

Annual Mine Rescue Competition 2010

by Pat Griffin, Senior Inspector HSA

The 13th Annual Mine Rescue Competition took place at the Lisheen Mine Co. Tipperary on Saturday 15th May.

This contest, designed to improve mine safety in general and mine rescue in particular dates back to the late 1960's when there were four operating base metal mines in Ireland.

Tara Mines in Navan was the only mine operating in Ireland in the 1980's; while Tara continued in-house mine rescue training, an inter-mine competition was not re-established until 1998 with the opening of the Galmoy and Lisheen Mines in Kilkenny and Tipperary respectively.

Since then, UK based mines also became involved; this year's competition saw six participants; three from Ireland and three from England. These were Irish Salt, Tara Mines, the Lisheen Mine, Cleveland Potash, Salt Union and Maltby Colliery. The teams were set three main tasks; a simulated underground mine Search and Rescue of two injured miners from a fire; a Fitness test and an equipment knowledge or Bench test.

The overall winner was Maltby Colliery whose team Captain, Derek Speirs, also won the IMQS Trophy and Silver Medal for Best Team Captain.

Best Irish Team was from Lisheen (2nd overall). The category winners were Salt Union (Search & Rescue); Cleveland Potash (Fitness & Bench tests); Lisheen (First Aid) and Tara (Team Safety).

The Irish Mines Rescue Committee, headed by Mike Lowther (Tara Mines and IMQS Council Member) has an arrangement with the Irish Air Corps to provide airlift



Siobhan Tinnelly (IMQS Hon. Sec) and Sean Finlay (IMQS President)

support if required; an Air Corps Agusta 135 Helicopter was in attendance at the Competition. Commandant John O'Keefe of the Air Corps attended the Presentation

Dinner, kindly hosted by the Lisheen Mine. Sean Finlay (President), Siobhan Tinnelly (Hon. Secretary) and Macarten Macgroder (Council Member) attended on behalf of the IMQS.



Briefing Salt Union UK before Fitness Test