The Liffey Swim:
The 1960’s Decade – Part 2
1963 – 1965

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The 1963 Liffey Swim

The handicap for the limit men was extended to 6 min and 10 sec. Striving to wear the Liffey Swim crown for a second time were four previous winners – Tommy May (1956, Dublin SC), Cyril Hardy (1957, Club Snámha Columcille, handicap 2 min 55 sec), Seán Heffernan (Clontarf SC, 1960, handicap 4 min) and 13-year-old Tony Byrne (the holder, Dublin SC, handicap 3 min 40 sec).

Among the entries there was a sprinkling of familiar names of those who had competed in most, if not all, of the Liffey Swims over the previous 12 years – Neil Kennedy (Dublin SC, handicap 5 min 50 sec), Willie Kearney (Dublin SC, handicap 5 min 20 sec), John “Jackie” Kearney (Dublin SC, handicap 5 min 10 sec), Ultan Kerrigan (North Dublin WSC, limit man) and the oldest competitor, 34-year-old Michael Kelly (Clontarf SC, 4 min 50 sec).

The scratch man was very much the ‘new kid on the block’, a 15-year-old Synge Street CBS schoolboy, Donnacha O’Dea (Club Snámha Columcille), who had hit the limelight that season with a series of remarkable wins in open sea events and in swimming championships. He won the Dublin SC 1,000 yards swim, the Kilmartin Cup 1¼-mile swim at Bray, and the Dún Laoghaire Harbour Scratch Swim, and was 3rd in the Half Moon SC open sea race for the John Clarke Cup in the fastest time.

At the Leinster Swimming Championships Donnacha O’Dea won the men’s 800 m freestyle title and the men’s 400 m freestyle title, in a new Irish under-16 record and Leinster Senior record of 5:01.3, and placed 2nd in the Senior 100 m butterfly championship and 200 m freestyle championship, both to Jeff Allen, a South African student from Gormanston College. He also won the under-16 100-m butterfly championship and under-16 200-m individual medley and placed 2nd in the under-16 100 m freestyle to Owen Corrigan and 3rd in the under-16 100-m backstroke to Anthony Brophy (Gormanston College SC) and Liam Mortimer (North Dublin WSC).

At the Irish National Swimming Championships O’Dea won the men’s 400m freestyle championship, in a new Irish Junior record and Leinster Senior record time, the 800 m freestyle crown, cutting 16.1 sec of the Irish record, and the 1,500 m freestyle championship, the latter in a new Leinster record time of 20:57.3.
also won the Boys under-16 400-m freestyle championship, shaving 4.9 sec off the record\textsuperscript{122}, was 2\textsuperscript{nd} in the men’s 200 m butterfly to Owen Corrigan\textsuperscript{123} and 3\textsuperscript{rd} in the Boys under-16 100-m butterfly.\textsuperscript{119}

