

BIOGRAPHIES

Nick Hope-Moderator

- A trusted and award-winning journalist who has a proven track record of securing exclusive access to world-leading athletes for highly acclaimed broadcast and written features.
- A skilled presenter / reporter who has fronted network (BBC One / Two) and iPlayer programmes, as well as BBC World, BBC News Channel, Radio 5 Live sport bulletins and anchored 5 Live Sports Extra coverage.
- A versatile broadcaster who in addition to covering 23 Olympic, Paralympic and Commonwealth Games has also reported on Wimbledon, the Premier League, 6 Nations Rugby and many other high-profile events.
- A creative producer who has created highly acclaimed diversity-focused features concerning women's and disability sports, as well as social media content focusing on younger as well as traditionally overlooked black and Asian audiences for BBC Sport social media accounts.
- An extremely competent shoot-edit video journalist who is a high-end Adobe Premier Pro / FCP user and can operate a variety of HD / 4K cameras while working in and filing content from the field.

Antonio Da Silva

- In his first speech as LEN President, da Silva said: "We had the courage to stand up and fight for a better future for all federations and all the aquatic disciplines. We stood up and fought for the principles of unity, for openness and transparency for the sacred principles of democracy. We spoke out and demanded that LEN worked with FINA for the good of the sport worldwide. We can no longer exist in isolation, together we are stronger."
- Swimmer and water polo player, 1979 - 1993.
- National and international coach, 1995 - 2007.
- Trained athletes who have broken several national records and that have qualified for European Junior Championships.
- Academic Experience in Sport Professor of Sports Science, Exercise and Health at The University of Trás-os-Montes and Alto Douro (UTAD), Vila Real, Portugal, 2012 - present. Bachelor's Degree in Sports Science, 1993.
- Post-Graduate Master's Degree in High Performance. Sports Training from University of Lisbon, Portugal, 1997.
- PhD in Sports Science, UTAD, 2001.
- Pro-Rector for Development and Internationalization at UTAD, 2007 - 2013.
- Vice-Rector for Science and Technology UTAD, 2013 - 2016.
- Director of the Research Centre in Sports, Health Sciences and Human Development (CIDESD), 2007 - 2013.
- President of the Life and Environmental Sciences School's (ECVA) Pedagogic Council, 2009 - 2013.

- Published 50 books and book chapters and 290 articles in peer-reviewed and internationally recognised journals.
- Sports Administration President of the Portuguese Swimming Coach Association, 2005 - 2009.
- President of the Portuguese Swimming Coach Association General Assembly, 2008 - 2012.
- President of the Portuguese Swimming Federation, 2013 - present.
- Member of the Portuguese National Council of Sports, 2016 - present.
- Member of World Aquatics Swimming Technical Committee, 2017 - present.
- World Aquatics Bureau Member, 2021 - present.

World Aquatics Vice President.

Ciaran Gallagher

Ciaran Gallagher is CEO of Gymnastics Ireland, and an Olympic Federation of Ireland Board member. Ciaran is a former competitive gymnast, who represented GB at International level. During his time at university, he spent a lot of time and energy coaching younger gymnasts at his club in Belfast. He was originally engaged by Gymnastics Ireland as a consultant, helping to develop a strategic plan to reorganise the federation. He then spent 3 years as National Development Director before being appointed CEO in 2009.

Dale Neuburger

Dale Neuburger is the Treasurer of World Aquatics, a position he has held since 2021. He served five terms as FINA Vice President (Americas) from 2000 to 2021. He is a member of the World Aquatics Executive and FINA Bureau Liaison to the Technical Swimming Committee. He has been Technical Delegate for Swimming for five Olympic Games - Beijing, London, Rio de Janeiro, Tokyo, and Paris - and three Youth Olympic Games - Singapore, Nanjing, and Buenos Aires.

Dale previously served as President of United States Aquatic Sports; President of USA Swimming; and, Chairman of the Board of the International Swimming Hall of Fame, in addition to serving on the Board of USA Swimming for twenty-eight years and the USA Swimming Foundation Board for six years. Dale was a Board member of the United States Olympic Committee and a member of its Executive Committee, serving as chairman of the National Governing Bodies (NGB) Council.

In his professional career, he was Assistant Athletic Director of Indiana University; Chief Operating Officer (COO) of USA Track & Field; President of Indiana Sports Corporation; and Director of BCW Sports Practice. Dale has a Bachelor of Arts degree in politics from Princeton University, and holds two Master's degrees from Indiana University, in philanthropic studies and in public administration.

Elsa Arapi

Elsa Arapi was born and raised in Athens, Greece. She studied philosophy in Greece and International Relations at Harvard University. She is a Senior Sports Rights Manager and the Lead of the EBU Women's Sport Initiative, building a business case for gender equality in sport on- and off-screen. She is the author of "Reimagining Sport - Pathways to gender-balanced media coverage" which has been included in the Olympic Library.

