



# Irish Taekwon-Do Association



## Annual Report 2012



**2102 has been a fantastic year of growth and success for our organisation,** the ITA now has almost 90 schools across Ireland, with many schools opening internally due to initiatives by the board of directors in terms of financial and marketing support and many instructors and schools being attracted to ITA in the last 12 months from other organisations, attracted by our success, our focus on the membership, democratic structure and professional events.

2012 saw the ITA launch of our strategic plan, which outlines our goals and objectives for the next 4 years and has already seen benefits for the organisation since its implementation in January.

It was also a year of great success on the international stage with many European Medallists, a very successful IUC and of course ITA being ranked number 1 association at the ITF World Cup in Brighton.

# International Instructors

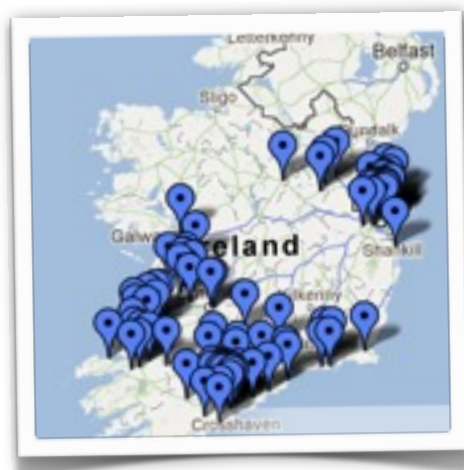
Name	Rank	Plaque	Police Vetting
Master Kenneth Wheatley	IRE-7-8	8003	IMAC-2-5
Master Patrick O'Rourke	IRE-7-9	1023	IMAC-4-16
Master Neil Franks	IRE-7-10	876	IMAC-18-6
Aidan Walsh	IRE-6-2	244	IMAC-
Tim Forde	IRE-6-3	601234	IMAC-11-19
Terry Donnelly	IRE-6-4	8057	IMAC-13-4
Pat Barry	IRE-6-13	8014	IMAC-2-3
Paul Delea	IRE-6-14	8015	IMAC-8-2
Adrian O'Mahoney	IRE-6-15	1224	IMAC-6-23
Stephen Cooley	IRE-6-16	2024	IMAC-14-8
Mark Buckley	IRE-6-17	2023	IMAC-8-17
Francis Plunkett	IRE-6-		IMAC-24-23
Ken Leahy	IRE-5-29	8023	IMAC-5-11
Fiona Gallagher-Payet	IRE-5-31	8111	IMAC-11-18
Niall Jones	IRE-5-32	8021	IMAC-8-13
Adrian Byrne	IRE-5-35	8040	IMAC-8-6-22
Kevin Kinsella	IRE-5-36	8007	IMAC-7-20
Stephen Ryan	IRE-5-37	8009	IMAC-6-26
Jamie Rigney	IRE-5-38	600093	IMAC-8-9
Brian Coughlan	IRE-5-39	8008	IMAC-12-2
Denis Gannon	IRE-5-32	8102	IMAC-
Donal O'Donoghue	IRE-5-40	8070	IMAC-3-4
Declan McMullen	IRE-5-41	600090	IMAC-7-8
Annie Kinsella	IRE-5-47	600089	IMAC-7-24
Peter Crosbie	IRE-5-48	8088	IMAC-
Hong Keat Looi	IRE-5-50	8108	IMAC-13-7
Darren Smith	IRE-4-56	8038	IMAC-12-22
Tony MacDonagh	IRE-4-58	8085	IMAC-10-21
Wayne Delea	IRE-4-59	8028	IMAC-8-11



Úna Byrne	IRE-4-61	8107	IMAC-
Ann Curran	IRE-4-62	8068	IMAC-
Alan McDonagh	IRE-4-63	8064	IMAC-
Marcin Oworuszko	IRE-4-65	8076	IMAC-13-24
Carl Smullen	IRE-4-78	8063	IMAC-11-17
Stephen Smullen	IRE-4-79	8081	IMAC-7-2
Ross Smith	IRE-4-80	601181	IMAC-9-1
Laura Cullen	IRE-4-	8071	IMAC-7-13
Eileen Plunkett	IRE-4-		IMAC-26-5
Andrew Butler	IRE-4-		IMAC-28-1

