sinead O'Regan stepped in as our physiotherapist this year and did a great job. Gwen O'Donoghue and Sarah May made sure our story got out there and was heard by the general public.

As with life experiences in general, our trip to South Africa was enhanced by the people who were there to share it. I particularly enjoyed seeing the reaction of our new team members to their first World Transplant Games experience. With the realisation that we are there to represent our country and to promote the cause of organ donation and transplantation on a world stage came the sense of being part of a wider family with a common cause.

Involvement in transplant and dialysis sport offers the opportunity to meet people who have similar experiences to your own. As C.S. Lewis said, "Friendship is born at that moment when one person says to another; What? You too? I thought I was the only one." The friendships that are formed within our team and with people from other teams are warm and enduring.

There are so many inspiring stories to hear and share from all corners of the globe. As I wrote in a previous supplement, the Games are all about



By **COLIN WHITE**  
TEAM MANAGER

a 'yes we can' attitude. The network of support that builds up around our team is so positive. We travel to the Games as a team and every competitor at the Games has their own support team behind them – their organ donor, their family, their friends, their medical team, their sponsors and the wider community who follow their exploits online and through the public media.

I have personally witnessed the esteem in which so many of our team members are held by their local communities. Every year we have

members of our team recognised with Civic Receptions, selected as sports person of the month in their local publication or generally lauded for their positive contribution to the cause of promoting organ donor awareness. At every one of these receptions there are the families and friends of the individual present to support them and there is always a warm acknowledgement of the fact that their organ donor is always with them.

When our team travels we travel as an extended family and that sense of togetherness continues long after a Games has passed.

I would encourage everyone to consider joining our team for the European Games in Poland next August. The Games are open to transplant recipients AND people on dialysis. They are open to all ages too. There are sports that range from the physical (cycling, running, swimming for example) to the skilful (darts, ten-pin bowling, French boules).

Come and join our team, our sports family is growing year on year. The more people we have, the more powerful the message we can get out there about the importance and success of organ donation and transplantation!



# TRANSPLANT TEAM IRELAND

## MEDAL TABLE

### NAME

Andrew Duncan  
 Andrew Duncan  
 Andrew Duncan  
 Andrew Duncan  
 Angela Sherlock  
 Brian Carney  
 Brian Carney  
 Catherine Murphy  
 Deirdre Faul  
 Eoin Hurley  
 James Nolan  
 James Reynolds  
 James Reynolds  
 John Moran  
 John Moran  
 John Moran  
 John Moran  
 John Moran  
 Oisin O'Gorman  
 Oisin O'Gorman  
 Peter Heffernan  
 Robbie Lyons  
 Seamus Eager  
 Sheila Gregan  
 Sinead McGowan  
 Tony Gartland  
 Tony Gartland  
 Tony Gartland  
 Tony Gartland  
 Vienna White  
 Vienna White



John Moran



Tony Gartland

### EVENT

Squash  
 Badminton Singles  
 Tennis Singles  
 Table Tennis Singles  
 Discus  
 Lawn Bowls Singles  
 Golf Individual  
 Lawn Bowls Singles  
 Squash  
 Golf Individual  
 Golf Individual  
 Petanque Singles  
 Lawn Bowls Singles  
 5km Cycle Time Trial  
 20km Cycle Road Race  
 1500m Track  
 800m Track  
 Badminton Singles  
 Long Jump  
 Swimming 50m Back Stroke  
 Long Jump  
 Lawn Bowls Singles  
 Swimming 400m Freestyle  
 400m Track  
 5km Road Race  
 1500m Track  
 5km Race Walk  
 800m Track  
 3km Race Walk  
 Shot Putt

### MEDAL

Gold  
 Silver  
 Gold  
 Bronze  
 Bronze  
 Silver  
 Bronze  
 Silver  
 Gold  
 Gold  
 Gold  
 Bronze  
 Gold  
 Silver  
 Gold  
 Gold  
 Gold  
 Bronze  
 Silver  
 Bronze  
 Silver  
 Silver  
 Silver  
 Silver  
 Silver  
 Silver  
 Gold  
 Bronze  
 Silver  
 Bronze

### DOUBLES EVENTS:

#### NAME/PARTNER

James Nolan/Brian Carney  
 Catherine Murphy/Bridie Nicholson  
 Catherine Murphy/Bridie Nicholson  
 Eoin Hurley/Seamus Eager

