

THE ALAN MURPHY ACADEMY PRESENTS

The
10th

*Anniversary Ballinrobe
Championships*

Ballinrobe Racecourse

June 13th & 14th 2026

Adjudicators:

Dearbhla Lennon ADCRG, Ulster

Lorraine Duggan ADCRG, Munster

Tony Smith ADCRG, Munster

Musician:

Paul O'Donnell



THE BALLINROBE CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026

Dear Teachers/Parents,

It's that time of year again, but this one is going to be extra special. It's with incredible pride that I look forward to welcoming you all back to my hometown for the 10th Anniversary Ballinrobe Championships at the stunning Ballinrobe Racecourse in the heart of Co. Mayo on June 13th and 14th. For this to be my 10th feis is something I am extremely proud of, and it's a testament to the wonderful feis we've created.

This year more than ever, a lot of work has gone in to ensuring it will be a thoroughly enjoyable and well-run weekend of Irish dancing, and without doubt, our biggest and best feis yet. We've assembled a highly experienced and esteemed panel of adjudicators for the feis and have many surprises planned to mark the 10th anniversary of The Ballinrobe Championships.

Here's some important info about the feis:

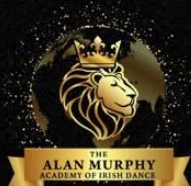
- Brand new perpetual cups for all Open Champions.
- For the first time, perpetual cups for all Prelim Champions.
- Schools competition with perpetual cup for winning school.
- Separate boys competition if 5 or more boys.
- Huge championship stage, 20ft X 40ft.
- Separate results room to keep things moving along quickly.
- Everyone will dance their set in Open Championships if 20 or more dancers in competition.
- Very special prizes for all Open Championship winners.
- Top 5 dancers in Bun, Tus and Mean Trophy Dances, and Prelim and Open Championships receive sashes and trophies.
- All grade dances in Bun, Tus and Mean will be 32 bars.
- Stars of the Future competition for children of any age - it can be for dancers attending their first feis or dancers perhaps not fully ready for a feis (it's 16 bars of a reel and may be accompanied by a parent or teacher).
- * NEW THIS YEAR * Treble reel competition judged blind! It's all about the rhythm with extra special prize for the winner.
- Online entry opening May 1st via www.entrytable.ie (Admission €5 on the day).
- Food and refreshments served throughout the 2 days in our wonderful on-site cafe.
- Live updates from the feis, including results and photos, will be available at:
@TheBallinrobeChampionships on Facebook and @TheAlanMurphyAcademy on Instagram.

If you have any questions or queries about the feis, accommodation, syllabus, etc., please don't hesitate to contact me, I'd be thrilled to help. See you in June!

Warmest regards,

Alan Murphy, ADCRG.

087-2567115.



THE BALLINROBE CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026

ALL OPEN AND PRELIMINARY CHAMPIONSHIPS, SATURDAY JUNE 13TH

9am	Mixed	8-9 Craobh Comortas	Reel, Heavy Jig, Any traditional set + Prelim
9.30am	Mixed	9-10 Craobh Comortas	Reel/Slip Jig, Heavy Jig/Hornpipe, Set Dance + Prelim
	Mixed	10-11 Craobh Comortas	Reel/Slip Jig, Heavy Jig/Hornpipe, Set Dance + Prelim
11.45pm	Mixed	Under 6 Craobh Comortas	Reel, Single Jig, Light Jig
	Mixed	6-7 Craobh Comortas	Reel, Single Jig, Light Jig/Heavy Jig
	Mixed	7-8 Craobh Comortas	Reel, Light Jig/Heavy Jig, Any traditional set
1pm	Mixed	11-12 Craobh Comortas	Reel/Slip Jig, Heavy Jig/Hornpipe, Set Dance + Prelim
	Mixed	12-13 Craobh Comortas	Reel/Slip Jig, Heavy Jig/Hornpipe, Set Dance + Prelim
3.15pm	Treble Reel Competition (Judged blind)	All Ages	16 Bars of Reel (Adjudicator will be blindfolded)
3.30pm	Mixed	13-14 Craobh Comortas	Reel/Slip Jig, Heavy Jig/Hornpipe, Set Dance + Prelim
	Mixed	14-15 Craobh Comortas	Reel/Slip Jig, Heavy Jig/Hornpipe, Set Dance + Prelim
5.15pm	Mixed	15-16 Craobh Comortas	Reel/Slip Jig, Heavy Jig/Hornpipe, Set Dance + Prelim
	Mixed	16-18 Craobh Comortas	Reel/Slip Jig, Heavy Jig/Hornpipe, Set Dance
	Mixed	Over 18 Craobh Comortas	Reel/Slip Jig, Heavy Jig/Hornpipe, Set Dance
PARADE	OF	CHAMPIONS	PARADE OF CHAMPIONS

PLEASE NOTE: ALL TIMES ARE APPROXIMATE AND COMPETITIONS MAY START UP TO 30 MINUTES EARLY
(Changes may also be made to timetable when online entry date closes to ensure smooth running of the feis).