**2012 has seen significant growth in instructors and clubs...**

**The list of ITA 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)**



# Jan. 2012

The Irish Taekwon-Do Association Annual General Meeting (AGM) took place in the Horse & Jockey Hotel conference centre on Sunday January 15th 2012. 55 Instructors representing 75 clubs attended the meeting to elect the board of directors and standing committees for 2012.



Mr. Stephen Ryan, V Dan, ITA Umpire Chairperson and Mr. Ken Leahy V Dan, ITA Umpire Vice Chairperson, assisted by Miss Laura Cullen 3rd Dan, Tournament IT Co-ordinator conducted an ITA national umpire workshop on Sunday January 29th at the Cork International Airport Hotel. This workshop was offered on a free of charge basis, with the costs being covered by the ITA. The course was attended by 49 participants from Cork, Clare, Limerick, Wexford, Wicklow and further afield including Master Kenneth Wheatley ( I.T.A. President ) and Master Patrick O'Rourke.



On Saturday and Sunday the 21st and 22nd January the Taekwon-Do Advisory Board of the Irish Martial Arts Commission held an Introduction to Coaching ITF Taekwon-Do Course in Shannon Taekwon-Do Centre. 20 coaches, 15 of whom were from the ITA, completed two days of training under the supervision of Adrian Byrne and Stephen Ryan, both CDPI (Coaching Development Programme for Ireland) accredited tutors







**January 2102 saw the launch of the ITA Strategic Plan.** This document will serve as the mandate for the ITA board of directors and all standing committees for the next four years.

Foreword by Master Wheatley:

It is with great pleasure that I write this introduction to the 2011 - 2015 Strategic Plan for the Irish Taekwon-Do Association. The ITA has grown from strength to strength in the past years on the back of initiatives put into motion by the Board of Directors, the working committees or the AGM. It is now time to take a considered and planned approach to our future progress.

Our instructors and members have very high expectations of the ITA. They take pride in the hard work and achievements of the association and are willing to play their part in the next phase of growth and development. They have clearly stated that they see the ITA as the premier Taekwon-Do association on the Island of Ireland and they want, not just to maintain that position, but to position the ITA as one of the strongest associations in the world of ITF Taekwon-Do.

This strategic plan builds on the good work done to date and sets the course for the coming years so that we can look forward with confidence and with purpose.

[Download the strategic Plan here](#) (for high resolution version please email the [Secretary General](#))

# Feb. 2012



The ITA was represented by Mr. Pat Barry VI who attended the 70th IIC which took place in Hertfordshire, Watford, England from Friday January 27th to Sunday January 29th inclusive. The IIC was hosted by Master Thomas Denis and attended by over 240 people including 10 Masters.



On Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th February 2012, Kingdom Schools of Taekwon-do led by chief instructor Mr. Adrian O'Mahoney 6th Degree, hosted a series of seminars with Master Mark Hutton 7th Degree from Scotland. The seminars were conducted in Listowel and Tralee in Co. Kerry, Ireland and were supported by 73 participants ranging from white belt to 6th Degree black belt from throughout Ireland. Some of the most notable senior grades present were Mr. Adrian O'Mahoney 6th Degree (Organiser), Mr. Mark Buckley 6th degree, Mr. Luke Laffan 2nd degree, Mr. Edward Dillon 2nd Degree, Mr. David Power 2nd Degree, Mr. Barry O'Connor 1st Degree and Ms. Sara Dillon 1st Degree



ITA Competitors took part in the Dutch Open, organised by Masrer Willy van de Mortel, taking home 8 gold, 3 silver and 1 bronze medal. Full report here:

[http://www.taekwondo.ie/news/article/dutch\\_open\\_report-239.html](http://www.taekwondo.ie/news/article/dutch_open_report-239.html)



## Feb. 2012



The 2012 edition of the ITA Cork Open Championships took place on the 18th and 19th of February. The long running annual competition was held for the second time in Neptune Stadium, which is situated in the heart of Cork City. The modern stadium was selected as a venue to enhance the atmosphere of the event and to cater for the growing number of competitors attending the tournament per annum. This year 578 participants representing 31 clubs from throughout Ireland took part. Out of that 560 came from within ITA, 14 from RITA, 2 from INTA and 2 from TKDI.