The 1963 line-up included several other talented swimmers. Owen Corrigan (Club Snámha Columcille, handicap 15 sec), a Gormanston student – runner-up the previous year, fastest swimmer in 1961 and 2\textsuperscript{nd} fastest swimmer in 1962 – who placed 4\textsuperscript{th} from scratch in the Island Swim from Ireland’s Eye to Balscadden Beach at Howth in the fastest time.\textsuperscript{124} He won the Leinster men’s 100-m butterfly championship in an Irish and Leinster record time of 1:10.0.\textsuperscript{125} Paul Emmett (Half Moon SC, handicap 3 min 10 sec) won the Independent Gold medal for the Ireland’s Eye to Howth swim\textsuperscript{124}, was 2\textsuperscript{nd} in the 1½-mile Vico swim race\textsuperscript{126,127}, and placed 4\textsuperscript{th} in the Lough Owel 1-mile Swim.\textsuperscript{128,129} Anthony Brophy (Sandycove SC, handicap 30 sec), another Gormanston pupil, won the Coughlan Cup for the Lough Owel 1-mile swim\textsuperscript{128,129} and the Chicago Cup event at the Muinebeag SC Gala\textsuperscript{125} and was 2\textsuperscript{nd} in the Dublin SC 1,000 yards swim.\textsuperscript{104} In addition he was Leinster under-16 100-m freestyle champion\textsuperscript{113} and under-16 100-m backstroke champion\textsuperscript{117}, 3\textsuperscript{rd} in the Leinster under-16 100-m breaststroke championship\textsuperscript{114}, and silver medallist in the Irish National boys under-16 400-m championship\textsuperscript{116}, men’s 100 m backstroke\textsuperscript{118} and men’s 800 m freestyle.\textsuperscript{112}
Séamus Heffernan (Clontarf SC, handicap 2½ min) had recorded several very good distance swim performances – winner of the 1½-mile Vico swim race for the Murray Trophy, 4th in the Dublin SC 1,000 yards swim, 2nd in the Kilmartin Cup at Bray, 2nd in the Dún Laoghaire Harbour Scratch Swim, and 2nd in the Half Moon SC open sea swim for the Clarke Cup at South Wall. Nicholas Smith (Dublin SC, handicap 1 min 20 sec), scratch man in 1962 and fastest swimmer, placed 3rd in the Dún Laoghaire Harbour Swim and 6th in the Ireland’s Eye to Howth swim.

Among those with longer handicaps were a few dark horses: Colm O’Brien (Half Moon SC, handicap 5 min 20 sec), 5th in 1962, who placed 2nd in the Plunkett–McAllister Cup race from Clontarf Yacht Club slipway to Clontarf Baths over about 1 mile and 4th in the Vico swim race; D. O’Donoghue (Pembroke SC, handicap 5 min 10 sec), who had come 3rd in the Kilmartin Cup race at Bray; Anthony “Tony” Quane (Guinness SC, handicap 4 min 30 sec), who was 5th in the Plunkett–McAllister Cup race from Clontarf Yacht Club slipway to Clontarf Baths over about 1 mile; and J. O’Sullivan (Guinness SC, handicap 5 min), who was 2nd in the Lough Owel 1-mile Swim and 4th in the Half Moon SC-sponsored Clarke Cup open sea swim at South Wall.

New clubs were represented for the first time in the Liffey Swim by Eamon Healy (Metropolitan SC, handicap not published) and Des Hickey (Nomads SC, formerly Crusade Aquatic Club, limit man), a backstroker, who was the Art Editor of the Sunday Independent and sole representative of Independent Newspapers Ltd in the race.

The prize list for the 44th Liffey Swim was published.

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<tr>
<th>Race Place</th>
<th>Prize</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Independent Cup and Gold Medal</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Silver Medal &amp; prize</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Silver Medal &amp; prize</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Set of fruit spoons</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Triple pen set (pen-biro-pencil)</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Electric alarm clock</td>
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<td>Travel clock</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Gents cuff-links &amp; tie pin</td>
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<table>
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<th>Fastest Swim</th>
<th>Prize</th>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Cutlery set</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Electric clock</td>
</tr>
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</table>
After a gap of 11 years the *Independent Cup* and Gold medal went to a Half Moon SC competitor, 14-year-old Colm O’Brien from Clanbrassil Street, Dublin, continuing the 1960’s ‘water babe’ theme of the Liffey Swim. He had been introduced to swimming by his brother, Bert O’Brien, two years previously. This was only his second attempt at the event.

From the moment he entered the Liffey’s waters, he set a gruelling pace. He was up with the leading group after Capel Street Bridge (Grattan Bridge). Once he passed Tony King (Dublin SC), a limit man, near the Ha’penny Bridge, the race was his to lose. He varied his strokes judiciously from the Metal Bridge (Ha’penny Bridge) to the finish keeping a wary eye on those in pursuit of him who were trying to take the winner’s laurels. He won by 25 yards from the fast-finishing Anthony “Tony” Quane (Guinness SC, handicap 4 min 30 sec) of St Clare’s Avenue, Harold’s Cross, Dublin.

