

## Special Olympics World Winter Games – Boise Idaho 2009

Heartiest congratulations to the Team for representing the country (and the Ski Club of Ireland) so nobly and with such distinction in the last fortnight. Not only did they return with 14 medals but they were complimented by many of the World Games officials on the manner in which they behaved on/off the slopes. The standard of skiing was very high, with the intermediate course (skied by Ryan and Lorraine) technically very difficult. The team featured on national TV and in the Idaho papers and won the hearts of the neutrals everywhere they went.



Standing (L to R) : Rebecca McGonagle,  
Ben Purcell, Katherine Daly, Cathal  
Murphy and Clara Keogan

Kneeling (L to R) : Charlie O'Reilly, Ryan  
Hill and Lorraine Whelan

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### Coaching Team

The success of the team is due in the main to the intense instruction delivered by a dedicated team of coaches throughout the year. Not only by the four coaches who travelled to Boise but also Elaine, Geraldine, Alice, Marcella, Len, Sheila, Margaret, Conor, Fiona and Harriet. For Eddie and Kathleen, it was their 4<sup>th</sup> World Games, for Tony his 2<sup>nd</sup> and for Laura her 1<sup>st</sup>. It is hard work taking care of eight athletes (three of them under 14 years of age) for two weeks but all would agree it is a labour of love, with a great deal of satisfaction derived from it.



L to R : Eddie Sythes, Laura Swaine,  
Tony McGuinness and Kathleen Sythes

### Families

The families played their part in the success of the team. Taxi drivers all year round and then supporters on the slopes in Boise. The Irish as always stood out, with their enthusiasm, singing and colour, and contributed to the great atmosphere. For all the families who travelled, bar the Whelans, it was their first World Games. They all agree that it was the experience of a lifetime.



Never mind the names, what about the colours !!!

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**Charlie**



**Katherine**



**Rebecca**



**Lorraine**