## March 2012



On Sunday March 4th 2012 Master Kenneth Wheatley in his capacity as Chairperson of the IMAC, Irish Martial arts Commission, was invited to the official opening of the Kick-boxing Ireland Open Championships. This tournament is now one of the biggest fight tournaments in the world with over 2,400 competitors and was held at the City West Conference Centre in Dublin. The event was officiated by the Minister for Tourism, Transport and Sport, Minister Leo Varadkar and The President of the Olympic Council of Ireland, as well as President of the European Olympic Council (EOC) Mr Patrick (Pat) Hickey and the President of IMAC Mr Brendan Dowling.





# Apr. 2012



On the 31st March to 1st April 2012, 400 competitors from 17 countries took part in this year's edition of Viking Cup 2012. There were all the way from far away countries: Argentina, Canada and Australia! Ireland was represented by 7 national competitors, as a warm up event, gearing towards the European Championship in Slovenia: Mr. Darren Smith IV Dan, Mr. Hong Looi IV Dan, Ms. Sabina Mason III Dan, Mr. Stephen Smullen III Dan, Mr. Shane O'Rourke II Dan, Mr. Luke Laffan II Dan and Ms. Chloe About II Dan

[http://www.taekwondo.ie/news/article/viking\\_cup\\_2012\\_report-260.html](http://www.taekwondo.ie/news/article/viking_cup_2012_report-260.html)



The Irish Taekwon-Do Team returned home from the European Championships in Slovenia with an impressive haul of 3 Gold, 8 Silver and 12 Bronze medals. The squad of 34 competitors all performed to an exceptional level. Ireland was also represented by coaches; Mr. Stephen Cooley VI Dan, Mr. Niall Jones V Dan, Mr. Adrian Byrne V Dan, manager; Mr. Jack Sheehan II Dan and umpires Mr. Pat Barry VI Dan, Mr. Paul Delea VI Dan and Mr. Brian Behan IV Dan.

[http://www.taekwondo.ie/news/article/euros\\_success\\_for\\_ireland-262.html](http://www.taekwondo.ie/news/article/euros_success_for_ireland-262.html)





# May 2012



The Lord Mayor of Dublin, Andrew Montague, hosted a reception for the Irish Taekwon-Do Team in the Mansion House, Dublin. This was to mark the achievements of the national team at the European Championships in Slovenia. The team were treated to a tour of the facilities and light refreshments before being presented with a scroll to congratulate them on their success. The ITA and national team would like to thank the lord mayor and his staff for their hospitality.



Mr Adrian O'Mahoney, 6th Degree and Chief Instructor of Kingdom Schools of Taekwon-Do, invited Ms Julia Cross, 5th Degree, to Co. Kerry in Ireland to conduct Sparring Seminars in April of 2012. Ms Cross is a 6 times ITF World Champion and was in the "Kingdom of Kerry" for Junior and Senior Sparring Seminars.

The 73rd IIC was held in West Lothian College, Livingston, Scotland from 11th to 13th May, hosted by Master Sheena Sutherland VIII Degree. This event was conducted over 3 days by our ITF Technical Committee, Grandmaster Hector Marano, Grandmaster Willem Bos and Grandmaster Ung Kim Lan. There were 120 participants with 11 Masters from 13 countries, Scotland, Czech Republic, England, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway and of course, Ireland supported this event. ITA was represented by 2 of our 3 Masters; Master Kenneth Wheatley and Master Patrick O'Rourke as well as 15 members: Mr. Adrian O'Mahoney, Mr. Pat Barry, Mr. Paul Delea, Mr. Ken Leahy, Mr. Niall Jones, Mr. Stephen Ryan, Mr. Declan McMullen, Ms. Laura Cullen, Mr. Derek Hanlon, Mr. Carl Smullen, Mr. Stephen Smullen, Mr. Ross Smith, Mr. Rodney Connolly, Ms. Jeanne Byrne and Mr. Hong Looi.





