



PRESS RELEASE

3 April, 2024

Striking Success at the European Youth Championships!

Silver and Bronze Medal Success for Team Ireland in Helsinki, Finland

It's a week of sport which Europe's best youth tenpin bowlers look forward to each year, to represent their country in the most prestigious annual Youth Championships in Europe – the European Youth Championships. The anticipation was palpable for this year's Championships as they were being held in the world famous Tali Bowl, in Helsinki, Finland (23rd March-1st April 2024), and Team Ireland gave supporters both in Tali Bowl and at home a lot to cheer about throughout the week!

Ireland's European Youth Championship debutant Anna Lawlor, third time participant Laura Grant, along with Hannah Masterson and Ciara Lawlor who were competing in their last ever European Youth Championships showed that hard work and dedication pays off when over the two day Team Event discipline, the Team finished Day One in 2nd place, and knowing on Day Two that a solid final game would secure their place in the Top 4, with being 97 pins clear of 5th, the team did just that with Hannah Masterson adding to the adrenaline even more by shooting her first ever perfect 300 game in the last game of team event qualification.

The Team secured a fantastic Bronze Team Medal after they were defeated by Team Denmark who advanced to the Final against home nation Finland, with Finland setting the team record in the Final (977 – 244.25 average). Hannah Masterson said "The whole team are so delighted with winning a European Bronze medal. We came to the Championships with no expectations but it was wonderful that all the hard work paid off. But we couldn't have achieved this without the dedication of our Coach, who gave up so many hours to work with us on the lanes." At the 1996 European Youth Championships in London, England, Team Coach David Staines won the Boys Bronze Team Medal as a player and now added the medal as a Coach.

Following the Bronze Medal success and shooting her first ever perfect game the previous day, Hannah Masterson rounded out her European Youth Championship career by advancing to the Gold Medal Masters Match against Denmark's Karen Kærgaard Nielsen with Hannah winning the Silver Medal for Ireland. Following the Masters, Hannah said "I am so happy to have won a silver medal in the European Youth Championships. The competition was so tough with Europe's best young bowlers competing but I am just delighted to come home with the Masters silver medal."

Irish Tenpin Bowling Association (ITBA) Chairperson Christopher Sloan said of the team's achievements: "The outstanding performance and success of our Irish Youth



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Team competing at the European Championships in Helsinki is a testament to the dedication, talent and hard work of our young athletes. Their achievements not only showcase their individual skills but also highlight the strength and importance of good communication and teamwork. We are immensely proud of their accomplishments and look forward to continued success in future competitions."

Written By: Lauren Dugan (Irish Tenpin Bowling Association PRO)

About European Youth Championships (EYC) 2024


Each European Federation can send 4 Boys and 4 Girls who must not reach the age of 19 years in the season in which the Championships are held. The EYC consists of separate divisions for Boys and Girls with Singles, Doubles, and Team disciplines before the Top 16 advance to the Masters.


Team Ireland were represented by Laura Grant, Anna Lawlor, Ciara Lawlor, and Hannah Masterson for the Girls, with Dillon McKeown and Colum Staines representing the Boys.

David Staines was Team Coach and Stephen Masterson Team Manager.

About the Irish Tenpin Bowling Association (ITBA)

The Irish Tenpin Bowling Association is the National Governing Body for the sport of Tenpin Bowling in the Republic of Ireland.

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