



Happy Christmas to All Front Runners!

Saturday night last, 15th December saw the DFR hold its 3rd annual Christmas dinner in La Peniche and a great night it was. As always the runners got into the true meaning of Christmas - the giving of presents. Some "choice" Kris Kindle gifts started making the rounds. We managed NOT to loose anyone over-board, so a good result overall I think.



THANKS FOR YOUR HELP IN 2007

As Chairperson of the DFR's I'd just like to pass on my own thanks to everyone in the club who has supported all we did in 2007, the club is only a success because you make the effort every Wednesday or Saturday to get to the park and run.

Thanks too to the Committee for their continued support and commitment - in our first year with a formal structure on the club, we've achieved a tremendous amount in establishing a platform for the club to grow and develop.

I hope the rest of 2007 is good for everyone, filled with festive cheer and "all things nice", so a very merry and happy Christmas to everyone! Mark xx

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS & DATABASE

In order to cope with the increasing numbers in the club, we're moving the DFR email to gmail. Please email this new address so that we can complete the database:

dublinfronrunners@gmail.com

(a blank email will do), **before the 7th January**. This will enable us to register your email address more easily.

From the 15th January no further correspondence will be issued from the eircom.net address.

ANNUAL CLUB RUN | NOMINATE

It has always been the intention and aspiration of the club to host an annual Club run. The Committee are currently reviewing and planning for this to happen in 2008 and it's hoped the details will be announced at the AGM.

The Committee has also decided that the annual Club run, will be in aid of a nominated charity. All members can nominate a charity that they would like to be considered by the Committee - to do so please email dublinfronrunners@gmail.com with the word "Charity" in the subject heading, and your preferred charity listed in the email, **before January 31st 2008**..

AGM | FEBRUARY

The AGM will be held towards the end of February - the exact date, timing and formal notification will be circulated by separate email. The AGM is open to all paid up members to attend - your input is important!

CLUB MEMBERSHIP - RENEWAL BY 31ST JANUARY PLEASE!

As the AAI's membership runs from January to December each year, we will be aligning our own annual membership with this same period. The annual fee will remain at €20euro for 2008 - we would ask that all renewal fees be paid by January 31st.

Cheques are Payable to "Dublin Front Runners" . Cash to Club Treasurer, Marius McNicholas.

Online to Dublin Front Runners, A/C No: 65153227 Sort Code: 90-14-90

If you're paying online, please ensure you put your name in as a reference!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Connemara Half/Full Marathon - Sunday, 6th April

Registration expected to close in December, so sign up now if you're interested.

www.connemarathon.com

Paris Marathon - Sunday, 6th April

Registration now closed. Still room for supporters, though.

www.parismarathon.com



The majority of the runners are booked into an IBIS hotel in Paris. If you're interested in staying with them, here's the link:

http://www.ibishotel.com/ibis/fichehotel/gb/ibi/3211/fiche_hotel.shtml

Please notify me of any running events in 2008 that you would like included.

NOTICE BOARD MESSAGE FROM MONINNE:

Some of you may already be aware, Moninne is now working as the Marriage Equality co-ordinator with 'MarriageEquality'. Some details on this initiative are below - if you would like any further information, you can contact Moninne at marriageequality@gmail.com or mobile 087 9321329.

Equality Matters to Real People - Share Your Story

Your personal story is the most convincing tool we have to tell politicians, friends and neighbours and the general public that civil marriage is the only equal form of partnership for all.

MarriageEquality encourages you to come forward with your story. Tell the real story of the need for equality in Ireland. If you want to work with us, contact marriageequality@gmail.com or phone 01-4732605. MarriageEquality is a new initiative working for full marriage equality for same sex couples. A vital part of our work will be to support couples, your families and friends to meet your public representatives and to help raise awareness of the need for equality.

What is MarriageEquality?

MarriageEquality is a new initiative working for full civil marriage for same sex couples.

Wasn't it previously called KAL?

MarriageEquality has grown out of the KAL Advocacy Initiative which was established to support the legal case of Drs Katherine Zappone and Ann Louise Gilligan to have their Canadian marriage recognised in Ireland. This case is currently being appealed to the Supreme Court and is expected to be heard in autumn 2008.

So what's the difference between KAL and MarriageEquality?

KAL was established specifically to support the legal case. MarriageEquality goes beyond the case, building a broad-based public initiative to promote civil marriage for all. MarriageEquality will be at the centre of an active coalition of individuals and organisations influencing legislators to introduce full equality for same sex couples.

But hasn't the Government said it will introduce such legislation?

No. All the Government has done is to commit to publishing the Heads of a Bill on Civil Partnership in March 2008. Civil Partnership is not the same as marriage. It will not give the same rights to gay and lesbian people as marriage provides for heterosexual couples.

So, are civil partnerships or civil unions the same as marriage?

No. Civil unions and civil partnership are not marriage. They will create a separate and unequal institution. Civil partnership may well suit many couples but it will not suit those who want to get married.

But isn't the Government against same sex marriage?

The Government's own "Colley Report" commissioned in 2006 to examine partnership options clearly stated that marriage is the only option that would provide full equality for same sex couples.

Isn't same sex marriage against the Constitution?

MarriageEquality shares the opinion of some of the finest constitutional lawyers in the country who see no constitutional impediment to providing marriage equality in Ireland. There is no substance to the argument that full equality for same sex couples is unconstitutional. The Constitution is a living document that has been changed many times to reflect the changing needs of Irish society. No where does it state that marriage is only between a man and a woman.

Is Ireland ready for same sex marriage?

There are many same sex couples living in Ireland who have already been married in other countries, some of whom are raising children in loving and safe families. Same sex marriage is already a reality in this country.

What about other countries? Surely not many have introduced marriage?

In the European Union same sex marriage exists in the Netherlands, Belgium and Spain. In addition Canada, South Africa, and Massachusetts in the United States have introduced full marriage equality.

Catholic Spain?

Yes. The Spanish Government decided to introduce full marriage equality because they realised that half or incremental measures would mean simply returning again and again to the issue, and instead decided to deal with it in one go by providing full equality from the start.

OK. So what will MarriageEquality do?

MarriageEquality will be launched formally in February 2008. We will build an active coalition seeking equality for all. We will organise our own events, support other events, work to influence politicians, support couples, families and friends to meet and influence their public representatives and publicise widely this initiative.

Where do I find out more?

Contact Moninne Griffith, MarriageEquality Coordinator, at MarriageEquality@gmail.com or by phone on 087 932 1329