Third place went to Liam Mortimer (North Dublin WSC, handicap 4 min) of Fishamble Street off the Quays, who was the youngest swimmer in the event at 13 years of age. Mortimer’s storming bid to close over the second half of the race was reported as one of the highlight of the event. Tony King, a backstroker, battled to eventually finish 5th.
The prize for the fastest time went unsurprisingly to the scratch man, Donnacha O’Dea (Club Snámha Columcille), who finished in 16th position. His time of 20:35 was a new Irish Native Record, eclipsing that set by Nicholas Smith (Dublin SC) the previous year of 21:29. Donnacha O’Dea is the son of Irish actors Denis O’Dea and Siobhán McKenna. The second fastest time of 22:20 was set by Anthony Brophy (Sandycove SC & Gormanston SC) and the 3rd fastest time of 22:23 by Des Carney (Club Snámha Columcille).

The battle for the team prize between Half Moon SC and Club Snámha Columcille was the most thrilling for years, with interested spectators trying to do quick calculations on the outcome. When the teams were deadlocked on 40 pts each, it was decided to present four extra replicas of the team shield, with the clubs holding the Independent Newspapers Trophy for six months each. The placings for Half Moon SC were Colm O’Brien 1st, Mick Fitzpatrick 10th, Paul Byrne 14th and Jake Elliott 15th and for Club Snámha Columcille, Seán Farrell 6th, Seán Ormsby 7th, Des Carney 11th, and Donnacha O’Dea 16th.

The prizes were presented by the Lord Mayor, Alderman Seán Moore, at a reception and dinner in the Clarence Hotel.
**Top 10 finishers:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Club</th>
<th>Handicap*</th>
<th>Nett Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Colm O’Brien</td>
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<td>Half Moon SC</td>
<td>5 min 20 sec</td>
<td>24:25</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Anthony “Tony” Quane</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Guinness SC</td>
<td>4 min 30 sec</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Liam Mortimer</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>North Dublin WSC</td>
<td>4 min</td>
<td>23:34</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>J. O’Sullivan</td>
<td></td>
<td>Guinness SC</td>
<td>5 min</td>
<td>24:38</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Anthony “Tony” King</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Dublin SC</td>
<td>6 min 10 sec</td>
<td>25:55</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Seán Farrell</td>
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<td>D. O’Donoghue</td>
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<td>Michael “Mick” Fitzpatrick</td>
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<td>Half Moon SC</td>
<td>5 min 40 sec</td>
<td>26:03</td>
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*Time ahead of scratch man

**The 1964 Liffey Swim**

For the Sapphire Jubilee Liffey Swim the handicap for the limit men was shortened to 4 min 40 sec.\(^{130,139,140}\) The entries included four former winners of the race trying for an historic second title – Seán Heffernan (Clontarf SC, 1960, handicap 2 min 40 sec), Cyril Hardy (1957, Club Snámha Columcille, handicap 2 min 10 sec), Anthony Byrne (1962, Dublin SC, handicap 1 min 55 sec), and Colm O’Brien (the holder, Half Moon SC, handicap 1 min 55 sec).\(^{130,139,140}\)

In the absence of Donnacha O’Dea (Club Snámha Columcille), who was in Spain, there were two scratch swimmers.\(^{130,139,140}\) One of these was Anthony Brophy (Gormanston College SC). Swimming off scratch at 6 min 12 sec, Brophy had placed 7th in the Island Swim from Ireland’s Eye to Balscadden Beach, Howth, breaking the five-year-old record for the course when clocking 19 min 55 sec.\(^{141,142}\) He took 3rd place in the annual ½-mile swim at Clontarf for the Plunkett–McAllister Cup in the fastest time, again off scratch at 4 min.\(^{143}\) In the Kilmartin Cup race at Bray, swimming off scratch at 6 min 50 sec, he clocked the fastest time\(^{144,145}\), and in the Dún Laoghaire Harbour Swim for the Irish Times Trophy, he placed 8th.\(^{146,147}\)

