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**Press Release**

**Scooter Scramble at Mondello Park**

*Celebrating World Polio Week – Sunday 23 October 2016*

Irish Rallycross Drivers and Dublin Players pitched against

seasoned Mobility Scooter drivers

For Immediate Release – October 2016

World Polio Week kicks off on Sunday 23rd October with a Scooter Scramble at the Mondello Park International Race Circuit – during the Irish Rallycross Championship.

This unique event will take place during the lunchbreak of the Championship, pitching Rally drivers and a Dublin GAA Player against seasoned mobility Scooter drivers – polio survivors – in an awareness raising obstacle event to highlight issues facing those who survived the polio epidemics in Ireland decades ago.

 “Many Polio Survivors can have mobility issues as a result of their condition and use **electric scooters** to get round, ensuring continued independence,” says Fran Brennan, CEO, Post Polio Support Group. “We are delighted to have Mondello Park and the Irish Rallycross Championship support our awareness and fundraising efforts – it will make a great difference to people who may struggle with keeping warm, an intolerance to cold can make meeting the cost of heating bills a huge concern and we try to help polio survivors with that and many other problems.”

Polio is a disabling condition that generally effects children, leaving them paralysed in many cases. Thankfully Polio has been eradicated from Ireland – yet over 7,000 people in Ireland are thought to be living with the late effects of polio. Polio Survivors’ needs increase with age and the possible onset of Post Polio Syndrome (PPS) – they will need support and the Group is keen to raise awareness of the help that’s available.

**Other activities during the week including buildings being lit blue around the country, the release of survey results highlighting top needs of polio survivors and an Irish Polio Survivor receiving a polio hero medal in Paris.**

**About the Post Polio Support Group**

The Post Polio Support Group is working to raise awareness of the continuing difficulties faced by those who survived the original virus before Polio was eradicated in Ireland. Some survivors are suffering from the late effects of Polio, also known as Post Polio Syndrome, significantly increasing their disability and causing pain and fatigue later in life, as many as 20-40 years after the original virus struck.

The Post Polio Support Group was established for Polio Survivors by Polio Survivors in 1993. It is the only organisation in Ireland providing practical support (and sometimes more importantly a listening ear) to those unfortunate enough to have contracted Polio when babies or young children.

The Group provides stair lifts, calipers, bespoke footwear, electric scooters and wheelchairs. It also help Survivors access Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy and Respite Breaks, and has a national network of support groups. At this time of the year the Group is particular focused on providing a winter heating grant to those Polio survivors who have difficulty staying warm each winter. The Group also works to raise awareness, provide information on Polio and its late effects and to ensure Polio Survivors can live with dignity.

For help and support contact: 01 889 89 20 or info@ppsg.ie [www.ppsg.ie](http://www.ppsg.ie)

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