### EVENT

Golf Pairs  
 Petanque Pairs  
 Lawn Bowls Pairs  
 Golf Pairs

### MEDAL

Silver  
 Gold  
 Bronze  
 Bronze



Catherine Murphy and  
 Bridie Nicholson



## MEDAL TOTALS

Gold  
 12

Silver  
 10

Bronze  
 12

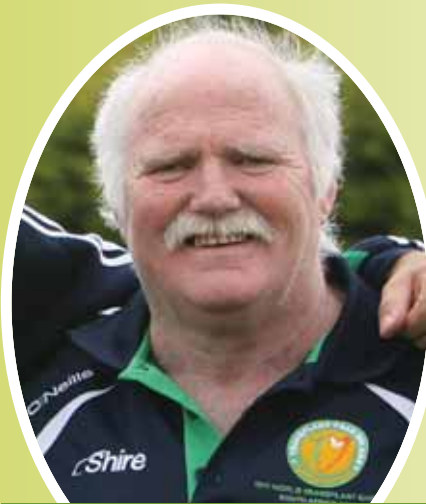


# “We are, we are the limit breakers”

“We are, we are the limit breakers”, and by this I mean all of our Transplant Team who took on the world and led by example in fairness and sport, and had one of our most memorable games yet (bar Dublin 2010). From the moment we met in the hotel at the airport the overwhelming feeling of excitement was better than any Christmas morning waiting for Santa!

After a seven hour flight to Dubai there were some people who went on a night trip so as to say they saw some of Dubai and then it was on to Durban another flight that took eight hours. We all arrived tired, but still full of excitement. Our hotel had 34 floors. I had never stayed at a hotel this high with an outdoor swimming pool on the roof. Most of our bedrooms had amazing views over the Indian Ocean.

Each day brought a new challenge to our team but we were all up for the challenge. The supporters who were with us on this trip were so full



**HARRY WARD**  
Team Captain

of cheer and kindness to everyone it was hard to know who was supporting who. They would be encouraging all of the other competitors but shouting that little bit louder for the Irish. When you would feel down, one or two words from any one of them, and all would be cool again.

I would like to say a big ‘thank you’ to one and all. The Games would not be the same without you being there. I hope these Games were as exciting for our new members, who were at their first Games, and that you took away some memories that will last you a lifetime. To all of you who have been to a number of Games I hope the same goes for you too.

On a personal level I would like to thank Colin for all his hard work and the support he gives to all of the team. Thanks also to Mark, Yvonne, Sarah, and our newbie Sinead for all their help in making our trip go smoothly.

If anyone reading this would like to take part in the next Games, do get in touch with us. Our next Games are in Poland and are open to Transplant and Dialysis patients. Even if you do not want to take part in the Games you are welcome to come to ALSAA any Sunday we are on.

Once again well done to all of our Transplant Team Ireland. We are, we are, the Best.



*Team members and supporters*



# 19th WORLD TRANSPLANT GAMES

## THE FULL IRISH TEAM WAS:

NAME	COUNTY	NAME	COUNTY
Seamus Eager	Wicklow	Catherine Murphy	Cork
Tony Gartland	Carlow	Charlie Ryan	Cork
Vienna White	Donegal	Oisin O'Gorman	Waterford
John Connell	Westmeath via Capetown, SA	Eoin Hurley	Waterford
Sheila Gregan	Tipperary	Deirdre Faul	Dublin
Orla Hogan	Tipperary	James Reynolds	Dublin
Andrew Duncan	Tipperary	Angela Sherlock	Dublin via Spain
Robbie Lyons	Laois	Dara McLaughlin	Dublin
Sinead McGowan	Galway via China	Brian Carney	Dublin
Bridie Nicholson	Sligo	John Moran	Dublin
James Nolan	Kildare	Peter Heffernan	Dublin
Sonia Treacy	Kildare	Harry Ward	Dublin

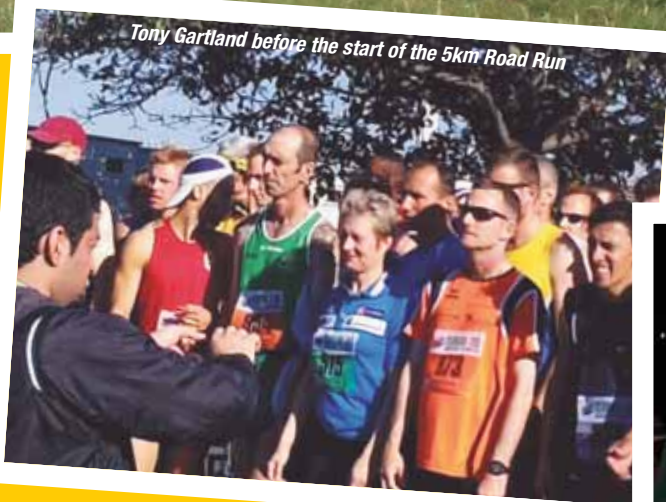




James Nolan, Colin White and Andrew Duncan



Tony Gartland before the start of the 5km Road Run



Willie Uys (Games Chairman) and Bridie Nicholson



Harry Ward and Bridie Nicholson recruiting new supporters!