Tony Brophy’s nemesis in the pool was Donnacha O’Dea. He was runner-up to O’Dea in several championship events – Leinster 200 m freestyle\(^{148,149}\) and 400 m freestyle\(^{150,151}\) and the Irish National 800 m freestyle.\(^{152}\) He placed 3rd on the touch to 33-year-old Francis Hayes (Bangor SC) from Wexford, the Royal Navy 440 yards and 880 yards freestyle champion, in the Irish National 1,500 m championship, again won by O’Dea.\(^{153,154}\) However, he did claim the Leinster ‘Blue Riband’ event, the men’s 100 m freestyle crown\(^{155}\), and the 100 m backstroke title\(^{150,151}\), the latter in new Irish and Leinster record figures of 1:10.4, and won the Irish National 100 m backstroke title, setting an Irish record of 1:08.5, a time well up with international standards of the day, and the 200 m backstroke crown.\(^{156,157}\)
The other scratch man was Owen Corrigan (Gormanston College SC), an accomplished distance swimmer with an established Liffey Swim pedigree. In the Leinster Swimming Championships he too found himself at the losing end to Donnacha O'Dea and/or Anthony Brophy. Corrigan was runner-up in the men’s 100 m butterfly, 3rd in the 200 m freestyle, and 3rd in the 400 m freestyle. At the Irish National Championships he was 2nd in the 400 m freestyle, 3rd in the 800 m freestyle, 2nd in 200 m butterfly, and 3rd in the 100 m butterfly.

Three ‘veteran’ Liffey swimmers from Dublin SC were making their 14th attempts at the title – Neil Kennedy (limit man), Willie Kearney (handicap 4 min) and Jackie Kearney (handicap 3 min 50 sec). In 1962 Jackie Kearney won the Kilmartin Cup race at Bray and his brother Willie won the Crusade Aquatic Club 1-mile swim at Clontarf the same year. Willie Kearney had won the Nore Swim at Kilkenny in 1960 and his brother Jackie, the same race the following year.

Other competitors attracting potential winners’ odds were: Des Carney (Club Snámha Columcille, handicap 30 sec), a 17-year-old, winner of the Findlater Cup for the Dublin SC 1,000 yards open sea race and of the Dún Laoghaire Harbour Swim for the Irish Times Trophy; Douglas Dowling (Half Moon SC, handicap 2 min 30 sec), winner of the Plunkett–McAllister Cup swim and of the Island Swim from Ireland’s Eye to Balscadden Beach, Howth; Kevin Page (North Dublin WSC, handicap 35 sec), the 1963 winner of the Plunkett–McAllister Cup race from Clontarf Yacht Club to Clontarf Baths and 6th in the current year; Séamus Heffernan (Clontarf SC, handicap 45 sec), 3rd in the Findlater Cup swim from Blackrock Baths to Seapoint Baths, 5th in the Howth Island race, and 8th in the Kilmartin Cup race at Bray; Séamus Hamilton (North Dublin SC, handicap 1 min 55 sec), 4th in the Plunkett–McAllister swim at Clontarf, 2nd in the Kelly Cup race from Ireland’s Eye to Howth, 2nd in the Dún Laoghaire Harbour Swim, and in 1963 the winner of the Howth Harbour Race; Barry O’Brien (Clontarf SC, handicap 4 min), 2nd in the Kilmartin Cup sea swim, Anthony Quane (Guinness SC, handicap 1 min 30 sec), 4th in the Findlater Cup race, and 5th in the Half Moon SC 1,500 yards open sea race for the Clarke Cup; and Joe O’Connell (Half Moon SC), winner of the Greystones Around-the-Harbour swim.

