



IRISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



IN SLOVAKIA

Come, join our sports day

Saturday,
June 9th, 12pm



Annual **Family** Sports Day

Venue: Cunovo
Football
Pitch

GAA teams to be confirmed

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Second Family Sports Day
- New Member introduction - Crowne Plaza
- Events roundup
- Our Shamrocks wins its first game
- Cultural Highlights – Connemara Irish Dance Group
- The Gathering 2013
- First Eurozone Conference hailed a success
- Diary Dates

Sports Day

Second Annual Family Sports Day

Following the success of last year's event, we are pleased to invite all to the Second Family Sports Day on Saturday, June 9th at the Cunovo Football pitch.

Various activities will be offered to the individuals and families – Gaelic Football, Soccer, Zumba, Tug-of-War, Chess, Face-painting – and a BBQ lunch as well as beverages will be served throughout the day.

Form a children or adult soccer team (6 per team) or simply come along with your family for a day of sports and leisure in Cunovo!

Foreword

Dear ICham Members and Friends,

Our Chamber has gone from strength to strength over the last few months with ten new members having had joined so far this year. This month's issue is featuring one of our latest Members, Crowne Plaza Bratislava. Our newly elected, strong Board of Directors for 2012 will undoubtedly add great value to the chamber's activities and benefits and we are delighted to have them on board.

We were thrilled to see such a great turnout at our recent golf tournament and trivia night including representatives from Embassies, Ministries, ICham members and local community. Keep checking our facebook page for the special summer quiz with a twist!

Finally, more good news, new office location! The ICham Board and all its Members would like to sincere thank the Embassy of Ireland for the opportunity to have its new office located at the Embassy premises as of 1 July 2012.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

"IF YOU HAVE AN APPLE AND I HAVE AN APPLE AND WE EXCHANGE THESE APPLES THEN YOU AND I WILL STILL EACH HAVE ONE APPLE. BUT IF YOU HAVE AN IDEA AND I HAVE AN IDEA AND WE EXCHANGE THESE IDEAS, THEN EACH OF US WILL HAVE TWO IDEAS."

– George Bernard Shaw

We have also prepared a special raffle with top prizes including a 4-day stay in Donovaly for the whole family, tickets for the English Comedy Nights and much more!

We look forward to seeing many of you then!
More details on our facebook event page here:
ICham Sports Day

Join us on Facebook



Welcome New Silver Member:

Hotel Crowne Plaza

We are delighted to welcome Crowne Plaza Bratislava as a new ICham Member. When we asked General Manager of Crowne Plaza Bratislava, Peter Pottinga why they joined our Chamber, he said:

"It is our great pleasure to join the Irish Chamber of Commerce in Slovakia. The Irish Chamber has grown in popularity due to their approach of networking and interacting with the business community in a relaxed and more informal setting, as evidenced by the large success of events such as the St. Patrick's Day celebrations, Golf tournaments, Christmas gatherings and possibly more notably the hugely successful Quiz Nights.

This approach fits seamlessly with that of the Crowne Plaza Bratislava where we have been very successful in mixing the serious art of business, with a much lighter side focused on becoming a familiar friend for the large expatriate community in Bratislava.

We are well into our third year now with the ever growing Sunday brunch. Our brunch is truly that, a mix of enticing breakfast as well as lunch favorites, rather than just an extensive lunch buffet. But we wanted to go beyond the food, to truly make it a family event to cherish. So we added a supervised children's corner (the first hotel to do so), toys, drawing, English cartoons on a large screen television, and more. Let the children play in a safe and secure environment, while you enjoy the great food and live music. And to really ensure that you bring the whole family we have made it **free for all kids** under 12 and only €17.95pp for everybody else.

We are also excited about the development of our Fresh! garden terrace. Situated next to the Fresh! restaurant, we have turned the ground floor terrace into a vegetable and herb garden. After a small trial last year, we have now converted the whole ground floor gardens. By the end of May we will have given the entire ground floor terrace a thorough refresh with new seat coverings, table runners, gazebos and lots more plants and flowers.

We will showcase this new garden environment in June when our brunch goes All Fresh! for a mouth watering barbecue brunch, with many ingredients going from our garden (via the kitchen) right onto your plate.



Our first brunch in June will be totally dedicated to children, with entertainment for children such as balloon animals, face painting and much more.

At the same time we are still the great business hotel that many of you already know. We have the largest and most flexible meeting facilities in the city, supported by a highly experienced and dedicated conference staff. Yet we are not sitting still either. Where last year we invested heavily in upgrading meeting rooms and introducing the latest audio visual equipment, this year we are focused on ensuring that the hotel is in step with the times with an upgrade of our television system, and extending our free wireless internet infrastructure throughout the entire hotel, not only the meeting space.

So whether for family, or for business, we aim to be the place to meet. An international hotel, but with a local heart. Not a non-descript brand in a sea of other brands, but a hotel that understands the local community and is able to carve out a little place in everybody's hearts.

