

PRESS RELEASE
Dublin, 3 February 2006

SWIM IRELAND APPOINTS NEW PERFORMANCE HEAD COACH

Swim Ireland, with the support of the Irish Sports Council, is delighted to announce the appointment of Keith Bewley as Swim Ireland's first Performance Head Coach. Keith is expected to take up his appointment in early February

Chief Executive, Sarah Keane says that "We are very excited to be welcoming Keith to Irish swimming. His appointment is an integral part of our Performance Plan and a huge step forward for Swim Ireland and Irish Swimming as a whole. Our current High Performance Advisor, Terry Denison, who has been working with Swim Ireland for the last 4 months on a part time basis will continue to support Keith in the short term. But, reflecting the current structure of Irish swimming, there will now be a stronger emphasis on working with our swimmers, clubs and coaches on a regular basis in their home situation, supported by an ever improving High Performance programme of training, testing and competition made possible through funding by the Irish Sports Council".

Chairman, Tony Farrell said, "It has taken us awhile but we believe the combined set up of Keith Bewley and Terry Denison was worth the wait. This is a milestone in Irish swimming and would not have been possible without the continuing support and encouragement of the Irish Sports Council and the dedication of our Board. Keith is key to our longer term goals of greater and stronger representation in the international arena while helping to develop clear pathways for our young athletes and aspiring coaches at home. "

Prior to taking up this new role with Swim Ireland Keith spent twenty seven years in the position of Chief Swimming Coach with the Wigan Wasps in England. He has also worked with the British Team on camps and in competition. He was appointed chief coach to the British Youth Distance group at their training camp last September. Keith has a proven track record in Olympic swimming success having coached June Croft to Olympic Silver and Anne Osgerby to Olympic Silver and Bronze in 1984. More recently Keith has coached Rachel Corner to European Championship Bronze in the 400m IM.

Swim Ireland's High Performance Advisor Terry Denison added, "Real success will only come if access to facilities for swimmers and coaches can be improved and if more full-time coaches can be employed. Keith will be instrumental in helping to bring this about. His knowledge worldwide and especially in Britain of using modern coaching techniques in well established council backed training schemes and clubs will be invaluable in helping Irish swimming to move forward."

Keith Bewley said "I am delighted to accept the position of Performance Head Coach for Swim Ireland. I am looking forward to working with the swimming coaches and swimmers, the many volunteers needed to sustain the sport and the Irish swimming community at large."