

**Cavan host the “Watersports Inclusion Games” for first time
and event is hailed a huge success**

The Watersports Inclusion Games is a national event that aims to make watersports more inclusive and accessible for all. For the first time since it was launched in 2017, the Games were held in County Cavan in Ramor Watersports Club, who had applied for, and were awarded the hosting of the Games. Participants and volunteers flocked to Lough Ramor on the weekend of June 22nd and 23rd in glorious weather where 4,000 individual water experiences were enjoyed by the 523 participants as well as a further 3,060 onshore experiences. 278 volunteers were on hand to assist over the two days. Both Participants and Volunteers had travelled from all over Ireland and from other countries like France and Germany, for this two-day event.

On Saturday the Watersports Inclusion Games were officially launched with a cutting of a ribbon by Zoe Mulvey, the Ambassador for the event, and TP O’Reilly, Cathaoirleach, Cavan County Council. The venue for the weekend’s events was the Lakeside Manor Hotel on the shores of Lough Ramor, an ideal location to facilitate the huge numbers of participants, volunteers and supporters.

With funding provided by Sport Ireland, the Watersports Inclusion Games are organised by Irish Sailing, in association with Canoeing Ireland and Cavan Local Sports Partnership, along with Ramor Watersports Club and Sailability Ireland. With an objective to celebrate watersports for people of all abilities, from the physical, sensory, intellectual and learning spectrums, and of all ages and demographics, a host of events were experienced by the participants over the weekend both on the water and onshore that included: Waterskiing, Paddleboarding, Canoeing, Dragon Boating, Powerboating, Fast Boat Rides, Wheelchair Accessible Boats, Sailing, Radio Controlled Boats. The Lady Amanda Accessible Boat was also used to give tours of the wonderful Lough Ramor. The onshore experience included accessible rugby, sensory bus and face painting.

According to the organisers, this event was over 8 months in the planning, which was rewarded by a safe fun-filled two-day event for people of All abilities, but especially for people with Physical Sensory or Intellectual Challenges

Speaking at the event Irish Sailing President and eleven-time Paralympian John Twomey said, *“What a superb venue to run our Watersports Inclusion Games. It is events such as this that will help to inspire people of all abilities to take part in watersports activities and perhaps even one day compete for Ireland in Paralympic sport. I thank Ramor Watersports Club for the professional approach to organising the event, to the hordes of volunteers who gave up their time over the two-day event, and of course to the hundreds of participants who travelled to County Cavan from the four corners of Ireland to take part’*

Niamh Smyth TD, Chair of the Oireachtas Committee on Media, Tourism, Arts, Culture, Sport attended the event and said that she was "very impressed with the calm atmosphere and smiles on everyone's faces, Participants & Volunteers alike"

John Wilson, project manager on behalf of Ramor Watersports Club thanked the army of Volunteers and all other organisations involved in making the Watersport Inclusion Games the success it was. He welcomed a number of organisations who were represented at the games including: Wakeboard and Waterski Federation of Ireland CEO Cormac Collins: Spinal Injuries Ireland CEO Fiona Bolger: CEO Sailing into Wellness, Scouting Ireland, Denis Murphy & Patrick Stratford Local Scoutmaster, Virginia Accessible Rugby Club, Wexford Harbour Boat & Tennis Club, Canoeing Ireland Emer Carton, Tony Gregory, Baileboro Kayaking, Cavan Civil Defence with Ambulance and Water Safety Boat; Cavan Sports Partnership, Cavan Co Council represented by Cathaoirleach, TP O'Reilly.

The organisers also want to thank the many sponsors for the event, without whom it would not have been possible, they include: Hanley Taite Architect Virginia, McEvoy's SuperValu Virginia, ATB Signs and Print Virginia, Lidl Virginia, Tayto Snacks, Fresh Today Virginia, Rego Toilets, Allied Waste Recycling, Wilton Waste Recycling, American Stores, Mai & Joe Brady for the car parking Access, INNSS Alistair Rumbhall, Ciaran Murphy Club Mara Galway, Wexford Harbour Boat Club and all the other Watersports Clubs who gave of their expertise and time.

Ramor Watersports Club want to also sincerely thank the Lakeside Manor Hotel owners, Farrell & Meabh Brady, who allowed their premises be taken over and used for the event. Thanks also to their fantastic Staff.

The volunteers have been signing up over the past few months and came from all over Ireland. Included in the hundreds of volunteers were those from our neighbouring Clubs: Lisa McNally Virginia

RFC, James Mooney Kilinkere GFC, Liam O'Reilly Munterconnaught GFC, Aidan Farrelly Maghera GFC, Ramor United GFC, Tony Gregory Kayak Training Center Baileboro, Patrick Stratford Virginia Scouts.

A very important role was the health and safety of the event, this was managed by Philip Scallan, Event Director Irish Sailing, John Wilson Project Manager Ramor Watersports Club and David Brouder, On-Water Event Safety Officer.

Photos – provided by Ian McCabe Photographer & one from Mary Maugher (cutting of ribbon) - attached and this is the caption

Pictured at the official opening of the Watersports Inclusion Games 2024 are L-R John Wilson Project Manager Ramor Watersports Club, Sarah Louise Rossiter COO Irish Sailing, Zoe Mulvey Games Ambassador, Michael O'Reilly Commodore Ramor Watersports Club, TP O'Reilly Cathaoirleach, Cavan County Council, Phillip Scallan, Event Director Irish Sailing and Patrick Farrelly MC for the event,

For more information contact

Margaret McKeon-Boyle
Extensive PR
0872588918