



# Irish Taekwon-Do Association

## Annual Report 2013





**2013 has been another excellent year of growth and success for our organisation,** the ITA now has almost 100 schools across Ireland, with many schools opening due to initiatives by the board of directors in line with our strategic plan.

We are now one year into our strategic plan, which outlines our goals and objectives for 4 years. We are happy to say that we are achieving our objectives and our association continues to grow and to flourish.

Some of the big highlights of 2013 included;

- Hosting another very successful IIC with the ITF Technical Committee which was attended by 130 black belts from 15 countries



- 3 very successful national tournaments each with over 500 competitors taking part
- Our national team achieving fantastic success. At the Euros in Sweden Ireland finished in 5th place with 18 medals, 5 gold, 7 silver and 6 bronze. At the World Championships Ireland finished in 2nd place overall with 10 Gold, 6 Silver & 11 Bronze medals. This shows that Taekwon-Do in Ireland is continuing to improve and our athletes are leading the way on the international stage.
- 2013 also saw ITA gain the status as NA (National Association for the ITF and AETF in Ireland)
- 2013 saw our number of International Instructors increase, most notably with newly promoted VI Dans and a new Master, Pat Barry promoted to 7th Dan.

### **ITA International Instructors:**

- |                                   |                                 |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Master Kenneth Wheatley VII Dan | • Mr. Jamie Rigney V Dan        |
| • Master Patrick O'Rourke VII Dan | • Mr. Donal O'Donoghue V Dan    |
| • Master Pat Barry VII Dan        | • Mr. Declan McMullen V Dan     |
| • Mr. Aidan Walsh VI Dan          | • Ms. Anne-Marie Kinsella V Dan |
| • Mr. Tim Forde VI Dan            | • Mr. Peter Crosbie V Dan       |
| • Mr. Terry Donnelly VI Dan       | • Mr. Hong Keat Looi V Dan      |
| • Mr. Paul Delea VI Dan           | • Mr. Darren Smith IV Dan       |
| • Mr. Adrian O'Mahoney VI Dan     | • Mr. Alan McDonagh IV Dan      |
| • Mr. Stephen Cooley VI Dan       | • Ms. Una Byrne IV Dan          |
| • Mr. Mark Buckley VI Dan         | • Ms. Ann Curran IV Dan         |
| • Mr. Francis Plunkett VI Dan     | • Mr. Marcin Oworuszko IV Dan   |
| • Mr. Niall Jones VI Dan          | • Mr. Andrew Butler IV Dan      |
| • Mr. Ken Leahy VI Dan            | • Mr. Carl Smullen IV Dan       |
| • Ms. Fiona Gallagher-Payet V Dan | • Mr. Stephen Smullen IV Dan    |
| • Mr. Adrian Byrne V Dan          | • Mr. Ross Smith IV Dan         |
| • Mr. Kevin Kinsella V Dan        | • Ms. Laura Ryan IV Dan         |
| • Mr. Stephen Ryan V Dan          | • Ms. Eileen Plunkett IV Dan    |
| • Mr. Brian Coughlan V Dan        | • Mr. Derek Hanlon IV Dan       |

### **ITA Clubs:**

**Our number of clubs has also continued to increase and we will soon hit 100 clubs in ITA, the list of clubs can be viewed here: [http://www.taekwondo.ie/information/ita\\_national\\_club\\_directory-31.html](http://www.taekwondo.ie/information/ita_national_club_directory-31.html)**



**with strategies like our expansion package for new clubs, and professionally designed promotional material for all clubs we will continue to grow and achieve our aim of having an ITA club in every Irish County.**



# Review of the Year 2013



The AGM was well attended with over 50 instructors and black belts from around the country in attendance.

