



Following a very successful Ireland National Games for 5 of our club athletes, the coaches in Tuam/Headford Special Olympics got to thinking about providing more opportunities for more athletes to participate in Rhythmic Gymnastics. So from that small seed a big idea grew and it was decided to host a gymnastics inter-club event for athletes from other provinces to visit our club & participate in a social non-competitive event.

Once invites were issued & accepted the town of Headford, Co. Galway got behind the event & gave the athletes & their families a spectacular welcome. On October 20th and 21st Tuam/Headford Special Olympics hosted the weekend in their local club house with 25 athletes participating from Belfast, Dublin and Galway. The athletes were accommodated in local hotels; The Anglers Rest and Greenfields Lodge and given a hearty welcome on arrival.

Once the athletes were checked in to their accommodation they were whisked off to Campbell's Tavern for dinner and a disco. Following a long night of dancing, the athletes were up bright and early on Sunday morning to prepare for their gymnastics routines. The athletes marched into the hall to a performance by Cloughanover Drumming School. Routines were performed in all apparatus; clubs, hoop, ball, rope and ribbon over levels 1, 2 and 3. The athletes received participation certificates from Matthew Burke, Connaught Rugby and Tracey Leonard, Galway GAA Captain.

Lunch was served following presentations and the athletes, families and volunteers set off homeward bound exhausted but exhilarated after having the opportunity to meet, to socialise, to network, to share their experiences and to perform their routines they work tirelessly to perfect in a non-competitive environment.

The club would like to thank all their members, athletes, families, volunteers and supporters for their involvement, support and good wishes. Thank you.

*Tuam/Headford SOC Committee*

