

Trinity Olympians

David Wilkins



Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin



Trinity Sport

Sport: Sailing
Olympics: 1972, Munich
1976, Montreal | 1980, Moscow
1988, Seoul | 1992, Barcelona

Trinity College Dublin:
BAI (1972)

David Wilkins is Ireland's most capped Summer Olympian. In 1972, Wilkins sailed with Seán Whitaker, both from Trinity. They sailed a Tempest Mixed Two-Person Keelboat. There was a total fleet of 21 boats and in Race 5 of the series, the pair were the first ever Irish sailors to win an Olympic race. They achieved a final placing of 8th.

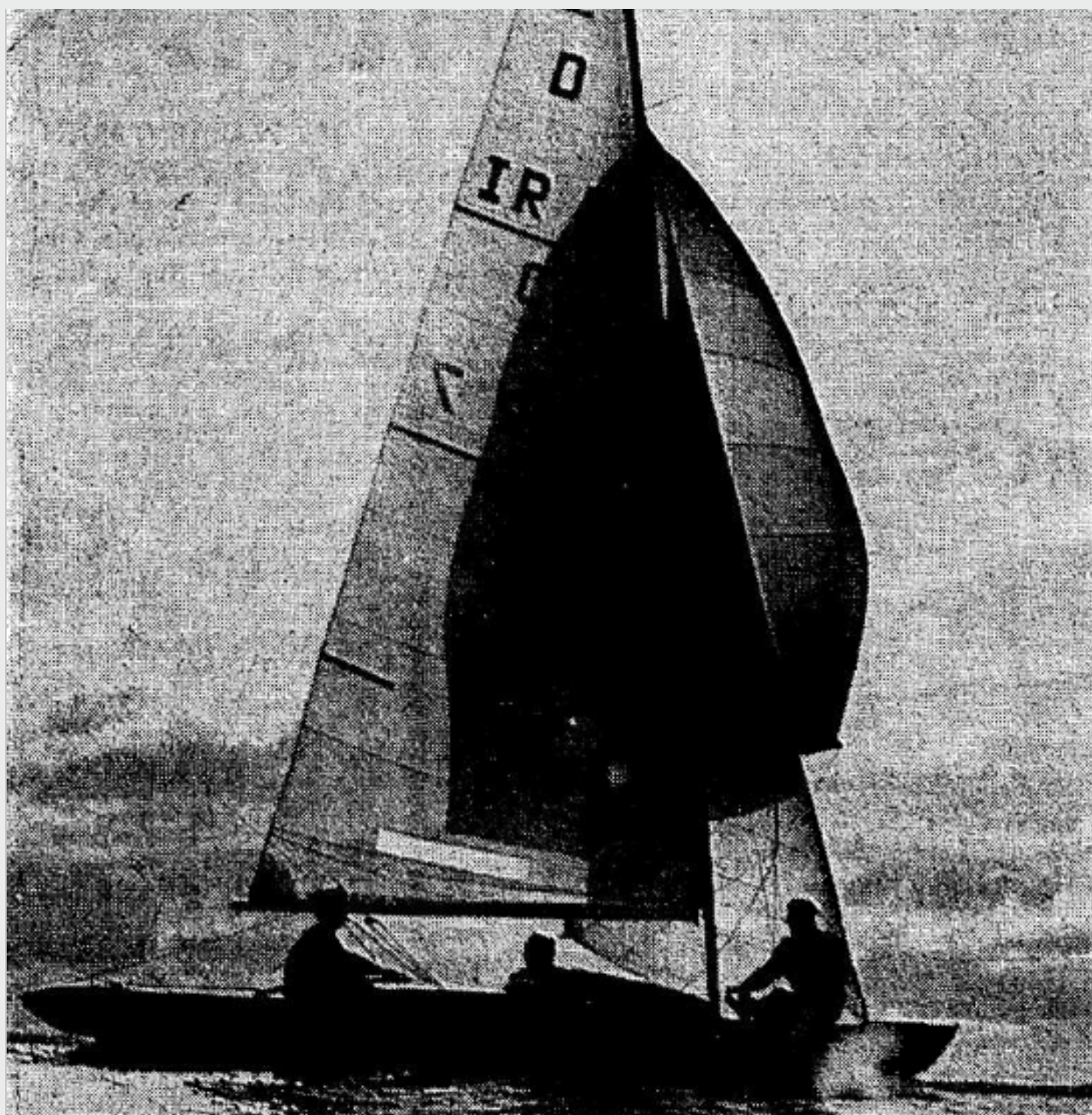
Wilkins sailed with Derek Jago in the Tempest class at the 1976 Games where there was a fleet of 16 boats and the Irish pair were placed 11th overall.