The members showed great confidence in the direction of the ITA, by electing the same board of directors for 2013 that had been in place in 2012. Master Kenneth Wheatley was re-elected as President of the association, with Mr Mark Buckley, 6th Dan elected Vice-President. Mr Stephen Ryan was again elected Secretary-General with Mr Kevin Kinsella elected Treasurer. Mr Stephen Cooley, Mr Adrian O'Mahoney, Mr Pat Barry and Mr Adrian Byrne make up the rest of the eight-person board of directors.



The IIC hosted by ITA from January 25th to 27th 2013 in Tralee was a fantastic success. The course was attended by 130 black belts from 15 countries. The ITA board of directors would like to thank all participants for their support, the organising committee for their fantastic work and of course the ITF technical committee of Grandmaster Marano, Grandmaster Bos and Grandmaster Lan for giving an excellent course. Special congratulations to Mr. Niall Jones, instructor of Killester Taekwon-Do club and member of the ITA technical committee and tournament & umpire committee on his promotion to 6th Dan during the examination on Sunday the 27th January.

For full details about the course please read the reports on the AETF and ITF websites at the links below.

Read the report from the AETF website [by clicking here](#)  
Read the report from the ITF website [by clicking here](#)











Dr. Richard Aboud was appointed as the ITF anti-doping and medical officer by the ITF Board of Directors. Please [click here](#) for the bulletin on the ITF website.

ITA was well represented at the Open Dutch 2013; taking home 6 Gold, 5 Silver and 4 Bronze medals. You can read the full report here: [http://www.taekwondo.ie/news/article/open\\_dutch\\_report-315.html](http://www.taekwondo.ie/news/article/open_dutch_report-315.html)





The ITA Cork Open took place on the 16th & 17th of February 2013 in the Neptune Stadium. This year's Open boasted record numbers with 610 competitors from 34 clubs competing in The ITA's first championship of 2013. A full report can be read here; [http://www.taekwondo.ie/news/article/cork\\_open\\_2013\\_report-318.html](http://www.taekwondo.ie/news/article/cork_open_2013_report-318.html)



On the weekend of the 18th and 19th of May an Introduction to Coaching Taekwon-Do course was held in Shannon Taekwon-Do Centre under the auspices of the Taekwon-Do Advisory Board and IMAC. 13 Participants undertook 2 days of training covering topics such as; the child athlete, the role of the coach, motivation and discipline, observation skills, warm up, physical development, technical skills and instruction methodology, games for understanding and sparring tactics.

Photos from the course: <https://picasaweb.google.com/IrishTKD/CoachingCourseMay2013>



Mr. Stephen Ryan was presented with an award from the Irish Martial Arts Commission as an IMAC Volunteer Ambassador. This award is presented to those who capture the spirit of Volunteering upon which much of the Irish Martial Arts community is built and sustained. They should be someone who's contribution to the development of Martial Arts has had a significant impact upon their community, their club, their Art or Martial Arts in general on a regional or national level. Members of the ITA nominated Mr. Ryan for this award for his years of work on behalf of the ITA and his continued dedication to the development ITF Taekwon-Do in Ireland.



The ITA Dublin Open took place in the DCU Sports Complex on April 28th. This was the largest one-day tournament ever run by the association with 522 competitors, junior & senior taking part. This tournament was exclusively for colour belts

Blanchardstown Taekwon-Do finished as the best overall club with 14 Gold, 7 Silver & 5 Bronze medals, Integrity Martial Arts placed second while Cork ITA, Newlands Taekwon-Do & Greystones rounded out the top five respectively.



The ITF Ireland Taekwon-Do Team returned home from the AETF European Championships in Skovde, Sweden with an impressive haul of 18 medals, 5 gold, 7 silver and 6 bronze. Ireland finished 5th overall out of 29 countries. Well done to the squad of 29 ITA competitors, coaches, umpires, managers and the travelling supporters on their success, link for a day-by-day report: [Irish ITF Taekwon-Do Team Facebook page](#)

Full report here: [http://www.taekwondo.ie/news/article/euros\\_2013\\_success-340.html](http://www.taekwondo.ie/news/article/euros_2013_success-340.html)





The annual ITA examiners conference took place in the Bracken Hotel, Balbriggan, Dublin on Sunday May 26th 2013. The conference is an opportunity for all ITA members from 4th Dan upwards to meet and discuss the black belt grading and syllabus. This years conference was attended by 23 ITA examiners. The meeting was a very productive event with several modifications being adopted to the black belt syllabus and grading format..



