

5 April, 2012

Minister Ring launches eFlow 'GoRow', Rowing Ireland's national grand league

Rowing Ireland, the governing body for Irish rowing that represents over 70 clubs around the country, today (Wednesday 4th April) launched the eFlow 'Go Row' national grand league at the Dublin Municipal Rowing Club, Islandbridge.

The grand league is a series of four major regattas taking place across the country over the coming months. Almost 1,500 athletes, 300 crews and 350 boats will participate in each regatta which is expected to draw large crowds of rowing supporters as the regattas take place on lakes around Dublin, Cork and Belfast.

Rowing Ireland and eFlow, Ireland's leading toll solutions company, and main sponsor of the event, were joined by Minister of State at the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, Michael Ring at the launch yesterday.

Speaking at the event, Frank Coghlan, CEO Rowing Ireland said:

'Rowing Ireland is delighted to have such a prestigious sponsor as eFlow supporting our flagship regatta events.

'Participation in rowing in Ireland has been growing strongly over the past number of years and sponsorship of this nature is vital in allowing Rowing Ireland to continue its work in developing the sport and in supporting over 70 clubs and 3,000 rowers throughout the island.

'Equally, having eFlow on board will directly benefit the development of the eFlow 'Go Row' grand league which attracts the top rowing crews from clubs all over Ireland to compete for recognition as the top crew in their class.

There are over 70 clubs across Ireland with over 3,000 athletes competing nationally and representing Ireland on the world stage. In the last two decades Irish rowing teams have won multiple World Championships at all levels.

Speaking at the launch, Simon McBeth, Director of Communications and Customer Relations, eFlow said the company is delighted to support the league which marks the beginning of eFlow's sponsorship of Rowing Ireland.

'The upcoming grand league is aimed at promoting rowing and encouraging greater participation in the sport throughout the country.

'Immense talent exists within Irish rowing clubs and teams. eFlow is proud to show our support in developing and nurturing this talent through the eFlow 'GoRow' grand league and through supporting community clubs throughout the country,' Mr McBeth concluded.

Speaking today, Minister Ring said:

'I am very pleased to formally launch Rowing Ireland's 2012 national grand league and I am sure that competitors and enthusiasts alike are looking forward to the major events taking place across the country this year. 'Rowing Ireland has worked hard to develop rowing as a competitive sport in Ireland and over the last 5 years, has received funding of over €4.6m from the Irish Sports Council, not to mention the €6.1m from my Department under the Sports Capital Programmes, towards the development of the National Rowing Centre in Cork. 'I understand that work has already commenced on the enhancement of facilities at the National Rowing Centre for the provision of an eight-lane course with electronic timing and a finishing tower.

'I wish Rowing Ireland every success with the national league this year and the best of success to our prospective Olympic Rowers at the next qualifying event in May.'

ENDS

For further details please visit <http://www.iaru.ie/> or call 021 743 4044

The eFlow 'Go Row' grand league series takes place at the following locations:

15 April National Rowing Centre, Farran Woods, Ovens, Co. Cork
28 April Castlewellan Forest Park, Castlewellan, Co. Down
26 May Blessington Lake, Co. Wicklow
23 June National Rowing Centre, Farran Woods, Ovens, Co. Cork

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