In 1980, Wilkins teamed up with fellow Trinity alumnus Jamie Wilkinson in the Flying Dutchman class, a Mixed Two-Person Heavyweight dinghy. At the Moscow Games, Wilkins became Ireland's 2nd Triple Summer Olympian – Ireland's only other Triple Olympian at that time was Maeve Kyle (another TCD graduate). They achieved 4 second-place finishes in the races and won the Silver Medal, Ireland's only Olympic medal in yachting since Ireland first competed in this sport in 1948.

For the 1988 Games in Seoul and at the 1992 Games in Barcelona, Wilkins teamed up with Peter Kennedy, who was an Oxford Medical student. In Seoul, Wilkins achieved a record 4th appearance in the Summer Games by an Irishman at that time, and with four different crew members. In winning Race 5 of the regatta Wilkins became the only Irish sailor to win a race at two Olympic Games regattas (Munich & Seoul). The crew finished 10th overall in 1988. Their 1992 boat in Barcelona was called 'Work, Rest & Play' and from a fleet of 23, they achieved a final placing of 11th overall.

Trinity Olympians

Owen Delany



Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin



Trinity Sport

Sport: Sailing
Olympics: 1972, Munich

Trinity College Dublin:
BA (1969)
BAO, BCh, MB (1971)

Owen Delany sailed for the Dublin Bay Yacht Club and is the son of Alfred Delany, Trinity Graduate, who competed in the 1948 (London) and 1952 (Helsinki) Olympic Games.

Owen sailed in the Dragon Class – Three-Person Keelboat named Alphida, with Robert Hennessy (helm) and Harry Byrne. The Alphida was a Dragon yacht damaged in the 1968 Olympic Games, but restored to top order. The 1972 Games in Munich were the last Olympics at which the Dragon Class was contested.

He competed at a series of international Dragon Regattas in the lead up to the Olympic campaign. In 1971, Alphida won the Edinburgh Cup Series in Belfast Lough and also claimed the title of the English-Speaking Union Dragon Trophy at Torquay in 1972, where 34 boats competed. Delany and Byrne did not travel to a Pre-Olympic Regatta in France in 1972 to save their leave to compete in the European Championships, also held in France later that year.

The Olympic campaign for the crew began in October 1970. Owen Delany, who was the main racing tactician, was struck down with a ‘flu virus’ at the Games. On the two days he was on board, the Alphida placed 7th and 9th; Joe MacMenamin (Dragon Class reserve) and Curley Morris (Finn Class reserve) were the replacements in the other races sailing with Hennessy and Byrne. Delany subsequently came home early because of his illness. From a fleet of 23 boats, the Irish crew were placed 16th overall.

Trinity Olympians

Seán Whitaker



Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin



Trinity Sport

Sport: Sailing
Olympics: 1972, Munich

Trinity College Dublin:
BA (1975)