The ITA Blackbelt Open took place in the Watershed Sports Complex, Co. Kilkenny on June 2nd 2013. The tournament was open exclusively to black belt & black tags and was the last qualification tournament for those hoping to represent Ireland in the World Championships in Benidorm in October. There was a high-calibre of Taekwon-Do on display with many World & European championship medalists taking part in the junior & senior sections. Full report here: [http://www.taekwondo.ie/news/article/black\\_belt\\_open\\_report-345.html](http://www.taekwondo.ie/news/article/black_belt_open_report-345.html)





The ITA Summer Camp took place from Friday July 12th to Monday July 15th in Newtown School, Waterford City. This year the camp took place in a new venue, which saw major improvements in terms of accommodation, food, facilities and training space. 130 people attended the camp from ITA clubs across Ireland ranging from yellow belt to 7th Dan Master and from age 10 up to the oldest participant, showing great indomitable spirit by completing all training sessions at the age of 72. The camp participants were divided into 2 groups, with those aged 12 and under in one group and those 13+ in the other. The training started on Friday afternoon with sparring sessions being led by Mr. Stephen Cooley VI Dan and Mr. Mark Buckley VI Dan, who had the senior group, with Mr. Adrian Byrne V Dan assisted by Mr. Luke Laffan II Dan teaching the junior group. In the evening Mr. Stephen Ryan V Dan taught a class to seniors on technical kicking and ITF Patterns while Mr. Niall Jones VI Dan taught the same topics to the junior group. In the evenings the camp participants had the opportunity to work one on one in consultations with the camp instructors and despite the heat and tough training during the day there was plenty of demand for the evening workshops.

This year we decided for the first time to invite a special guest to our summer camp and Saturday morning saw the first sessions under the tuition of Mr. Stephen Tapilatu V Dan. Mr. Tapilatu is one of the great icons of ITF Taekwon-Do having won the World Title in ITF 2 times, King of Taekwon-Do title 2 times and also a silver medal in the WTF World Championships. Mr. Tapilatu led 2 sessions with the seniors on both Saturday and Sunday and 1 session with the junior group each day. The camp participants were put through their paces in the intense heat but all thoroughly enjoyed the training with Mr. Tapilatu over the 2 days.





Sabum Sunday, training for 4th Dan and above, took place on Sunday September 1st 2013 in Shannon TKD Centre, Co. Clare. The training was attended by several 4th, 5th and 6th Dans, as well as ITA President, Master Ken Wheatley 7th Dan. The training focused in detail on the black belt patterns from Gwang-Gae to Tong-Il. Everyone who attended commented very positively about the event and expressed a desire for more training sessions like this in the future..





The ITA hosted a Tri-Nations international fight night in the Ashbourne GAA centre, Co. Meath on Saturday 14th September. The event featured junior & senior, male & female teams representing Ireland, Scotland & England. The teams competed in team patterns as well team sparring events, with a number of individual matches also scheduled, as well as a demonstration of fourth dan patterns. The event began at 3pm with preliminary rounds taking place ahead of the finals gala in the evening. The main event began at 6pm with a crowd of several hundred people from all over Ireland as well as Scotland & England there to witness the action. The competition took place on an impressive 12 x 12 metre raised stage with lighting units and a DJ making for an electric atmosphere for the spectators and athletes alike. The event featured umpires from Ireland, Scotland & England and the Jury President for the event was Master Pat O'Rourke, 7th Dan, while Master Kenneth Wheatley, ITA President presented the trophies to the winning teams. Full report here: [http://www.taekwondo.ie/news/article/tri-nations\\_report-358.html](http://www.taekwondo.ie/news/article/tri-nations_report-358.html)