The 45th Liffey Swim and the coveted Irish Independent Cup and Gold medal were won by David “Davy” Page (North Dublin WSC) of Vernon Avenue, Clontarf at his first attempt. The brother of Kevin Page, a newly capped Irish water polo international, he was a pupil of St. Joseph’s CBS, Fairview, with whom he played hurling and gaelic football.

The race proved to be yet another ‘teenage’ assault on the race. Davy Page’s clubmate George Caird, a 17-year-old attending The High School, Rathgar, came 2nd just 20 yards behind the winner and Noel Buggy, a 14-year-old of St Vincent’s CBS, Glasnevin, was 3rd.
David Page started 1 min and 45 sec after “go” with half the field in front of him at that stage. By Capel Street Bridge he had made his way past all bar five of those who had taken to the Liffey before him. It was not until O’Connell Bridge that he went into the lead and managed comfortably to hold off the challenge of his older clubmate George Caird, who had started off the same handicap.

![David Page](image)

David Page, winner of 1964 Liffey Swim holding the Independent Cup

Irish Independent, 4 July, 1964, pg. 16)

Davy Page had been swimming for five years and had only previously medalled in the Leinster under-14 swimming championships at 50 m freestyle, 50 m butterfly and 50 m backstroke. He would gain medals again in the 1964 Leinster championships. The runner-up Caird was also competing in the Liffey Swim for the first time, but had competed in the Ireland’s Eye to Howth sea swim and was a previous winner of the Plunkett–McAllister Cup.

The prize for the fastest recorded time went to scratch man Owen Corrigan of the Franciscan College, Gormanston. He placed 6th in a time of 21:49. His fellow scratch man and Gormanston club-mate Anthony Brophy in 7th place was second fastest only two seconds behind. Third fastest was Nicholas Smith (Dublin SC) in 10th place. Owen Corrigan and Nicholas Smith were both previous winners of the fastest time prize and Anthony Brophy was 2nd fastest in 1963. The team award, the Independent Newspapers Shield, was won by North Dublin WSC with four swimmers in the top ten – David Page 1st, George Caird 2nd, Séamus Hamilton 8th and Jim Kavanagh 9th = 20pts.
The prizes were presented by Mr Paul Meehan, Publicity Manager, Independent Newspapers Ltd., at a function in St. Anthony’s Hall, Merchants Quay. All the competitors were as usual provided with Bovril after the race at the Tara Street Baths.¹⁷⁰,¹⁷¹

### Top 10 finishers:¹⁷⁰–¹⁷⁴

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Club</th>
<th>Handicap*</th>
<th>Nett Time</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>David “Davy” Page</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>North Dublin WSC</td>
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<td>Owen Corrigan</td>
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<td>Gormanston College SC</td>
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<td>Dublin SC</td>
<td>40 sec</td>
<td>22:49</td>
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*Time ahead of scratch man
The 1965 Liffey Swim

Details of the 46th Liffey Swim are vestigial. For ten weeks from the 3rd July until 9th September, 1965, publication of all Dublin newspapers – morning, evening and Sunday – ceased and 46 commercial printing houses were closed by a strike of printing workers called by the Irish Graphical Society. The strike involved over 5,000 workers in printing firms and three Irish newspaper houses. When the strike ended, the *Irish Independent* published a day-by-day sports round-up that included summary results of major sea swims, including the Liffey Swim, and of Irish Swimming Championships. A similarly styled round-up published in the *Irish Times* carried the results of the Irish Swimming Championships but not of any sea swims, including the Liffey Swim.

