

# Director's Report

Dear Members,

It is with great pleasure that I present the second annual report of the Irish Lifesaving Foundation Ltd on behalf of the Board of Directors. The work begun in 2003 continued throughout 2004 with some new developments. I would like to draw your attention to the following points ;

1. Running a registered charity that is also a company is very different to running a swimming or lifesaving club. The charity has to deal with the Irish Revenue Commissioners and the Companies Registration Office on an ongoing basis and must produce annual audited accounts even when our income is small. This results in our needing to raise about Euro 2000 to pay our necessary organisational and accountancy costs before we can devote any monies to programme matters. At the moment about one third of our income goes on necessary non-programme related expenses but this percentage will reduce as our income increases. It is our aim to reduce the non-programme overheads to ten percent of our gross income but this will only become a reality with increased fundraising.

2. You may have noticed that our financial year ends on 28<sup>th</sup> February which means that the information you are getting is over 6 months old. For a number of reasons ( some related to the details in point 1 ) it was not possible to hold the AGM before the holiday period. The fact that our membership year begins on 1<sup>st</sup> July also complicates matters so it is our aim in future to hold AGMs before 30<sup>th</sup> June in any year. As our registered office, auditor, secretary and treasurer are all based in Waterford City it would ease matters if we hold the AGMs in Waterford City too.

3. We held our first separate conference in Leixlip on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> October and the attendance was disappointingly small. Those who did attend were treated to GOAL's John O Shea speaking on the topic *Surviving in the Third World*. Famous for his outspoken views on international aid matters he gave a comprehensive and frank account of current problems in the developing world and his opinions on how they are being dealt with. During questions afterwards he admitted his ignorance on how serious the world drowning problem was and wished us well in our work.

4. The RLSS Commonwealth Secretary General John Long attended the conference and spoke on the world drowning problem and what International Life Saving is doing to tackle it. John is an important supporter of the Foundation and is the conduit through which most of the swimwear and associated items we collect for use overseas are actually delivered to their final destinations. This is a major cost saving factor for us. You may not be aware that most lifesaving organizations inside International Life Saving are national bodies with constitutions that require them to devote their resources to meeting their own national water safety needs. Some ILS members find creative ways of supporting developing lifesaving organizations but to my knowledge The Irish Lifesaving Foundation is the only organization whose primary aims are to promote water safety education and lifesaving training outside of its home base.

5. I attended the International Life Saving Conference in Italy in September sitting in on a number of meetings including the Development Commission meeting. At the RLSS Championships in 2003 in Durban, South Africa, Brendan Donohoe and I participated in a meeting of representatives from Southern African states at which it was agreed that all would co-operate together, under the guidance of Lifesaving South Africa, to set up national lifesaving organizations. There were a number of problems which delayed the project but it is now intended to proceed with it in 2005 and we may be asked to support it

financially. Vincent Flynn and I also attended an International Life Saving Europe function in Waterford City as guests of Irish Water Safety.

6. It is important to note the ongoing support for our work from LIFESAVERS who facilitated my attendance at the Italian conference and the attendance of RLSS UK President Clive Holland at the Leixlip conference.

7. The 2004 Ireland Medal was presented to Cork born Surgeon Admiral Frank Golden RNRtd for his work on hypothermia and sea survival. The medal was presented to Frank by *Commodore Frank Lynch, Flag Officer, Irish Navy at the Hypothermia Conference in UCD.*

Signed : \_\_\_\_\_ Date : \_\_\_\_\_

**John Connolly**  
Secretary