# New friendships old friends

## *Members of the team forged new friendships and reconnected with old friends*

**T**he 19th World Transplant Games held in Durban, South Africa saw the coming together of over 1000 athletes, from 50 countries, to celebrate life and the gift of organ donation. This year's Games proved to be a tremendous success from its electric opening ceremony to its setting in the beautiful Durban coast.

Transplant Team Ireland, consisting of 24 athletes, ranging in ages from 12 to 68, proved yet again to be an inspirational group of athletes. The standard of competition this year was at extreme heights, however, Team Ireland proved to be amongst the top athletes with a total medal tally of 34 medals; 12 gold, 10 silver and 12 bronze.

Aside from the huge winnings, Transplant Team Ireland, throughout the week, displayed a sense of comradeship and support for not only each other, but for the other teams involved in the Games that was truly awe inspiring. Transplant Team Ireland's sense of fairness and enjoyment is renowned at the Games. Members of the team forged new friendships and

reconnected with old friends, ensuring that they made the most of the experience both on and off the field. Importantly, Transplant Team Ireland often paid tribute to their organ donors and donor families.

Throughout the week the team members displayed utmost endurance and skill as they participated in events such as the 5km road race, 20km cycle, swimming events, badminton, tennis, squash, petanque, golf, bowling, lawn bowls and various track and field events. Kidney transplant recipient Sheila Gregan from Nenagh, impressively took gold in the Virtual Triathlon, an event that combined her times from the 5km road race, 20km cycle and 400m freestyle swim. A keen sportswoman and avid triathlete, Sheila later commented that her way of showing thanks to her donor family and embracing the 'gift of life' she was given, was through sport.

New to Transplant Team Ireland, fifteen year old Andrew Duncan from Tipperary and Dublin man Brian Carney integrated into the team well and proved to be fantastic new additions. Andrew secured a total of four medals



**By SARAH MAY**

across tennis, squash, badminton and table tennis while Brian secured three medals between golf and lawn bowls. Youngest team member Oisín O'Gorman from Lismore, Waterford took gold in badminton and bronze in the long jump. Oisín also got to meet up with his friend Johan from the South African team whom he first met at the World Transplant Games held in Gothenburg two years ago.

Transplant Team Ireland was constantly supported and encouraged by the Team Manager Colin White and the athletes were tended to and cared for by Doctor Yvonne Ryan and our Physiotherapist, Sinead O'Regan.

The 19th World Transplant Games in Durban proved to be an amazing week of competition and friendship. The team enjoyed fine weather, fantastic facilities and stunning scenery. Transplant Team Ireland embraced their surroundings; members went on Safaris, some went for a dip in the Indian Ocean and some brave members even bungee jumped from the Moses Mabhida Stadium.

The message of celebrating life through sport resounded from beginning to end. Transplant Team Ireland athletes proved to be fantastic ambassadors for Ireland, exceptional athletes and shining examples of the successes of organ donation.



**Oisín O'Gorman, Robbie Lyons  
and Luke Dawson (South Africa)**



# We, as a family, were warmly welcomed as 'first-timers...'

**Audrey Duncan is the mother of 15 year old Andrew who was competing for the first time as part of Transplant Team Ireland.**

**T**he World Transplant Games in Durban was a fantastic and amazing experience. I was encouraged by staff in Temple Street and those who we met at training meetings in ALSAA earlier in the year to travel to the Games with Andrew, who had a kidney transplant only a year previously. I really had no idea what to expect and initially was more concerned about the length of the flight than anything else.

We had our 'jabs' in May, most professionally done, and listened to a positive and motivational speech by Niall Quinn – not to mention we met the most important member of the team who I believe has travelled extensively, and at one point was "kidnapped" – 'Tadhg', our team mascot. We, as a family, were warmly welcomed as 'first-timers' by other team members even though they had travelled to the Games many times.