Based on the few published results, one can only speculate on the swimmers in form who had probably entered the Liffey Swim. Colm O’Brien (Half Moon SC), Liffey Swim winner in 1963, had won the opening sea race of the season – the Westclox Trophy 1,500 yards at the Bull Wall. O’Brien, off 3 min, had a good margin to make up, but went ahead at half way to finish with a 60 yards’ margin over Brian Sweeney (Half Moon SC) and P. Boyle (North Dublin WSC) 40 yards further back in 3rd place. Colm O’Brien also returned the fastest time. The scratch man was Owen Corrigan (off 5 min 20 sec) who finished 12th. Donnacha O’Dea who won the race in 1964 did not compete.

The annual Findlater Cup 1,000 yards race from Seapoint to Blackrock Baths was won by Nicholas Smith (Dublin S.C.), the 22-year-old architectural student at U.C.D., Dermot “Derry” O’Rourke (Club Snámha Columcille) was 2nd, Michael Byrne (Half Moon SC) 3rd, Séamus Hamilton (North Dublin WSC) 4th and P. Boyle (North Dublin WSC) 5th. The team prize went to North Dublin WSC – Hamilton, Boyle, Liam Lyons and D. Breen. The scratch man, Colm O’Brien, finished 17th.

Séamus Hamilton had beaten Liam Mortimer and Davy Page in the North Dublin WSC 400 m freestyle club championship.

The Island Race from Ireland’s Eye to Balscadden Beach, Howth, took place two weeks before the Liffey Swim. The Kelly Cup and Irish Independent Gold medal were won by Dáithí Ó Bruadair (Sandycove SC). He was followed home by Dermot “Derry” O’Rourke (Club Snámha Columcille) and Donnacha O’Dea (Club Snámha Columcille). O’Dea recorded the fastest time of 19:12, a course record. The team prize went to Half Moon SC – Mick Fitzgerald, Paul Emmett, Dermot “Derry” Kelleher and Tony Byrne (winner of the Liffey Swim in 1962). The Dún Laoghaire Harbour Scratch Swim was won by Liam Mortimer (North Dublin SC). It is likely that most, if not all, of these swimmers entered the Liffey Swim in 1965.

Eighty swimmers competed in the 46th Liffey Swim. A new name was inscribed on the Independent Cup, that of Pat Kelly (Guinness SC), who was followed home by Courtney McCarthy (Half Moon SC) and Anthony King (Club Snámha Columcille) who had placed 5th in 1963.
Top 10 finishers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Club</th>
<th>Handicap</th>
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<tr>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Not Published</td>
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*Time after “Go”; off time for scratch man not published

Among the prize winners was J. Carew of Nomads SC, the first swimmer from that club to place in the top ten in the Liffey Swim. He had entered the Liffey Swim in both 1963 and 1964. In the Plunkett–McAllister swim at Clontarf in 1964, he placed 2\(^\text{nd}\) of a field of 48 swimmers, 20 yards behind the winner Douglas Dowling (Half Moon SC). In April 1965, tragedy befall the Carew family. His father Michael Carew, a publican in Drimnagh, was found dead in his public house from carbon monoxide poisoning.

The fastest time award went to the scratch man Donnacha O’Dea (Club Snámha Columcille) in a new Irish Native record time of 20:00. The Independent Newspapers Shield team award was won by Club Snámha Columcille – Anthony King 3\(^\text{rd}\), Frank Owens 5\(^\text{th}\), and Donnacha O’Dea (placings not published) and Seán Ormsby (placings not published).

At the Irish National Swimming Championships at the Grove Baths in Belfast, Donnacha O’Dea put his name firmly into the pantheon of Irish swimming. In winning the 100 m freestyle title for the first time, he became the first Irish swimmer to break 1 min for this distance – 59.9 sec. The final brought together the top freestyle swimmers in Ireland – Jim Hurson (Clonard ASC), Paddy Graham (New Northern SC) and O’Dea – in a dramatic confrontation. Hurson and Graham both clocked 1:00.1 and all three were inside the old record which had been set the previous year by William “Billy” Hanna (Neptune SC, the holder) and Jim Hurson of 1:00.9.