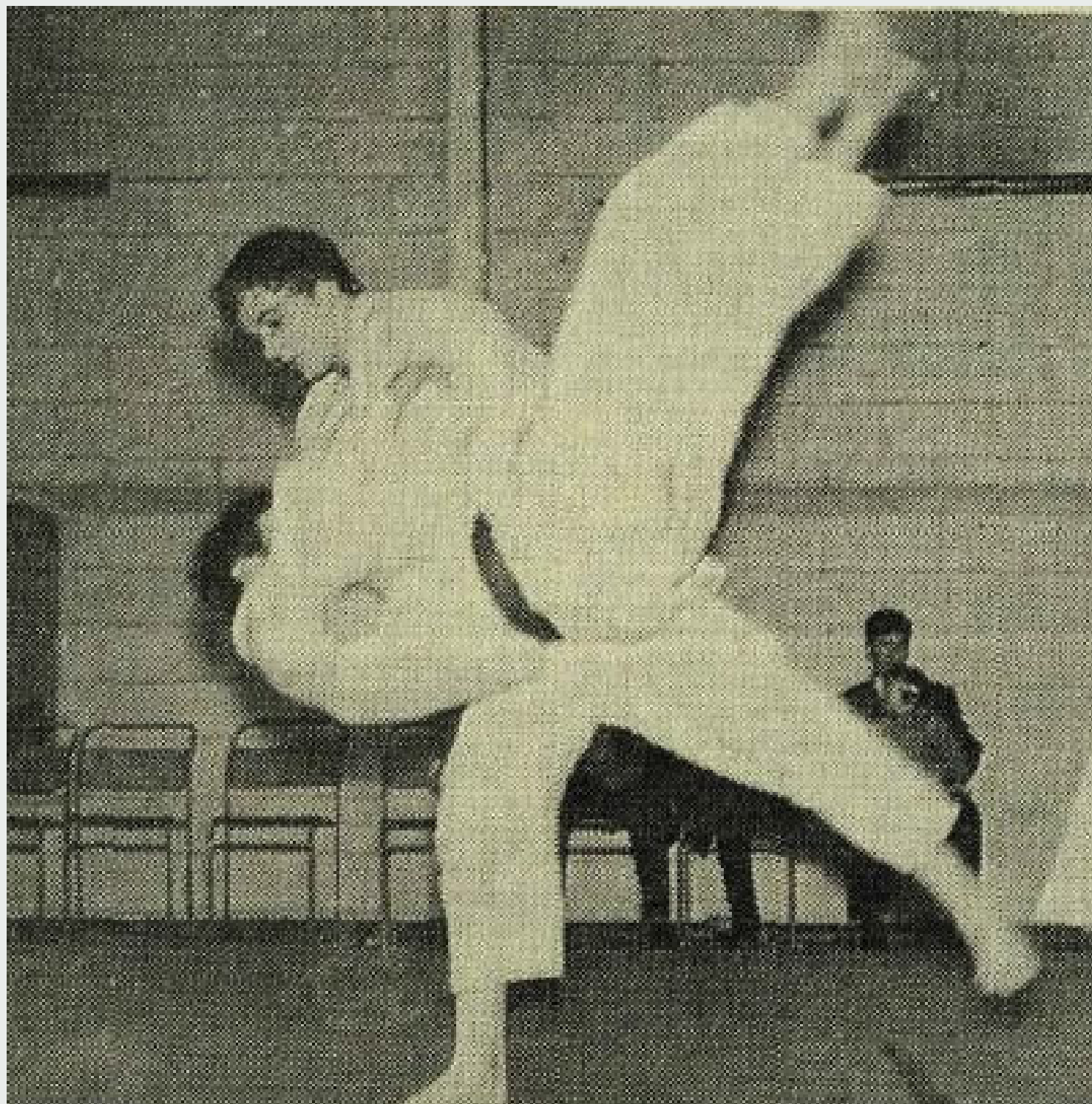
Seán Whitaker sailed with the Malahide Yacht Club and realised his Olympic dream alongside fellow Trinity graduate, David Wilkins.

The pair only started sailing Tempest 6 months before the Games in Munich. In their first outing in Tempest, they placed 19th in a Regatta in Hyères, France. The IYA initially felt that they were too much of a 'shot in the dark' to send to the Olympic Regatta at Kiel. However, their performance in the British trials so impressed the British Coach, David Robinson, that he strongly recommended to the IYA that they be allowed to go to the Olympic Games regatta.

The winning of Race 5 of the regatta was not only historic in terms of Irish Olympic sailing since 1948, but the margin of victory – 1min 15sec – was emphatic in Olympic sailing terms. After Race 5 only 3.7 points separated the four countries vying for the Bronze medal – Ireland, USA, Norway and Sweden. However, Irish hopes of a Bronze medal were dashed in Race 6 in the light wind conditions, eventually finishing 13th. Overall Whitaker and Wilkins ranked 8th in the Tempest Olympic regatta.

Trinity Olympians

Terence Watt



Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin



Trinity Sport

Sport: Judo

Olympics: 1972, Munich

Trinity College Dublin:
BA (1970) – General Studies

Terry Watt was Captain and Coach of the Dublin University Judo Club in 1969-70. He was Irish University Middleweight Champion in 1970. Watt has a collection of honours at local, national, international and masters level. Between 1969 and 1981, he was Irish Champion on 6 occasions (3 Middleweight and 3 U86kg titles) and he was Irish Open Champion 6 times from 1969 to 1979.

He won his first Scottish Open title in 1977 and second in 1979 (U86kg). Terry was also Welsh Open Champion in 1977. He won the Bronze Medal at the World Universities Championships in 1968 at Middleweight and he participated in 3 European Championships and 7 World Championships.

Watt has amassed a total medal haul of 11 Gold, 9 Silver and 4 Bronze at World Judo Masters Championships. He was also European Grand Master Champion from 2007 – 2010. He has won 5 Bronze medals at the Commonwealth Judo Championships between 1988 and 2012.

Terry was selected to represent Ireland at the XX Olympiad in Munich in 1972 at Middleweight (U80kg).