There was a great sense of excitement at the Clarion hotel before we left for the airport. The athletes were there with family members and



**By  
AUDREY DUNCAN**

supporters, along with the media. As we arrived in Durban on Saturday evening we were informed we had already been 'on the telly'. At the airport in Durban there was a real sense of team spirit, the pride of being on the Irish team became a reality as we encountered the other teams in their national colours.

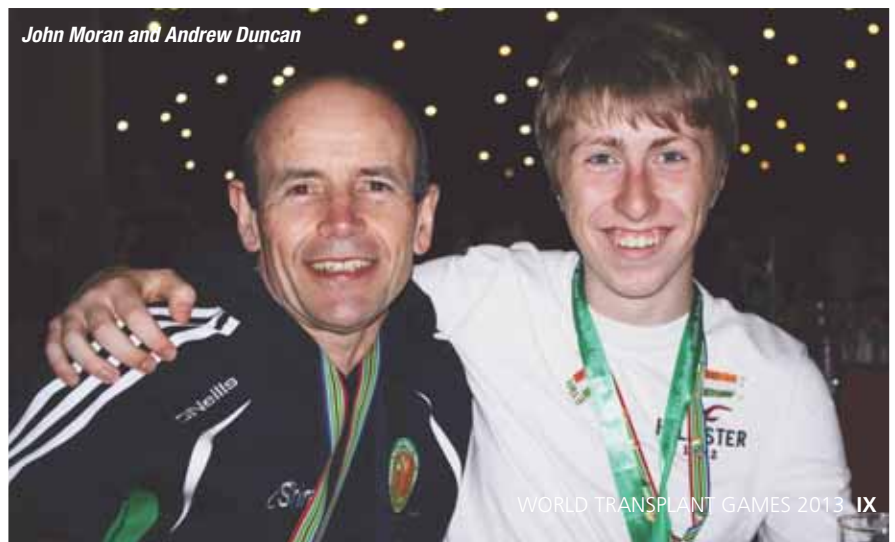
It was really the following morning, Sunday that I became aware of what a huge event this was. At "The Save

Seven Lives Beach Walk", which launched the event, I had an opportunity to meet other parents and transplant recipients. It was a great opportunity to talk and to learn about other people's experiences. Later that day, at registration, I saw the formality and official side of the Games. Nothing was left to chance and I was very impressed with the medical support.

The other athletes on the Irish team were supportive, encouraging and a mine of information. I realised that this was a high powered sports event at world level. I quickly learned the ropes: up early, breakfast, get the coach to the event, register and then on with the competitions.

They were truly wondrous experiences. I met people from literally all over the world both competitors and supporters. Competition was relentless and one could never describe the pride of being with a child representing their country. Of course the winning of medals is a tremendous bonus.

The team camaraderie and bonding was amazing. The juniors were so encouraged and respected by the more experienced athletes. We have gained a new sense of a wider family, confidence and hope and I would strongly encourage everyone to participate.





John Moran wins gold in the 20km Road Race



John Moran outside the iconic Moses Mabhida Stadium



Catherine Murphy with members of the team from Kuwait



Robbie Lyons takes bronze in the Long Jump



John Moran in the 4x400m Relay



Orla Hogan and Dara McLaughlin at 10-pin bowling



Seamus Eager with friends at the Lawn Bowls venue

John Moran, Paula Davies, Charlie Ryan, Catherine Murphy and Angie Lyons



Our Cycling Team:  
Deirdre Faul, John Moran,  
Sheila Gregan and John Connell



Seamus Eager greets his wife on his return  
in Dublin Airport



**Stefan Mroncz (Germany),  
Cicillie Grav (Norway)  
and James Reynolds**



**The team from Temple Street: Olive Kelly, Andrew Duncan, Dr. Atif Awan,  
Oisín O'Gorman and Sheila Boyle**



**Tony Gartland and Steve Whelan (UK) in the 5km Road Walk**

**Colin White, Rodolfo Wetzel (Argentina) and Mark Murphy**



**Back row: Fionn O'Gorman, Tony Gartland, Eoin Hurley, Oisín O'Gorman and  
Robbie Lyons. Front row: James Reynolds, Sarah May and Brian Carney**



**Sheila Gegan  
and Orla Hogan**

**Back row: Lenny Ryan, James Reynolds, Sonia Treacy, Angela Sherlock, Robbie Lyons and  
Andrew Duncan. Front row: Peter Heffernan, Seamus Eager and Eoin Hurley**



**John Moran, Sheila Gegan and John Connell**



*Celebrations at Dublin Airport on arrival back in Dublin*



*Oisín O'Gorman and Andrew Duncan*



*James Nolan and baby Andrew James Nolan*



*Tony Gartland*



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