THE BALLINROBE CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026

ALL GRADES, SUNDAY JUNE 14TH (3 STAGES FOR GRADES)

TIME	GRADE	AGE GROUP(S)	DANCES
9am	Bungrad	Under 6 6-7 7-8	Easy Reel Light Jig Single Jig Slip Jig Trophy Light Dance (Any light dance)
	Ungraded	Under 5 (Can also dance Under 6)	Reel Light Jig Single Jig Slip Jig Trophy Light Dance (Any light dance)
10.30am	STARS OF THE FUTURE *****	Any Age	16 bars Reel
11.15am	Tusgrad	Under 6 6-7 7-8	Reel Light Jig Single Jig Slip Jig Heavy Jig Hornpipe St. Patrick's Day Trophy Light Dance (Any light dance) Trophy Heavy Dance (Any heavy dance)
		Under 6 6-7 7-8	Reel Light Jig Single Jig Slip Jig Heavy Jig Hornpipe St. Patrick's Day Trophy Light Dance (Any light dance) Trophy Heavy Dance (Any heavy dance)
12.45pm	Meangrad	Under 6 6-7 7-8	Reel Light Jig Single Jig Slip Jig Heavy Jig Hornpipe St. Patrick's Day Trophy Light Dance (Any light dance) Trophy Heavy Dance (Any heavy dance)
2.15pm	Bungrad	8-9 9-10 10-12 Over 12	Easy Reel Light Jig Single Jig Slip Jig Trophy Light Dance (Any light dance)
3.30pm	Tusgrad	8-9 9-10 10-12 Over 12	Reel Light Jig Single Jig Slip Jig Heavy Jig Hornpipe St. Patrick's Day Trophy Light Dance (Any light dance) Trophy Heavy Dance (Any heavy dance)
		8-9 9-10 10-12 12-14 Over 14	Reel Light Jig Single Jig Slip Jig Heavy Jig Hornpipe St. Patrick's Day Trophy Light Dance (Any light dance) Trophy Heavy Dance (Any heavy dance)



THE BALLINROBE CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026

Entry fees:

- Ardgrad Championship €40 (includes copy of results)
- Ardgrad Championship including Preliminary Championship €45
- U5 Trophy Dance €10, solos €5
- Bungrad, Tusgrad and Meangrad competitions €5 per dance
- Bungrad, Tusgrad and Meangrad Trophy Dances €10 each
- Stars of the Future Competition €10
- Treble Reel Competition (judged blind) €10

Vendor: Buckles & Bling

Accommodation nearby:

There's a huge range of accommodation options available in Claremorris town and surroundings, including:

- Friarsquarter House, Ballinrobe - (094) 95 41154 www.friarshouse.com
- Ryan's Hotel, Cong - (094) 95 46004 www.ryanshotelcong.ie
- McWilliam Park Hotel, Claremorris - (094) 93 78000 www.mcwilliampark.ie

Flight information: Ireland West Airport is just a 40 minute drive to Ballinrobe Racecourse, and has many flights daily from several UK airports.

Rules:

1. Age reckoned from January 1st 2026.
2. Entries will only be accepted from teachers currently registered with An Comisiún le Rinci Gaelacha.
3. No refunds except in the case that the event does not run.
4. The adjudicator's decision is final.
5. Objections must be lodged in writing within one hour of the announcement of a competition & be accompanied by a fee of €30 which will be refunded should the objection be valid.
6. The feis committee as far as is practical will provide a stage surface suitable for dancing. However, the committee cannot accept any liability whatsoever for injuries sustained while on stage. The lodgement of any entry will be deemed to be acceptance of this made by the dancer & his/her parent(s) or guardian(s).
7. The feis committee reserve the right to refuse feis entries and refuse entrance to the venue.
8. The feis committee reserve the right to move competitions/results to a different stage or alternate age groups to ensure the smooth running of the event.

