

A cheque for 45,000 euro was presented to the Irish Cancer Society (ICS) from the Innishannon Steam and Vintage Rally at a well-attended function in the Munster Arms Hotel, Bandon, on the 25th of October 2019. A large crowd attended the presentation, which heard several speeches from the Irish Cancer Society and members of the Innishannon rally committee.

The proceeds were from the 22th Innishannon Steam and Vintage Rally held over the 2019 June bank holiday weekend. Over the past 22 years, the rally has raised over 1.5 million euro for the ICS.

The presentation was made on behalf of the committee by PJ Ryan, Jim Finn (Treasurers) and Secretary Mary Desmond to ICS representative Pat O'Connell, who thanked all involved with this event, especially all the fundraisers. Committee members and supporters.

Mark Mellett (Head of Fundraising for Irish Cancer Society) and Ellen O'Connell (Palliative Care Nurse for Irish Cancer Society) spoke the audience about the great work ICS does and the increase in survival statistics from three out of 10 in the 1990s to six out of 10 today. Approximately 14,000 people nationally use the ICS services. ICS paid tribute to the staff of the CUH and Bon Secours, the night workers and to the volunteer drivers and helpers.

Martin Desmond thanked everyone who was involved in the rally and the support from the local community. He also thanked the Gardai, Red Cross, County Council, local farmers for the parking, media, volunteers for their time and energy in assisting the rally and the ticket selling team. A special mention was made for the populations of Innishannon, Bandon, Kinsale, West Cork and Cork City for their very strong support they give to the rally each year and how much the Innishannon Rally appreciates this support.

Special presentations were made to Noel Bishop who retires after 50 years fundraising between the Upton and Innishannon steam rallies, to Sheila O'Sullivan for her contribution to the rallies over the years, and to Martin O'Leary who sold approximately 6,000 euro worth of rally tickets for the 2019 rally.

PRO John Kelleher thanked the various media outlets for their outstanding coverage during the year, with special mention for the rally sponsors C103 and 96fm, and media papers The County and The Southern Star. In addition, John thanked the ticket sellers for their hard work and major contribution to the rally.

Also present was Ms. Nicola McMahon, ICS community fundraiser for Munster, who works closely with the committee during the year in preparation for the rally event.

A great night of music, entertainment and dance followed the presentations, with music provided by the Black-Water Sound band.

Next Year's rally will take place on the 7th and 8th June 2020. All the Innishannon Steam and Vintage Rally details can be found on the web site: <http://www.isvrally.com/>.