Emer O'Neill

Emer O'Neill is a seasoned Moderator, Host and Public Speaker with vast experience in the areas of Sustainability, Global Citizenship, Racism, Inclusion and Equity, Women/Girls in Sport, Children and Youth Education and Mental Health Advocacy.

As a TV Presenter she has a bright and relatable presence on camera with an ability to connect with her audience and guests.

She is a mother of three with a BA in Education and a Masters in Educational Leadership and Administration with 15 years' teaching experience. She represented Ireland in basketball at multiple age levels and was a recipient of a full scholarship to the USA. Assistant Coach at Barry University, Miami, FL 2012/14 and Head Coach of the Under 20's Women's Irish Basketball Team 2015 competing in the European Championships in Montenegro.

Emer is an advocate for promoting positive body image and self love. She has a TV show on RTE2 "Keep It Up" investigating the question of "Why girls drop out of sport during the ages of 12-14?" It is a six-part docuseries available on the RTE Player.

Emer is well known as a presenter on Home School Hub on RTE, educating our children during Covid with her segment "Exercise with Emer". She also presented the Today show on RTE and has broadcast the St. Patrick's Day Parade 2022 and 2023 live on RTE.

Emer is an anti-racism activist working to bring awareness to the lack of diversity in the media, state jobs, positions of leadership and in our education system here in Ireland. Her Tedx talk, challenging unconscious bias and racism called "Don't Put Me in a Box" consists of her own personal journey being Black Irish and challenges people to be actively anti-racist.

She is a founding member of Bray For Love, an anti-racism group in Bray, Co. Wicklow. Emer has written policy on Anti-Racism and developed EDI workshops for schools and organisations. Emer sat as a member on the steering committee for the Anti-Bullying Action Plan 2023 under Minister Norma Foley.

Emer is the author of a children's book called "The Same But Different" a tale about a little girl overcoming her self-doubt and journey to embrace her differences and uniqueness. The book includes characters with a cochlear implant, hijab, wheelchair user and strives to be educational and inclusive. It is a book that has helped educators and parents start conversations surrounding racism, inclusion and loving yourself just the way you are!

Jason Smyth

Passionate about sport, investments & improving performance.

Jason represented Ireland internationally for 18 years, winning 21 gold medals at four Paralympic Games in the T13 100m and 200m. He developed the skills to be a consistent achiever in different performance environments.

Consultant working with senior management teams across multiple sectors including financial services, manufacturing, and consumer goods.

Successfully worked with a number of partners/stakeholders to create business opportunities and manage those relationships.

Performance director on the board of Netball NI and Vision Sports Ireland

Karen Webb

Karen is Chair of Aquatics GB and Strategic Adviser and Chair of More than Equal (an initiative in motorsport focused on finding and developing the first female F1 champion).

Through her own business, she also works with brands, sports, cities and governments advising on reputation management, nation branding, mega events, sports tourism, and marketing communications' strategies and is currently focused on major projects in the Middle East.

With nearly three decades in the global sport business, Karen has held leadership positions at the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy/ FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, the International Centre for Sport Security & Integrity, the International Olympic Committee, the Olympic Park Legacy Company, and others.

Karen's in-house roles include the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, the Westfield Group, The Sported Foundation and the Mayor of London's office.

She has several successful sporting Bids under her belt including the Rio 2016 Games, London 2017 World Athletics, and World Rugby's push to return to the Olympic programme and most recently advising on major event Bids for Middle East countries.

As a consultant, she has worked with the International Paralympic Committee, West Ham FC, BT, Swatch, Visa, Welsh Development Agency, London Borough of Newham, Beyond Sport and advising countries including Australia, Denmark, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and Abu Dhabi.

She is an advocate and mentor for women and girls in sport, a respected media and conference speaker - on empowering and developing women, bold leadership, legacy and the social impact of sport etc. and surviving breast cancer!

Mamobo Ogoro

Mamobo Ogoro is a Social Psychologist and multi award-winning social entrepreneur. As the first Sanctuary PhD Fellow at the University of Limerick, Mamobo's research investigates migrant identity construction in Ireland and how systems of inclusion and exclusion affect migrant communities in Ireland.

Mamobo is on a personal mission to unify the world. She is the Founder and CEO of GORM, an award-winning social enterprise on a mission to unify across differences and advance belonging for marginalised communities.

Mamobo has been heralded for her work with GORM on countless occasions, and most recently won the 2023 Tech and Digital award in the eir Power of Women awards, and was listed in the Irish Independent 30 under 30.

Mamobo spends most of her time working with organisations around the world, helping them develop intercultural leaders. She lives in Dublin, Ireland, and considers herself as your friendly bisexual plant-loving neighbour, who loves to read and take care of her home forest. She loves music, singing jazz and r&b, and spending time with family & friends.

Nuala Walsh

Nuala is an adjunct professor of behavioural science at Trinity College Dublin, non-executive director, and award-winning author of TUNE IN, and Fellow at the London School of Economics.

As Founder CEO of MindEquity Consulting, she advises on reputation management, culture change and communications to enable Fortune 500, sports and human rights organizations optimise performance and impact.

