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It's neck and neck among the competitors as they enter the final straight in the third Rehab Great Investment Race. With less than two months to go until the competitors pass the finish post, just seven thousand euros separate the top five teams in this year's race. Bank of Ireland Asset Management, clear winners of the last Rehab Great Investment Race, are once again in the lead, though this year all the teams are gearing up for what may be a photo finish.

Devised and organised by Rehab Lotteries, the Rehab Great Investment Race has, since its inception in 2001, raised over €370,000 for autistic children and their families in Ireland. Through 'bull' and 'bear' markets, global catastrophes and economic uncertainty, the thoroughbreds of Ireland's fund managers have given selflessly of their time and expertise to support an extremely worthwhile cause.

At the launch of the third Rehab Great Investment Race last May, each of the race participants were presented with a cheque for €100,000 to invest as they wish in the stockmarket. The fund managers need to

use all their skill and experience to outwit each other, and the markets, in an effort to raise as much money as possible for

Pictured at the launch of the third Rehab Great Investment Race were Richard Dunn (top left), Montgomery Oppenheim; Gary Connelly, Setanta Asset Management; Chris Reilly, Bank of Ireland Asset Management; broadcaster, Miriam O'Callaghan; Seamus Magner, Irish Life Investment Managers; Jennifer Richards, Standard Life Investments; Roy Asher, Hibernian Investment Managers; and Innes McKeand, AIB Investment Managers.

It's
down
to the
wire!

RehabCare's autism respite services nationwide.

Despite challenging market conditions, the first race saw a profit of over €130,000 on the €600,000 invested, with Hibernian Investment Managers emerging as clear winners. Last year, a profit of €240,000 was made with Bank of Ireland Asset Management's return of 153.9 per cent accounting for almost two-thirds of the gain recorded across the whole race.

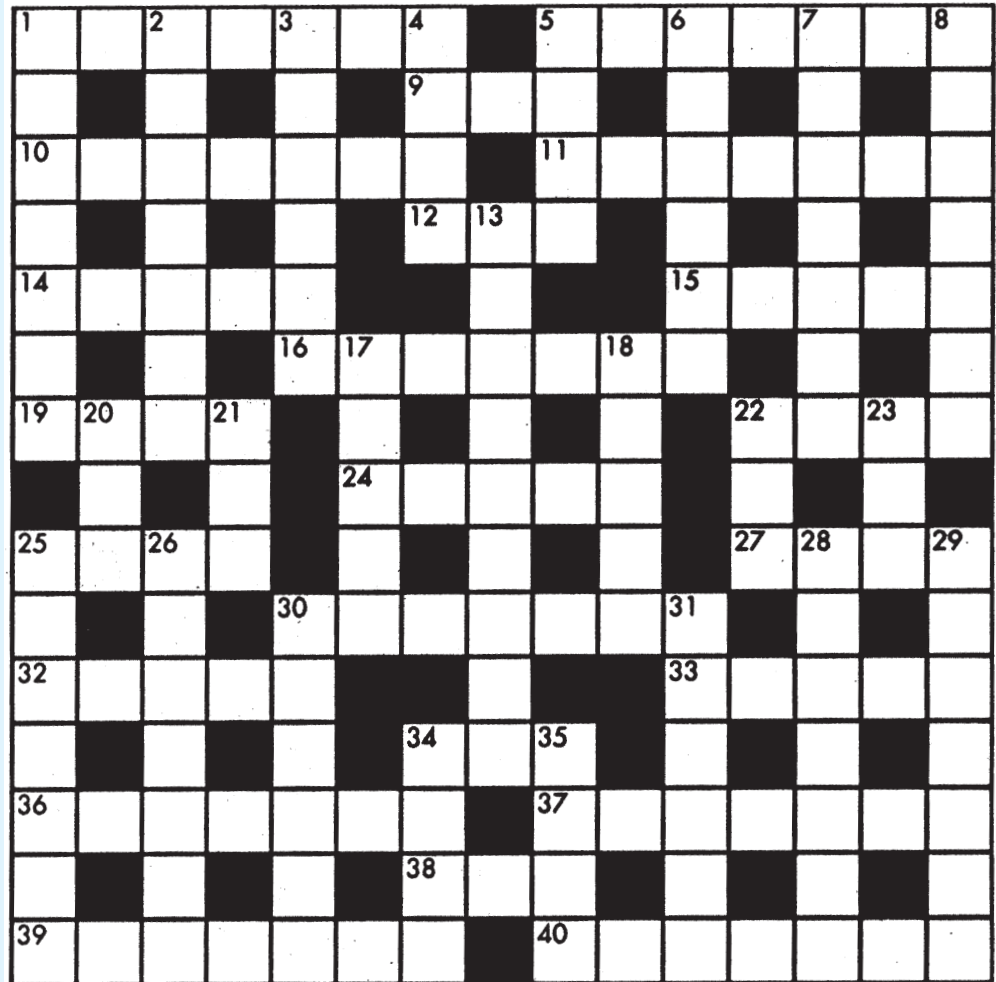
You can keep track of how all the competitors are doing as they enter the final straight by checking out the Rehab Great Investment Race column which appears monthly in the business pages of the Irish Times.