Want to find out more about what is going on at the hotel? Check us out on facebook, or from June onwards visit us on our newly designed website crowne-plaza.sk where you will be able to view a blog by the hotel's rooms division manager as he is going to help run the athlete's village at the London 2012 Olympics."

IMPRESSUM:

Crowne Plaza Bratislava, Hodžovo námestie 2816 25 Bratislava Slovakia
Phone: + 421 2 5934 8111E-mail: cp.bratislava@ihg.com
Website: www.crowne-plaza.sk



Sport Highlights



Slovak Shamrocks win their first game at the Prague Tournament

Our Shamrocks competed in the East and Central European Regional Gaelic Football Championships in Prague on May 19th. They proudly picked up their first competitive win against Munich Colmcilles. The players showed a lot of character and grit as it was a long hard day of tough football in a hot and sunny Prague. Other regional teams such as the Vienna Gaels, Prague Hibernians (our hosts), and Zurich/St. Gallen also competed. Zurich/St. Gallen lifted the trophy as title winners of the mens competition at the end of the day while Cumann Warsaw lifted the ladies title. Well done to Prague Hibernians for organising a great day of Gaelic football and post tournament drinks in Prague that night!

Would you like to see them in action or give this fun and exciting sport a try? Come along to our Sports Day on June 9th in Cunovo!



2nd ICham Golf Tournament 2012

Second ICham Golf tournament hailed a success

On May 5th, we hosted our Second Golf Tournament at the newly renovated Welten Golf Club. It was a picture-perfect Saturday for another round of golf.

Thank you to all the golfers who came out to play, Welten Golf Club for so capably hosting the event and preparing a mouth-watering lunch and our terrific sponsors that made the day even more enjoyable.

Please mark Saturday, August 18th in your diary for our third tournament! Further details will be announced shortly.



GAA ON FACEBOOK

Click here to follow the Slovak Shamrock Team on Facebook!

Events Roundup

ICC Quarterly Board Meeting

The Second Quarterly Board Meeting was held on 15th of May at the premises of PM Group Slovakia.

New Board of Directors elected as follows:
ICHAM BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2012

Honorary President:
Ambassador Brian McElduff, Embassy of Ireland

Chairman - Glen Farrell, SARIO
Treasurer - Sean McSweeney, Ernst & Young

Ladislav Muller, Enterprise Ireland

Kenneth Ryan, Global Irish Network

Quentin Crossley, KPMG

Hugh Owen, Allen & Overy

Jan Zahorsky, PM Group

Jonathan Earle, O2

Stephen Caulfield, Dell

Peter Pottinga, Crowne Plaza

Katarina Bobotova, Grafton

Eamonn McGinn, IBM

Chris Plant, idconsulting sro.

The next Board Meeting will be held in September.

Many thanks to all attendees for their valuable input and a special thank to PM Group for hosting the meeting.



Another sold-out Quiz Night

On May 10th, we had 14 teams head to head for the famous ICham Quiz Trophy.

At the end, it was an extremely close finish with the British School Team once again (for the third time !) claiming the cup. Well-done and thanks to all who attended the event.

A special thanks to our ever-generous Sponsors and Gremium Restaurant for making the event another success!



Fantastic Prizes



A happy Bunch!

We welcome suggestions from you all as to what events would be of most interest and value to you. Please email us your ideas for consideration at communication@irishchamber.sk

Thank you!

Salmon Software Treasury



Salmon Software from Dublin meet the SAF in Bratislava.



May 30th will be remembered as the day that Salmon Software came to town. After a few months of discussion with Mr Andrej Revay, the President of the Slovak Association of Finance & Treasury and his colleagues, Salmon's treasury system was at last introduced to the members of SAF. Gary Thomas and Christopher Plant arranged the event with a workshop here in Bratislava. Salmon were invited to present their software solution which they duly did to a very interested congregation of top Slovakian Financial Directors and Treasurers, this was a fantastic promotion opportunity for Salmon Software.

The interesting format of the presentation, was given by Petr Jablonsky, Net4gas, the czech energy company, now a solid and very contented customer of Salmon software was particularly clever. Salmon Software owner John Byrne was also present as part of the seminar. However this time Salmon's "state of the Art" treasury system was presented in the Slovak language to the SAF. As the presentation gained momentum the questions and answer sections provided an interesting and communicative dialogue from all sides.



Mr McElduff Introducing the workshop

The workshop finally closed with Michal Benes, idc and Michal Ebrle, Net4Gas championing the solution. This successful workshop was hosted at the Irish Embassy in Bratislava, where Ambassador Mr Brian McElduff introduced the Slovaks to a little piece of Irish history with the "An brádan feasa" story. The Salmon of Knowledge, a very famous Irish myth and also part of the Salmon software logo design.