During a 30-year investment management and banking career, she has been recognised among the 100 Most Influential Women in Finance and Top 50 Chief Marketing Officers.

Today, appointments include Non-Executive Director at the British & Irish Lions, President of the Harvard Club of Ireland, Director of the Global Association of Behavioral Scientists, Council Member at the Football Association, Advisor at World Athletics, and Chair of the Innocence Project London.

Her award-winning and widely-endorsed book 'Tune In: How to Make Smarter Decisions in a Noisy World' explores the rising threat of tone-deaf misjudgment and why we tune out what really matters. It introduces the PERIMETERS framework of 10 misjudgment traps that cause decision error and offers 18 science-based solutions so you stand out not lose out.

It can be ordered on Amazon or www.nualagwalsh.com/order for a list of global booksellers.

A TEDx speaker on overcoming indecision, she also writes for Psychology Today, Forbes, Harvard Business Review, Inc. Her insights have featured in the FT, BBC, CNBC, the Telegraph, Economist and Fox Business. See TEDx: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xLSAkVxPOk0>

Peter Ryan

As a charismatic and empathic speaker who has a strong rapport with audiences, Paralympian Peter Ryan, who is legally blind, invites people to get out of their comfort zones and make the best of their life. And his own story is proof that it is possible.

Peter has a powerful personal story: a promising athlete who when he found himself losing his sight, slid into alcoholism. It was only through his family's intervention that he ended up in recovery. He speaks regularly at events, for clients of all varieties and scales. It's the commonalities in his story that resonate with audiences: life can go awry at any time, but Peter shows how we can change our mindset and live a life in and of balance.

The man - who at 15 had an international soccer trial - was 18 when his eyesight began to fail and 20 when he was diagnosed with Leber's Hereditary Optic Neuropathy which left him with between five and 10 percent peripheral vision. Grieving, unable to cope with the loss of identity, and without a job or sport to occupy him, Peter's thoughts became 'totalitarian'. He realised he needed a new 'script' for life.

Sport became the first step back towards a semblance of normality. Peter discovered a talent for cycling which resulted in him dedicating 10 years to high-performance cycling.

He competed in the Paralympics in Rio in 2016. His sports endeavours raised a total of €250,000, showcasing his commitment to using sport as a powerful means for positive impact. Fully immersed in the concept of well-being, he recognised the potential of sports for societal good and observed the public's connection to it, inspiring his venture into the realm of sports endurance.

Subsequently, in 2018, Peter achieved a historic milestone as the first Paralympic athlete to complete the challenging race around Ireland, covering 2,252km in 122 hours. This effort raised crucial funds for a local cause close to his heart. Taking on a new challenge, Peter transitioned into ultra-endurance running. On October 8, 2023, he made history as the first person with a disability to run from Malin to Mizen, covering a remarkable 586km in five days for charity.

In his talks, Peter speaks about self-limiting beliefs and the ways we can 'train our brain' so that we can live a full, integrated life. He shows, through his own experience, how to move from a place where we are out of tune with ourselves, to one in which our public and private selves exist in harmony.

With his mantra of Control - Influence - Accept, Peter leaves audiences with a new outlook on their own lives. His honesty on his journey over the past decade offers an extremely insightful and in-depth look at mental health and the end results of not coping properly with life's adversities.

Sarah Keane

CEO of Swim Ireland; President of the Olympic Federation of Ireland; Non Executive Director at the Central Bank of Ireland; Board member of World Aquatics; Executive Board member of European Aquatics and Chair of the European Aquatics DEI Commission; Member of the National Sports Leadership group. Qualified solicitor and Matheson alumni.

Extensive experience in Corporate Management, Governance, Gender Equality, Diversity & Inclusion, Stakeholder relations, Sports management and Crisis management.

Somnath Dasgupta

Global Marketing Director, Global Sports Partnerships and Regional Africa, Guinness.

Somnath leads the charge on Global Sports Partnerships and for marketing across the African continent, one of the biggest Guinness regions in the world. A brand-builder with 20 years' experience on some of the world's most iconic brands, Somnath's experience traverses consumer goods giants such as Diageo and P&G in a variety of senior marketing and innovation roles across market, regional and global remits.

Having lived and worked in multiple countries and a variety of cultures across the world, Somnath is a deeply passionate advocate on the role that DEI plays in society and decoding how brands can enrich the conversation in communities they operate in. He has wide experience in culture-first brand-building models

and a Certification on Sustainable Development from the Oxford University.

Ulrika Sandmark

Elite swimmer during the 1980s, Ulrika was 10th in the 800m freestyle at the 1983 European Championships in Rome, Italy.

Club coach (all kind of levels) for 20 years.

Teacher of Swedish, English and German for 15 years.

Head coach of Swedish Swimming, 2012-2021

Sport director Sweden Aquatics 2021-present

Responsible for Project "Olympic Offensive for female coaches" at the Swedish Olympic Committé since 2021