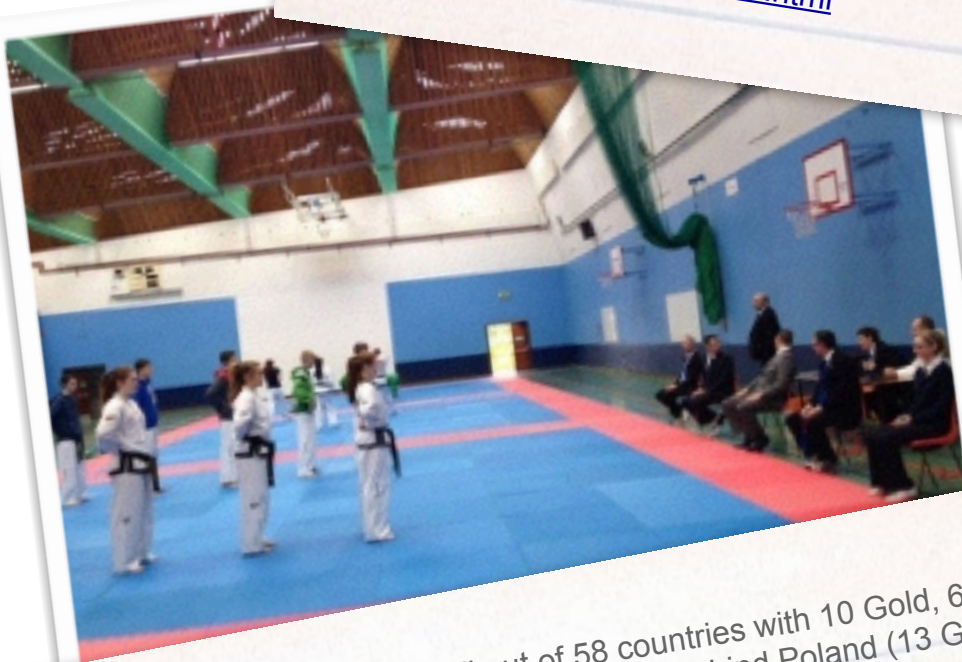
The Irish Taekwon-Do Association held a National Technical Seminar in Cobh, Co. Cork on Sunday September 22nd 2013. The event was hosted by Mr. Paul Delea VI Dan and Mr. Ken Leahy VI Dan and the course was conducted by the ITA technical & instruction committee of: Master Kenneth Wheatley VII Dan, Mr. Niall Jones VI Dan and Mr. Stephen Ryan V Dan.

The course was attended by 50 red and black belts from ITA clubs all around Ireland. Over the course of the day all participants received a lot of training on all 24 patterns, with the new format allowing the senior grades much more time to work on Patterns up to Tong-Il than in previous seminars. Also covered in detail was step sparring with new 2 step examples being demonstrated by the technical committee as guidelines for instructors. Fundamental movements from the patterns were analysed, discussed and corrected throughout the course of the day as well as kicking techniques related to the ITF patterns.





An umpire workshop was held in conjunction with National Team training on Sunday October 13th 2013, which was offered on a free of charge basis. The workshop was attended by participants from Dublin, Wexford, Cork and Clare ITA clubs. Although numbers of participants were small the willingness of the participants to learn and work on using their skills was very motivating, with the way the day was laid out. To start with Mr. Ryan gave a short talk on reasons for the rules in tournaments and on how the tournaments were run by the different Committees. Also advice was given on the scoring of the different events. We started with a workshop on team patterns, followed by individual patterns, power test, special technique and finally individual and team sparring. Full report here: [http://www.taekwondo.ie/news/article/umpire\\_workshop\\_report-365.html](http://www.taekwondo.ie/news/article/umpire_workshop_report-365.html)



Ireland placed second overall out of 58 countries with 10 Gold, 6 Silver and 11 Bronze medals, leaving Ireland just behind Poland (13 Gold, 6 Silver and 8 Bronze).