€100 Crossword

Fill in the puzzle below and send it to Crossword Competition, Communications Department, Rehab Group, Roslyn Park, Sandymount, Dublin 4 before June 10th. There is a special €100 prize for the first all-correct answer drawn. The winner of last edition's crossword was Jackie Byrne, Palmerstown, Dublin 20.

ACROSS

- 1 Covered area to park
 5 Paying security for freedom
 9 Large monkey
 10 Rampart
 11 Constructor
 12 Second sight (inits.)
 14 Small wood
 15 Within the law
 16 Falsehoods
 19 Increased
 22 Poke
 24 Consort amiably (3,2)
 25 Song of praise
 27 Actress Ms Samms
 30 Schoolmaster
 32 Section of long poem
 33 Burst out suddenly
 34 Popular drink
 36 Runaway (sl.)
 37 Grow
 38 Eggs
 39 Two days' break
 40 Stone for buildings



DOWN

- 1 Small private room
 2 Descent into illness again
 3 Spoke in public
 4 Capture
 5 High-pitched sound
 6 High standards
 7 Whole number
 8 Wearing a waist-belt
 13 Fabulous show
 17 Big bird of prey
 18 Strained
 20 Woman's name (Francis)
 21 Comic-strip space hero, — Dare
 22 Dish cooked under a
 crust
 23 Unit of electrical resistance
 25 Metal-cutter
 26 Sanction
 28 Sickly and sentimental
 29 Test to determine cause of death
 30 Fall
 31 Old magistrates
 34 Walked
 35 Eve's mate

Name _____

Address _____

Ph: _____



Eastern Delights

Rehab Foundation are looking for volunteers to join them on an unforgettable adventure as they head East to explore the wonders of China. The world's most populous country and fastest growing economy, China is a land of great contrasts with picturesque landscapes, fascinating age-old customs and busy cityscapes.

Renowned for its culture and history, Beijing will be the starting point for the Chinese adventure taking place from September 30th to October 11th. The city has spearheaded China's leap into the new millennium. However beneath Beijing's modern skyline lies some of China's most stunning sights, among them the world-famous Forbidden City, where great halls, lush gardens and courtyards evoke images of concubines and emperors from years gone by.

Other highlights of the trip to Beijing will include visits to Tianamen Square, the magnificent Summer Palace, and the Temple of Heaven Park, where many city-dwellers can be found starting the day with a spot of t'ai chi!

To walk along the Great Wall of China – one of the great wonders of the world – is a once-in-a-lifetime experience that awaits



participants on the Rehab trek. More than 2,000 years old, and stretching all the way from the Gobi Desert to China's east coast, the Great Wall is the only man-made object visible from outer space.

No less spectacular is the famous Yangtze River. The third largest river in the world, the Yangtze flows for more than 5,000km through some of China's most stunning scenery, including the breathtaking Three Gorges, which Rehab trekkers will have the opportunity to explore.

The Rehab trek ends with a visit to Shanghai, a sophisticated city that has

seduced visitors since it was opened up to foreigners at the end of the first Opium War. Rehab trek participants will visit some of the city's best museums and scenic gardens, as well as taking a boat trip along the Huangpo River. After all that exertion, trekkers will be given the opportunity to relax and indulge in some retail therapy in Shanghai's many designer stores and bazaars.

Participants are asked to raise €4,500 in sponsorship. Further information is available from Rita Kelly, general manager projects, Rehab Foundation, telephone: 01 2057331 or e-mail: rita.kelly@rehab.ie

National Learning Network service user Damien O'Donovan has added another prestigious award to his already crowded mantelpiece.