THE BALLINROBE CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026

Rules cont:

9. Photography: Any form of unauthorised photography that has the capability to capture a dancer's image whilst in motion, using electronic or manual means e.g. mobile phone, standard camera, video camera, with or without flash enhancement, is forbidden during all competitions. Awards presentation photos will be put on the organising feis Social Media page. If you do not wish your child to be on this page you must inform the organisers of the feis before the awards are made.

10. Videoing of competitions is strictly forbidden.

11. In prelim and open competitions up to and including under 10, make up (including false lashes and face-tan) is not permitted.

12. No block/en point (stationary or moving) permitted for all ages up to and including under 12 with the exception of dancers who will be competing in the 12-13 age group next year (2027), who will be exempt from this rule from 1st September 2026.

13. Costumes: Length of costumes must adhere to principles of modesty and enable dancers to safely execute their movements and steps. Appropriate undergarments covering the midriff must be worn. Undergarments must provide full coverage (as per illustrations on www.clrg.ie). Adjudicators who determine a costume to lack modesty or be too short may ask a competitor to change into black tights (of a denier not less than 70%) in order for the dancer to continue in the competition. If the competition is being judged by more than 1 adjudicator, all adjudicators on the panel must agree that dancer be asked to put on tights. Changing of costumes is not permitted in halls or public areas. Dancers must use changing rooms provided. In order to comply with health and safety measures, all dancers lining up side stage for any round, may be asked to raise their arms to shoulder level unhindered. If unable to do this by the time of their rotation, due to costume stitching/arm attachments, the dancer will not be permitted to perform.

14. Stars of the Future: this competition is aimed towards dancers of any age who may not be ready for graded competitions. Dancers must not dance in Bun Grád or any other adjudicated competition at the event.

15. Bungrád and Túsgrád: Dancers are not permitted tan on legs in Bun and Túsgrád. Dancers up to and including the under 12 age group are not permitted to wear make up (including false eye lashes and face tanner). Dancers may only wear a traditional class costume or long/short sleeve blouse/shirt/t-shirt and skirt/trousers, bodysuit/leotards and skirt (must conform to the regular costume length rule). Low cut tops or short tight skirts are not permitted. Appropriate undergarments covering the midriff must be worn. Bungrád competitions are confined to dancers who at the time of entry have never won 1st place (or graded out) of that particular dance in any age group or grade. Basic steps only are permitted in Bungrád. Túsgrád competitions are confined to dancers who at the time of entry have never won 1st place (or graded out) of that particular dance in any age group in Tusgrád, Meangrád, Preliminary or Árdgrád grades. Basic steps or their first hard/advanced version of each dance are permitted in Túsgrád. Steps in Túsgrád heavy jigs and hornpipes should be similar to those performed in traditional sets.

THE BALLINROBE CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026

Rules cont:

“Grading up” in Bun and Tús Grád:

- 1 - 5 dancers = 0 dancers grade up
- 6 - 20 dancers = 1 dancer grades up
- 21 - 30 dancers = 2 dancers grade up
- 30 + dancers = 3 dancers grade up

16. Meangrád: Meangrád competitions are confined to those who at the time of entry have never won 1st place (or graded out) of that particular dance in any age group in Meangrád, Preliminary or Árdgrád grades.

17. Preliminary: to be eligible to compete in a Preliminary Championship:

- Dancers must not have placed in the top 3 in an Open Championship judged by 3 or more adjudicators.
- Dancers must not have won a Preliminary Championship more than 2 times in the current year, HOWEVER, if there are 5 or less in a Preliminary competition the dancer is still eligible to compete in Preliminary Championship.
- Dancers must not have qualified for Oireachtas Rince na Cruinne in the current year (2026) or previous year (2025).
- Dancers must not have recalled in the actual Championship at Oireachtas Rince na hÉireann in the current year (2026) or previous year (2025).
- Dancers having won 2 Preliminary Championships may not compete in any Mean grad competition for the remainder of the year HOWEVER, if a dancer has won only one Preliminary Championship they may continue to compete in Meangrad (with the exception of the dances that they won the Prelim Championship with).

Exceptions pertaining to particular regions:

- Dancers who qualify for Oireachtas Rince na Cruinne where there are five dancers or less in the competition at their Regional Oireachtas are exempt from this ruling. They may remain in the Preliminary Championships if they so wish.
- Boys who have qualified for Oireachtas Rince na Cruinne but were not placed in the top 3 at their Regional Oireachtas and who otherwise fulfil the Prelim Criteria, may continue to compete in Preliminary Championships.

