



WE LOVE THIS TIME OF YEAR. It's when the Outsider team gets together and compiles (argues about!) our list. No not for the fat man in red. This is our chance to put together our People of the Year list to celebrate those that have done incredible things on the Irish outdoor scene in 2012.

This year we're more excited than ever before because we're having an event on 19 December in association with Garmin to celebrate these amazing folk. On the night we'll shortlist the best people from the following pages under the following categories: Most Inspiring Person; Most Impressive Achievement; Breakthrough Performance of 2012; and Most Devoted to the Outdoor Scene.

We'd love you to come and join us in the Grand Social (Lower Liffey Street, Dublin 1) to find out who makes the cut and who receives the ultimate accolades.

We're inviting all the people on the list too so it might just be a chance to meet your heroes. Tickets are available from www.outsider.ie/awards and cost €10. It's not for us though! Proceeds from the door go to the inspirational Ballyfermot BMX/Mt Biking Club. We'll tell you more about them on the night too.

On the night, you will also be asked to vote for the winner of our audience award. And finally, we will also announce awards for Best Irish Outdoor Event; Best Outdoor/Adventure Destination/Provider; Best Outdoor/Adventure Photo; and Best Outdoor/Adventure Film. These will be chosen by you our readers on our Facebook page. To have your say, go to www.facebook.com/outsidermag

In the meantime, we hope you'll enjoy and be inspired by our Outsider People of the Year 2012 longlist. We think you'll agree, they're a fine bunch!



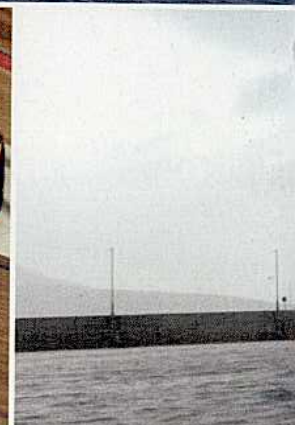
Alan Ryan earned his podium spot at the Ironman World Championships in the sauna.



Finn Mullen, the first person to SUP Aileens. (Photo: Tam Mullen, www.tammullen.com)



Susie Mitchell, World Track Masters Champion 2012.



▲ Alan Ryan, Ironman

Even completing an Ironman puts you on a high achievers list – but getting a podium spot at the Ironman World Championships is seriously impressive.

Alan Ryan from Wexford has this notch in his belt having placed third at the Kona event in Hawaii in October 2012 in the 45-49 category.

Despite the fact that conditions on the day were forecast to be relatively cool and calm it turned out to be swelteringly hot and humid with winds topping 35mph on exposed sections of the Hawaii lava fields.

But that didn't phase Alan who had an ace up his sleeve. "To simulate warm weather training, I put my bike up on a roller in my attic as well as in a local hotel's sauna," he states. [Yes we said sauna.] "It did raise a few eyebrows from the guests ... but they were still a little amused to be sharing a sauna with a nutter on a bike."

He completed the race in 9:33:34 and ran an impressive 3:10 marathon.

▲ Finn Mullen, stand-up paddler

Dubbed by the surfing community from Iceland to the Canaries as Super Sunday thanks to conditions caused by Hurricane Rafael, 21 October will also go down in personal history for Finn Mullen. That was the first time the Co Down man SUPed Aileens under the Cliffs of Moher. In fact, it was the first time anyone had ever SUPed Aileens.

While by any normal standards the waves were big that day, Mullen won't be drawn into the 'does size matter' debate. "It's not as much the size at Aileens, it's the intensity. To actually ride a barrel there – which is what the pioneers of that spot do – is pretty heavy."

Mullen admits that there were more than a few

raised eyebrows from both local and international surfers drawn by that day's perfect swell when he made his precarious way down the cliff's precipitous goat track with his 10'3" board.

"The big wave side of SUP is quite new. It's formative so I'm aware that people are going to be cautious of me... These SUP boards are huge. If you hit someone you're going to do damage... Most of all I'm concerned about not doing someone else damage... I stayed off on my own peak and was lucky enough to get some waves out of the way of everyone."

But Mullen is no crazy wannabe in the water. Sure he'll admit that he's done "a few things that people might question" but this all-round waterman has surely proven himself by also becoming the first person to windsurf Aileens and Mullaghmore, and SUP Finn MacCools off the Giant's Causeway.

▲ Susie Mitchell, cyclist

Susie Mitchell started track cycling in July 2011 and this October she stood on the podium in the rainbow jersey as the freshly crowned World Track Masters champion in the 35-39 Individual Pursuit category.

Add to that that 37-year-old Susie had just had a baby by caesarean section five months prior to the competition. Superwoman Susie recounts, "I trained all the way through my pregnancy." She returned to competition after six weeks and won a bronze in the National Women's Olympic Omnium.

As for the World Championships, she says, "I hoped I'd do a good time but it never even crossed my mind that I would win. It was the most unbelievable feeling. I felt like I'd won the feckin Olympics. I was punching the air and shouting. I was high as a kite."