# May 2012



On the weekend of the 12th and 13th of May an Introduction to Coaching Taekwon-Do course was held in Donabate Taekwon-Do Club under the auspices of the Taekwon-Do Advisory Board and IMAC. 17 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.



The Dublin Open took place on the weekend of the 19 & 20th of May in the Baldoyle Arena, Dublin, with exactly 500 competitors coming from 29 clubs all over Ireland for the two day event. The tournament began at 10am sharp on both days and finished approximately within its designated time frame. This was due to the efficient, committed and professional work of the tournament and umpire committee in preparation leading up to and during the event, which includes Mr. Stephen Cooley (Tournament organiser), Mr. Adrian Byrne (Tournament Administrator), Mr. Mark Buckley (Tournament Director), Mr. Stephen Ryan (Umpire Chairperson) and Ms. Laura Cullen (Tournament IT Coordinator).

On Sunday 27th of May, 82 members of ITA clubs from around the country ranging from 3rd Kup to 7th Dan travelled to Ennis for the second ITA technical seminar of 2012. The seminar was led by the ITA technical committee of Master Kenneth Wheatley 7th Dan, Mr Niall Jones 5th Dan & Mr Stephen Ryan 5th Dan and the three instructors did an excellent job in providing instruction and feedback to all participants. Of the 82-strong group, 48 black belts were in attendance, this included several instructors and high-degree black belts.





**Summer 2102 saw the ITA host the ITF International Umpire Course** in Limerick on the weekend of the 30th of June & 1st of July. The event was the largest Umpires course ever run by the ITF with over 180 participants from 18 countries in attendance. With participants traveling from Argentina, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, England, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Russia, Scotland, Sweden, USA and Vietnam, this was an historic IUC as it was the first time that the updated ITF rules, which will be introduced from January 2013, were presented.

Full report here: [http://www.taekwondo.ie/news/article/iuc\\_a\\_great\\_success-276.html](http://www.taekwondo.ie/news/article/iuc_a_great_success-276.html)

Photos:

Excursion to Cliffs of Moher: <https://picasaweb.google.com/IrishTKD/IUCCliffsOfMoherTrip>

Banquet in Bunratty Castle: <https://picasaweb.google.com/IrishTKD/IUCBunrattyCastleBanquet>

IUC Gallery 1: <https://picasaweb.google.com/IrishTKD/IUCGallery1>

IUC Gallery 2: <https://picasaweb.google.com/IrishTKD/IUCGallery2>











# June/July 2012



The ITA Summer Blackbelt grading took place on the weekend of 16 & 17th of June in Rathcoole, Co. Dublin. 38 candidates presented for testing for grades ranging from 1st to 5th Degree Blackbelt. The event was hosted in the Rathcoole Community Centre by Carl & Stephen Smullen of Newlands Taekwon-Do Club. The grading was run in two adjoining training halls with two examiner panels on both days to ensure maximum efficiency. The grading was conducted using the ITA grading software meaning examiners could enter scores & feedback extremely quickly and results could be calculated instantly at the end of the grading and feedback could be given to instructors and students.

