

## Ducking and diving in Reenascreena

Contributed by Calvin Jones  
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Will I be in the money, or just out for a duck?

That was the question on everyone's lips on Sunday 26 June as the Reenascreena Duck Derby got underway.

Fowl handlers Maurice Sheehy and Andrew O'Sullivan had to be super vigilant to stop the 20 yellow plastic ducks making a break for it before racing began, and did a sterling job of keeping order under often trying circumstances. The mob of ducks were to race downstream in 10 heats before climax of the 10 duck final took place.

Tension was palpable as, under the hawk-eyed scrutiny of race official Jim Hayes, the winning duck glided over the line with it's head underwater.

There was one race left to run -- the much anticipated Auction Race -- but first, of course, there had to be an auction. Enter local auctioneer John Hodnett. With over half of the takings allocated as prize money the stakes were high, and ducks were going for up to &euro;50 apiece.

Once the racing was overracing it was time for the BBQ and entertainment from Wazoo Inc. and the French Connection, who kept the music flowing until well into the early hours. Rumour had it they could hear the music in Leap! It was a fitting finale to a wonderful weekend of festivities.