

Irish Freestyle Committee AGM 16/4/05 -- PRO Officer Maurice Kelleher

This past year has been outstanding, for the promotion of Irish freestyle kayaking. Ireland has now established it's self clearly in the international kayaking world of freestyle. In June 2004 the Spanish European Freestyle Kayaking Championships saw junior Leonard Kelleher taking 2nd place in Europe. Leonard was later nominated for sports stars of the year in the fíngal district in early January. In the same month of January 2005 the Australian World Freestyle Kayaking Championships again saw an outstanding achievement from the Irish team as Maurice Kelleher, took home 6th place. The media exposure that followed each achievement was excellent publicity for our sport here in Ireland and it left the international freestyle kayakers wondering what Ireland had to offer. The world championships were broadcast on Australian television and a one hour programme was broadcast on Sky Sports. The indoor freestyle festival in the RDS last month was again another step in the right direction regards publicity and exposure for the sport here in Ireland. Throughout the weekend various radio stations publicised the event and RTE broadcast a short programme featuring the indoor kayaking competition. Outsider Magazine has also been a good exposure ground for freestyle over the year. Maurice Kelleher will be appearing in the forth coming International Kayak Session Magazine and he will try to continue to be a good Irish ambassador for the sport by helping to promote it in the best way possible.