

## Sportif Cycle raised much needed funds for IWA

On Sunday, 21st August last in a blaze of late Summer sunshine and on a perfect day, Irish Wheelchair Association (IWA) Waterford held a very successful Sportif Cycle around Dungarvan, to raise much needed funds for a brand new Resource and Outreach Centre for Waterford members and service users. We were honoured by the presence of County Mayor Liam Brazil to officially start the sportif, and are thankful for Liam's attendance on the day from a very busy schedule. Nearly 100 people turned out to participate in the 50k cycle, which passed through Abbeyside, Ballyvoile, Woodhouse and Dungarvan. The turnout and numbers for the 110K were equally encouraging, the route taking a challenging course from Abbeyside down the coast road to Fenor and Tramore and a return leg through Kilmeaden, Portlaw and Carrick, with Seskin Hill for the brave, routed on to the Carrick - Dungarvan Road for the home run back to Dungarvan.

As co ordinator I would like to take this opportunity to thank all participants, volunteers and the many organisations who kindly supported the fun cycle, special thanks to Supervalu Dungarvan and Musgrave's Cash and Carry in Waterford City, Pat Curran Frozen Foods, Claudia Lane Catering, Seafield School staff and Management, a particular thank you to Sean and his staff in Mother McHugh's Pub in Fenor for the excellent shelter, comfort and at a late call hot beverages as served to all. To the organising and attending Ladies at the marquee they made our stop as refreshing and reviving as could be possible, thank you for your efforts they really are appreciated.

A special thank you to all stewards and volunteers, especially motorbike out riders and leaders John Curran & Tom Moroney road and junction control by Sinead Power Comeragh CC, and Billy Fitzgerald, the Dungarvan Gardai who escorted the cycle out of Dungarvan. On a personal note a huge debt of thanks is due to Brendan Power who accompanied me and managed all road prep, signage and marking, a mammoth task to cover all the roads on local routes for both the 50 K. and 110 K. We also had the help and support of local journalists James Lynch, Dungarvan Observer and John O' Connor, Munster Express.

We are glad to report a great day was had by all, we surely do appreciate the efforts of all cyclists, friends and colleagues who turned up attended and supported us on the day, we are grateful too for the support of Emma Walsh and the big turnout from Dungarvan Cycling club.

A final thanks for the efforts of all cyclists who participated, especially the local Kilmacthomas cycling club members, to Rory Wyley and Hugh Mulhearn of Cycling Ireland and to Peter Kirwan Team Physio who took time out of their busy schedules to help and support in promotions and on the day. Thank to you to the Ciaran Fallon photographer who organised the group and did an impressive job on our advertising poster and as official volunteer photographer on the day too, and to Ann Concannon and her crew for the reception and refreshments at the finish in the Dungarvan Youth Centre".

Kindest Regards

John Troy