

PRESS RELEASE

For issue: Immediate

HSE Community Games is a shining star in Ireland today!

Westport hosted the 43rd Annual General Meeting of the HSE Community Games from the 21st to the 22nd of February.

Over 200 volunteers descended on the town where keynote speaker Kieran Mulvey, Chairperson of the Irish Sports Council, praised the HSE Community Games for being a “nursery of sporting talent” in Ireland today.

“The HSE Community Games is a shining start amongst NGB’s in Ireland today and the Irish Sports Council are proud to be associated with this nursery of sporting talent.

“This year, the HSE Community Games received funding of €260,000 from the ISC and €24,000 from Women in Sport and we consider this to be money well spent considering what the volunteers give to our communities in terms of time and commitment – promoting a healthy and active lifestyle and ensuring a brighter future for our children.”

Dr Nazih Eldin of the HSE spoke about how HSE Community Games is helping to combat the obesity issue in Ireland by encouraging participation in sport in over 630 Areas in Ireland. He spoke about the HSE Community Games new Healthy Event Award and encouraged all communities in Ireland to get involved.

The AGM coincided with the HSE Community Games Annual Media Awards which for the first time acknowledged Social and Online Media winners.

The winners on the night were:

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Website Award:</u> Joe.ie</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Social Media Award:</u> IRFU</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Radio Award:</u> Galway Bay FM</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>National Press Awards</u> 5th Sunday World 4th Evening Herald 3rd The Times 2nd Irish Independent Overall National Award The Examiner</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Regional Awards</u> 4th Northern Standard Monaghan PRO Vanessa Morris 3rd Clare Champion PRO Mary Phelan 2nd Mayo News PRO Michael Brophy Overall Regional Award 1st Roscommon Herald PRO Bernie Ryan</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Most Unusual Photograph:</u> Steve Murphy, Mallow Star</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Best Action Photo:</u> Michael Brophy, Mayo News</p>

The HSE Community Games is taking on a new format in 2014 with the 2 main weekends both happening in August.

ENDS

Photographs to issue on Sunday 23rd February by Michael O'Loughlin.

NOTE TO EDITORS

The HSE Community Games is an independent voluntary organisation operating in over 600 local communities throughout the entire island of Ireland. The HSE and the Community Games aim to promote healthy active lives and to have a positive impact on young people and their families in maintaining their health, in particular through being active and healthy eating.

Details of the Healthy Event Award can be found here: <http://www.communitygames.ie/healthy-event-award-2014.html>

The HSE Community Games festival will take place this year in Athlone Institute of Technology, Athlone, Co. Westmeath, over 2 weekends in August:

National Festival Weekend 1: 15th – 17th August 2014

National Festival Weekend 2: 22nd – 24th August 2014

For a List of Events and the weekends they are on please see our website or click this link:

http://www.communitygames.ie/uploads/1/3/5/2/13524265/list_of_activities_2014_indd_3.pdf

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