After the very plush surroundings of the Irish Embassy the party moved on to a reception, at the Carneville Restaurant where we the group was duly entertained with a buffet, drinks and a flurry of conversation and praise indeed for Salmon.

Idconsulting on behalf of Salmon Software would like to lend a personal thanks to the Ambassador to Ireland, Mr McElduff. Also many thanks to Tom Redmond and also to Margareta Bacová.



Salmon Software CEO John Byrne.

Enterprise Ireland's Ladislav Müller provided refreshments and support. Salmon Software also thank their newest client Net4Gas for all the support before and during this event. Finally a big thank you to Andrej Revay and all his members of the SAF for making this a successful event.



The Ambassador, Mr Brian McElduff with Mr Andrej Revay (President SAF)



Mr Ladislav Müller, Mr McElduff & Gary Thomas

Connemara – Irish Dance group

Banská Bystrica

Connemara Irish Dance group is named after the region and national park in the west of Ireland. They are based in Banska Bystrica, and first started in 2001 when they opened our their course of Irish dancing. Since that time the group has been dedicated to teaching and presenting traditional and modern Irish dancing and choreography

in soft shoe and hard shoe. Connemara has grown over the years and has experience performing at many events including balls, festivals, competitions presenting themselves in Slovakia and also abroad. Connemara offers courses for people of all ages – children and adults.



The Gathering 2013

The Gathering Ireland 2013 is about the people of Ireland throwing open our arms and inviting anyone with a connection to our country to come and visit. It's about asking anyone who has Irish blood, a link to Ireland, or even just a love of our country – to join us for a series of amazing and diverse events throughout 2013. They will range from clan gatherings where people will discover their roots, to rugby clubs inviting foreign teams to their sevens tournament, and groups of international business colleagues conferencing in Ireland.

Those amazing events will be created by you, your neighbour, your work colleague or your sports team. They will be organised by individuals, groups, business colleagues and clubs within the community who will reach out to their worldwide networks. For those organising the events, there will be lots of information, help and support available on their website over the coming months.

The Gathering is a powerful grass-roots movement. By reconnecting with our global community, it will be like

completing an electrical circuit. Energy will flow and our community will light up and sparkle with its own vitality.

Let's light up 2013 with an unprecedented celebration of Ireland's global community, and our past, present and future.



IMPRESSUM:

Mgr. Petra Lužinská Trainer and Choreographer
www.connemara.sk luzinska@connemara.sk, petra.connemara@gmail.com
Súkromné centrum voľného času Rossija Magurská 14 974 01 Banská Bystrica

First Eurozone Conference addresses Prospects and Future Scenarios

The Italian Chamber of Commerce in cooperation with the Irish Chamber of Commerce in Slovakia, Dutch Chamber of Commerce, Spanish Chamber of Commerce and French Chamber of Commerce held its first EuroZone Conference on 23 May at Hotel Double Tree By Hilton Bratislava.

The topic, Prospects and Future Scenarios, was covered by distinguished guest speakers, Ms Elena Kohutikova, Deputy CEO VUB Bank, Mr. Juraj Karpiš, co-founder of the Institute of Economic and Social Studies in Bratislava (INESS) and Mr. Zoltan Pogatsa, University of Western Hungary.

Over the course of the conference, the speakers shared their visions on the current euro crisis, potential solutions and future perspectives of the eurozone, followed by a panel discussion and Q&A session whereby the participants were given the opportunity to interact and engage in dialogues with the speakers. The conference was moderated by Ivan Šramko, Advisor to CEE and SEE Operations, Intesa SanPaolo and former governor of the National Bank of Slovakia.

The conference mainly focused on the issue of Greece in the euro area, viewed by some as a “unique case” while Ireland was referred to as “success story”, on the right road to recovery.

Regarding possible solutions to the current crisis, it was generally agreed that introducing structural reforms, which would revive the economies of the member states, are the main solutions to the current crisis.

The conference was attended by around 70 people.



Diary Dates

ICC Upcoming Events



- | | |
|-----------|------------------------------|
| 9 June | Annual Family Sports Day |
| 10 June | UEFA Ireland vs Croatia |
| 24 June | The Cranberries Live Concert |
| 19 July | Summer Quiz |
| 18 August | 3rd Golf Tournament |

Mark your diary
for our
Summer Quiz
with a twist on
July 19th!
More details coming soon.

Coming soon.... Golf!
August 18th.

Reserve the date in your Calendar now!



Gold Members



ERNST & YOUNG
Quality In Everything We Do

idconsulting
business development solutions

ALLEN & OVERY

grafon
recruitment

PM
GROUP

CROWNE PLAZA®
BRATISLAVA

Silver Members



CRESCO
GROUP



TrendRejlek

mm
mamaison
Hotels & Residences

creative images

Maurice Ward Group

Sheraton
Bratislava
HOTEL

Wilson & Partners

DELL™

HLBOKA

Issue No. 11, May 2012