

Great Team Day for Irish Youth Olympics Squad

14th July 2011



EYOF Team

A highly motivated Irish squad, including Donegal athletes Ruairi Finnigan, Letterkenny AC and Karl Griffin, Tir Chonaill AC, assembled in the Deerpark Hotel, Howth for a Team Day at which full details of Europe's biggest and most prestigious competition for young athletes – the Under 18 Youth Olympics - were outlined. The Irish team departs from Dublin, early next Monday morning event is for mini Olympic style competition that will be held later this month in Trabzon, Turkey.

The Team Day proceedings were chaired by the Team Ireland's Chef de Mission Tom Rafter and excellent contributions were also made by the OCI's sports director Martin Burke and the team's chief medical officer, Dr. Rod McLoughlin.

Over 50 squad members – athletes, coaches and managers – enjoyed the event and left excited at the prospect of going for gold in Turkey. Ireland will be represented in five sports – athletics, cycling, gymnastics, tennis and swimming – and will field the cream of Ireland's young sports stars in the drive for medal success.

The European Youth Olympics are a vital part of the Olympic calendar, giving young Irish athletes the chance to compete in a major multi-sports event, one which is effectively a 'mini Olympics'



14 July 2011: Members of the Irish squad Ben and Megan Kelly, athletes who are trainees and will be competing in the 400m and 400m hurdles respectively, as the team get together for final preparations ahead of the European Youth Olympic Festival. The Olympic Council of Ireland will be sending the largest team ever, as scores of athletes will compete in 5 sports, Athletics, Cycling, Gymnastics, Swimming and Tennis with a realistic hope of medal success. The European Youth Olympic Festival will take place from the 23rd to the 29th July in Trabzon, Turkey and is a stepping stone for athletes to compete in the summer Olympic Games in future years. Irish Team for European Youth Olympic Festival, Howth, Dublin. Picture credit: Brendan Moran / SPORTSFILE





SPORTS 17 July 2011. Members of the Irish squad who will compete in swimming, hockey, from left, Sean O'Brien, Ulster individual member, from Thurles, Dublin, Brendan Gilmore, Ulster University, from Ashmore, Co. Wick, Brian O'Sullivan, Ulster hockeys, Ulster and the University of Limerick, Co. Kerry, David O'Sullivan, DRI and Ulster hockeys, from Galway, and Luke Fingleton, Ulster hockeys, from New Ross, Co. Wick, and Ulagh Flood, Ulster hockeys, from Kesh, Co. Wick, Paul Dunne, swimming coach and Betty Beatty, swimming team manager, as the team get together for final preparations ahead of the European Youth Olympic Festival. The Olympic Council of Ireland will be sending the largest team ever, in excess of 60 athletes will compete in 7 sports, Athletics, Cycling, Canoeing, Swimming and Tennis with a nucleus group of medal hopefuls. The European Youth Olympic Festival will take place from the 14th to the 26th July in Trabzon, Turkey and is a major event for athletes to compete in the summer Olympic Games in Beijing 2008. Irish Youth Olympic Festival, 2011, Dublin, Ireland. Photo credit: Brendan Gilmore, SPORTS IRELAND.