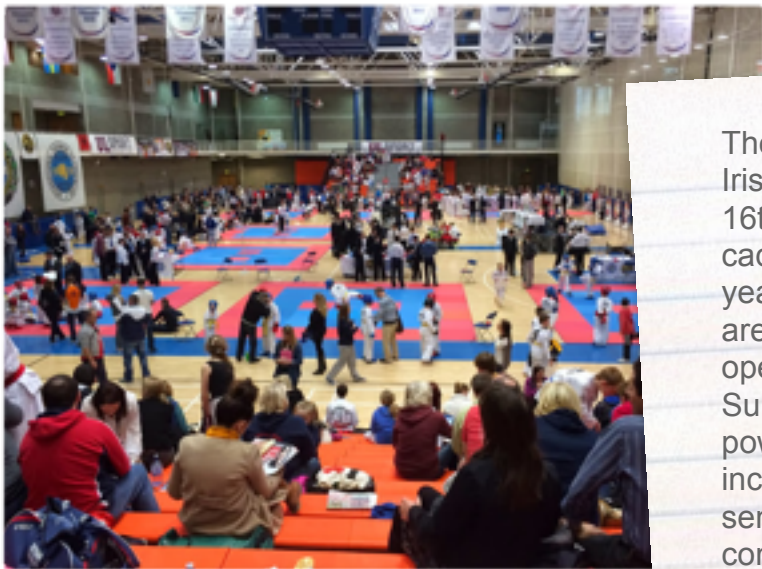
The Irish delegation consisted of 48 competitors and 7 coaches/managers as well as 3 umpires. The achievements of the team as a whole were beyond the expectations of anyone outside the Irish camp; however the quality and potential of the team was evident, with very strong performances from our juniors at World Cup last October and successive European Championships over the past three years. In addition to this, the senior team has been reinvigorated recently with the addition of some very talented new seniors who have moved up from the junior ranks to join the already established international competitors. This contributed to the outstanding results at the world championship in the team events, particularly in sparring. Full report here: [http://www.taekwondo.ie/news/article/irish\\_ita\\_taekwondo\\_team\\_place\\_2nd\\_at\\_world\\_championships-371.html](http://www.taekwondo.ie/news/article/irish_ita_taekwondo_team_place_2nd_at_world_championships-371.html)







Mr. Stephen Ryan, ITA Secretary General, was appointed as chairman of the ITF Marketing and Development Committee by the ITF Board of Directors. He joins the team of Paco Ferrando from Spain and Fabian Izquierdo from Argentina in this important new role.



The Irish Taekwon-Do Association hosted the 2013 Irish Cup in the University of Limerick Arena on the 16th & 17th of November. Saturday the 16th was for cadets (14 – 17) and seniors, while those under-14 years of age competed on the Sunday. The full UL arena was used on both days with four rings in operation on the Saturday and eight rings on Sunday including a ring for special technique & power breaking. This was the first ITA tournament to include special technique for colour belts juniors & seniors. This was a large tournament with 532 competitors over the two days from all over Ireland as well as a team from Albania.







Master Barry was successfully promoted to 7th Dan following his grading under the ITF Technical Committee at the 88th IIC in Belgium. The IIC was also attended by several other ITA instructors including our president, Master Wheatley, board member Mr. Adrian O'Mahoney and national team manager Mr. Jack Sheehan

The Irish Taekwon-Do Association (ITA) Winter Black Belt Test took place on the weekend of the 7th and 8th of December 2013. The grading was hosted by Mr. Carl Smullen IV Dan and Mr. Stephen Smullen IV Dan in Rathcoole Community Centre, Dublin. Over the weekend 55 people presented for the examination out of which 50 were successfully promoted.