O’Dea also retained his 200 m freestyle, 400 m freestyle (Irish record), 800 m freestyle (Irish record), and 1,500 m freestyle (Irish record, first Irish swimmer under 20 min), 100 m butterfly (Irish record), 200 m butterfly, and 400 m individual medley (Irish record) titles, as well as being an integral part of the Club Snámha Columcille quartet that retained the 4 × 100 m medley relay championship (Irish record).

Other Liffey swimmers who won Irish titles in 1965 were Derry O’Rourke (Club Snámha Columcille) in the 200 m breaststroke (Irish record) and Anthony Brophy.
(Gormanston College SC) in the 100 m backstroke (Irish record) and 200 m backstroke (Irish record), retaining both titles from 1964.\textsuperscript{177,178}

One of the final sea races of the 1965 calendar was the annual Promenade Swim at Salthill, Co. Galway, over 1,000 yards for the Connacht Tribune Cup. The event attracted entries from 13 thirteen clubs, including a Dublin club invasion by Clonard SC, Club Snámha Columcille, Dublin SC, Half Moon SC, Neptune SC and North Dublin WSC.\textsuperscript{204} Donnacha O’Dea had won the Cup the previous year, off scratch at 4 min, in a dramatic final burst at the finish to inch out A. Callaghy (Gormanston College SC) and John Craddock (Galway SC)\textsuperscript{205–206}, who had been 2\textsuperscript{nd} in the Toft Cup swim at Salthill earlier in the month.\textsuperscript{208} O’Dea had finished in a nett time of 11 min 25 sec for a new course record.

The 1965 race was a triumph for Half Moon swimmers – Joe O’Connell 1\textsuperscript{st}, Dermot Kelleher 2\textsuperscript{nd}, Paul Emmett 5\textsuperscript{th}, Brian Sweeney 6\textsuperscript{th}, Mickey Byrne 9\textsuperscript{th} and Michael Fitzpatrick 10\textsuperscript{th}.\textsuperscript{209–211} Dublin competitors took two other top ten positions – Séamus Heffernan (Clontarf SC) 3\textsuperscript{rd} and scratch man Donnacha O’Dea (Club Snámha Columcille) 8\textsuperscript{th}, in the fastest time, having won the National 1,500 m title the night before.\textsuperscript{209–211}

However, the race was somewhat marred by controversy. Colm O’Brien (Half Moon SC), Liffey Swim winner in 1963, crossed the finish line first, but was disqualified because he left the start 1½ min before his time. In addition, the lack of a clearly defined finishing line at Palmer’s Rock caused some swimmers to continue eastwards in the direction of Seapoint before officials managed to halt them.\textsuperscript{209}

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\textsuperscript{103} Scratchman is only 15: Sixty-four Entered for Liffey Swim. \textit{Irish Independent}, 13 August, 1963, pg. 14
\textsuperscript{104} D. O’Dea Wins 1,000 yards Swim Test. \textit{Irish Independent}, 16 July, 1963, pg. 14
\textsuperscript{105} O’Dea Steals the Show. \textit{Irish Independent}, 29 July, 1963, pg. 12
\textsuperscript{106} O’Dea is First in Bray Swim. \textit{Irish Press}, 29 July, 1963, pg. 14
\textsuperscript{107} O’Dea Brilliant in Kilmartin Cup Win. \textit{Irish Times}, 29 July, 1963, pg. 4
\textsuperscript{108} O’Dea is Best at Dun Laoghaire. \textit{Irish Press}, 5 September, 1963, pg. 17
\textsuperscript{109} O’Dea Adds Another Trophy to Collection. \textit{Irish Times}, 5 September, 1963, pg. 11
\textsuperscript{111} Swimming: Lyons Takes Clarke Cup After Thrilling Race. \textit{Irish Times}, 19 August, 1963, pg. 4
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