The Irish Taekwon-Do Association held its annual summer camp in Mount Melleray, Co. Waterford from the 13th to the 16th of July. This was the 5th year for the camp to be held at the Mount Melleray scout centre and it was attended by students of all ages and grades from clubs around the country. The participants arrived for lunch on Friday after which the group was split in to a junior class as well as a cadet and senior class; each group did 10 -two hour sessions over the weekend working on sparring, patterns, self-defence, kicking and fundamental movements. The Camp was led by a number of experienced ITA instructors including Master Kenneth Wheatley 7th Dan, Master Neil Franks 7th Dan, Mr Mark Buckley 6th Dan, Mr Pat Barry 6th Dan, Mr Niall Jones 5th Dan, Mr Stephen Ryan 5th Dan, Mr Adrian Byrne 5th Dan, Ms Anne-Marie Kinsella 5th Dan Mr Carl Smullen 4th Dan, Mr Stephen Smullen 4th Dan, Ms Laura Cullen 3rd Dan and Mr Luke Laffan 2nd Dan. Also in attendance at the camp was Master Pat O'Rourke 7th Dan, Mr Adrian O'Mahoney 6th Dan, Mr Jamie Rigney 5th Dan, Mr Hong Looi 5th Dan and Mr Paul King 1st Dan as well as many other senior & junior blackbelts.





# Sept. 2012



The ITA annual Examiners Conference took place in North Mon Taekwon-Do, Cork City on Saturday September 15th 2012. The conference is a key event on the ITA calendar as it is a forum for the senior grades of the association to meet, discuss and improve the structure of the ITA black belt exam, black belt syllabus and other technical matters in the ITA. The conference was attended by 18 examiners from 4th - 7th Dan black belt, with ITA's three masters; Master Kenneth Wheatley (ITA President and Technical Director), Master Patrick O'Rourke, and Master Neil Franks all in attendance as well six 6th Dans, seven 5th dans and two 4th Dans.

The ITA Instructor workshop was held in North Mon TKD, Cork City on Sunday September 16th 2012. The workshop was attended by ITA instructors from all across Ireland, and included the attendance of ITA masters; Master Wheatley, Master O'Rourke and Master Franks. The workshop was lead by the ITA Technical Committee; Master Kenneth Wheatley VII Dan, Mr. Niall Jones V Dan and Mr. Stephen Ryan V Dan. The idea of the workshop was to help standardise the teaching of the ITA syllabus among ITA instructors but also for instructors to share ideas, especially with the new Taekwon-Do season commencing.





# Oct. 2012

The ITA came out on top at the IV ITF World Cup in Brighton, England from October 4th to 8th 2012, finishing number 1 out of 163 schools/associations. The ITA was recognised as the best association at the event after our squad won an amazing 21 gold, 17 silver and 20 bronze medals. ITA competitors Louise McCagh and Chloe Aboud also took home the awards for best overall senior and junior female respectively. ([full report](#))

[Click here for a full list of ITA results](#)

[Click here for pictures](#)

[Click here for ITA Youtube channel and several videos](#)





# Nov. 2012



On Wednesday November 20th 2012 the Federation of Irish Sport hosted their National Awards to Irish Sport Volunteers and Celebratory Lunch at the prestigious Aviva Stadium Lansdowne Road in our capitol city Dublin. Master Wheatley attended the awards in his capacity as Chair of the Irish Martial Arts Commission by invitation of the Minister of State at the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport, Minister Michael Ring T.D.



The Irish Taekwon-Do Association hosted the 2012 Irish Cup in the University of Limerick Arena on the 17th & 18th of November. Saturday 17th was for cadets (14 - 17) and seniors, while those under-14 years of age competed on the Sunday. The full arena was used with four rings in operation on the Saturday & seven rings working on Sunday. This was one of the largest tournaments to be run by the ITA with 500 competitors from Ireland, Scotland, Sweden, Northern Ireland, Italy, Finland and France. The tournament was also attended by Grandmaster Paul Cutler from Northern Ireland, Master George Vitale from New York as well as the ITA's own Master Kenneth Wheatley, Master Pat O'Rourke and Master Neil Franks.





# Dec. 2012

The ITA Winter 2012 black belt grading took place in the West County Hotel, Ennis, Co. Clare on the weekend of the 8th & 9th of December. 49 people presented for the promotional test out of which 43 were promoted over the two days. Special mention must go to Ms. Laura Cullen who was promoted to 4th Dan, adding to the number of female international instructors in the ITA.