The hero returns: Special Olympics gold medallist Damien O'Donovan who received an An Gaisce Gold President's Award.

There were great celebrations in West Cork for National Learning Network Bantry's very own golden boy, Special Olympic gold medallist Damien O'Donovan, when he returned home from Dublin last February having received yet another gold award to add to his expanding collection.

However this award, An Gaisce's Gold President's Award, was extra special, not only because it was presented to him personally by President Mary McAleese, but also because it represented the culmination of over two years of hard work, perseverance and dedication.

Now in its 20th year, the Gaisce President's Award scheme encourages young people, between the ages of 15 and 25 years, to explore and expand their abilities in a positive and constructive way. The award challenges young people to examine what they are capable of achieving during a given time period. There are three types of award - bronze, silver and gold, reflecting different levels of time commitment.

In order to achieve his gold award, Damien, who had already completed both the bronze and silver President's Award, undertook a wide range of activities under the award scheme's four key elements – personal skill, physical activity, community involvement and venture.

In addition to attaining FETAC certification in computer skills, Damien undertook to double his swimming competition distance from 50 metres to 100 metres as part of the physical activity element of the President's Award programme. It was a difficult undertaking and one that involved a huge amount of training and commitment, but Damien proved he was more than up to



Bantry's

the task. Not only did he achieve his goal, Damien also became the world's best at that distance, winning a gold medal in the 100 metre freestyle event during the 2003 Special Olympics World Games.

Damien's love of water was one factor in his decision to join the local lifeboat group, 'Bantry Inshore Search and Rescue' as part of the community involvement element of the award. Although he completed the required number of hours as long ago as mid-2004, Damien still volunteers with the lifeboat crew, and continues to be an enthu-

siastic and active member of the shore crew.

The venture element of the award scheme, not only marked the culmination of two years of hard work, but was also without doubt, one of the highlights of Damien's quest for gold.

Damien's venture project involved completing a four-day, 80km charity walk from Killarney to Bantry during the summer of 2004. The walk attracted huge media interest in the area, with the local radio station giving regular updates on Damien's



Pictures.

Top inset: Three trainees from the National Learning Network Portlaoise centre were awarded bronze medals in the President's Award. James Cassidy, Ann Egan and Kevin Bambrick are pictured with three of their colleagues who received Certificates of Achievement. From left to right: Seamus Lowry, Mark Whelan, James Cassidy, Ann Egan, Kevin Bambrick and Cathal Molloy.



Left inset: Pictured at the President's Award Presentation ceremony in Ballyfermot Civic Centre were Marion Irwin, projects manager, President's Award; Nicola Dunne; Jonathan Sherry; Lord Mayor of Dublin, Michael Connaughton; Mark Duffy; Paul Bates; Kevin Rice, VSF instructor, and Clodagh Ní Ghallachóir, area manager, National Learning Network Ballyfermot. Nicola, Jonathan, Paul and Mark all received their bronze awards at the ceremony.

involved in the local community and to give something back. Our bronze medal recipients tidied the gardens of Ballyfermot's senior citizens as part of the community involvement element of the programme. It was wonderful to see how each person really blossomed and grew in confidence as a result of their participation in the President's Award.

"What's more, participating in the award scheme can be tremendous fun," Ms Ní Ghallachóir added. "Despite initial reservations from the four service users, the venture weekend they undertook in Westmeath was a wonderful experience and a huge success. Tales from the weekend, which included canoeing, hiking and survival skills, were probably a factor in helping more of our clients to decide to become involved in the President's Award, and we are planning another venture weekend for this August."

For further information on the President's Award visit www.p-award.net or email mail@p-award.net

progress. The walk captured the public's imagination and they responded with great generosity. Over the four days, Damien and his team raised a staggering €6,400 for two local charities, and despite completing an exhausting 80km, Damien still found the energy to run the final 100 metres and race across the finish line. A true champion!

In addition to Damien, service users from National Learning Network centres in Bantry, Portlaoise, Tallaght and Ballyfermot have all participated in the scheme, with participants from both

Portlaoise and Ballyfermot being awarded bronze medals in the past eighteen months.

"The President's Award is a wonderful initiative and a great bonus to National Learning Network centres nationwide as it really complements the service we provide," says Clodagh Ní Ghallachóir, manager National Learning Network, Ballyfermot. "For many of our service users, particularly the younger ones, the National Learning Network centre can become a bit of a safe zone. The President's Award encourages them to get

Golden Boy