Trinity Olympians

Peter Dix | Robert Dix



Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin



Trinity Sport

Sport: Sailing

Olympics: 1976, Montreal

Trinity College Dublin:

Peter Dix: BA (1976)
Mental & Moral Science

Robert Dix:
BBS (1975)

Peter Dix and Robert Dix, cousins, sailed at the Malahide Yacht Club and specialised in the 470 – Mixed Two-Person Dinghy. They won the Warrior 470 trials in 1973 and claimed top honours at the IYA Dún Laoghaire Regatta and the Frost bite 470 Open Series in 1974.

They competed successfully at a number of International 470 Regattas in 1974 – 1975, including the Weymouth Olympic Week Regatta, where they placed in the top 5 from a 470 fleet of 70 boats.

At the 1973 European 470 Championships in France, the pair placed 15th in a 100-strong fleet. They competed at the 1974 World Championships in Italy and a year previous, Robert Dix crewed with Robert Michael at the World Championships in Germany.

Peter Dix and Robert Dix were selected to represent Ireland in the 470 class at the 1976 Olympic Games in Montreal where they achieved a final placing of 23rd in a fleet of 28 boats. Tragically Peter Dix became one of the victims of the terrorist bombing of Pan Am flight 103 over Lockerbie on 21 December 1988.

Trinity Olympians

Jamie Wilkinson



Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin



Trinity Sport

Sport: Sailing
Olympics: 1976, Montreal
1980, Moscow

Trinity College Dublin:
BA (1975) – Mathematics

Jamie Wilkinson was a member of the Malahide Yacht Club. Along with Barry O'Neill, he qualified to represent Ireland at the 1976 Olympic Games in Montreal and sailed in the Flying Dutchman Mixed Two-Person Heavyweight dinghy, finishing in 19th place overall.

In 1980, Wilkinson teamed up with fellow Trinity alumnus David Wilkins in the Flying Dutchman Mixed Two-Person Heavyweight dinghy. There was a fleet of 15 boats and the omens were good when Wilkins & Wilkinson placed 2nd in the Olympic practice race. They achieved 4 second-place finishes in the races and were awarded the Silver Medal, the first Irish medal in Olympic yachting.

Interestingly, Wilkins and Wilkinson withdrew from their Olympic campaign six weeks before the team was due to depart for Los Angeles because of work commitments and the sheer personal costs involved in qualifying to compete at Olympic level.

Trinity Olympians

Noel Graham



Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin



Trinity Sport

Sport: Rowing
Olympics: 1980, Moscow

Trinity College Dublin:
BA (1970) – General Studies

Noel Graham was a member of the Lady Victoria Club in Belfast and excelled as a Cox at club, national and international levels. He celebrates his birthday on Christmas Day!

In 1978, he won the Nottingham International Regatta in the Elite 1 Coxed Pair. In the same year, his boat was 3rd in the Ratzeburg Regatta behind Russia and East Germany and he also achieved 3rd place in the West German Championships in the Coxed Pair – less than a canvas behind West Germany.

Graham represented Ireland at two World Championships in 1977 (The Netherlands) and 1978 (New Zealand). All 3 oarsmen were from the Lady Victoria Club for both Championships. They achieved an 8th placing in the 1977 event and watched by 34,000 spectators in New Zealand, they made the A Final and finished 6th overall.

Noel was selected as Cox for the Men's Coxed Fours (M4+) to represent Ireland at the 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow. They reached the B Final and were placed 11th overall in the competition.

Trinity Paralympians

Ronan Tynan



Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin



Trinity Sport

Sport: Athletics

Paralympics: 1984, New York
1988, Seoul

Trinity College Dublin:
BA, BAO, BCh, MB (1993);
MA (2000)

Ronan Tynan was born in 1960 with phocomelia, causing an underdevelopment of both lower limbs and at the age of 20, both legs were amputated below the knee after a back injury from an accident made it impossible for him to use prosthetic limbs without amputation.

Between 1984 and 1988, Tynan won eighteen Gold Medals and set 14 World records at various national and international events. He competed at the World Wheelchair & Amputee Games in 1982 (England) and won Gold in the Discus, Shot Putt and 100m – setting new World Records in all 3 disciplines. Tynan also won Gold in the Discus and Shot Putt at the European Track & Field Championships for the Disabled in 1983 in Paris and in doing so, achieved World Records in both events.

Ronan's remarkable credentials have been recognised on numerous occasions to include an Honorary Doctorate Degree from Marywood University in 2006.

Ronan competed at two Paralympic Games in 1984 (USA/UK) and 1988 (Seoul). He won 3 Gold and a Silver in 1984 and a Gold, Silver and Bronze in 1988. Ronan was awarded the Outstanding Athlete of the Games in 1984.