

## **Annual Across Ireland Run**

Welcome to the “Annual Across Ireland” Fun Run 2008 – Irelands premier motorcycle

Fun run, which takes place at the end of August each year. The event itself brings together big hearted and generous motorcycle enthusiasts, from all over Ireland (U.K, Scotland & Wales, Eastern Europe etc...) with one goal – to help children with serious illnesses.

The event was founded in 1999 by Nicky Carvin (Motorcyclist & motorcycle racing fan), when he experienced first hand the urgency for specialist medical equipment needed to help Newborn Babies & Children, overcome various illnesses at such an early stage of their lives. While visiting the intensive care unit of our Lady of Lourdes hospital, (by chance) Nicky spoke to the doctors and nurses directly and found how badly they were in need of equipment to back up their excellent work carried out with new born babies and children.

Much to his amazement on that day there were only 3 ‘new born’ baby Incubators in the Intensive Care/ Neo Natal Unit, in which two were in use at the time. When I asked why there were only 3 machines and only 2 of them being used at that time? The answer came from one of the staff members that one had broken and that was all they had to use for the unit even though there was 7-10 babies at the time in need of care in one of the incubators. This is generally the case with most hospitals and (7 into 2 does not go!!!) as we can all agree, so when all the talking was done, I asked the staff that if I gathered together some fellow biking buddies and arrange some sort of bike run and raised enough money to buy one or more pieces of the equipment in which they were in dire need of, would it or could it be purchased and put into use immediately (without any admin or politics getting in way). Hence without any further thought or delay “The Annual Across Ireland Fun Run” begun, with a few home printed flyers & posters stuck up on the walls of shops, pubs, bike shops etc.....some funds raised, bikes fuelled up, and mars bars packed, we were on our way “Across Ireland” to Galway (a one day event at the time).

The main aim behind “The A.A.I fun Run” when set up back then (and as is now) was to help sick children by funding, sourcing or purchasing medical equipment etc... immediately and directly with the professional staff who know best. The aim was to leave politics, admin costs and doubts out of trying to help those sick children get over their sickness and have a better start in life. This is implemented in the A.A.I Fun Run each year, with the help of our sponsors, the organising crew, the Gardai, every biker taking part and the general public.

The difference with the A.A.I Fun Run compared to most other events is down to a number of things such as; (a) No Min/Max amount required per sponsor card to take part. (b) Family and fun atmosphere. (c) Items such as posters, flyers, prizes, refreshments, T-shirts, and support vehicles are donated through our various sponsors and contacts. (d) 100% of funds raised go directly to the nominated charity/Foundation. (e) No admin costs are deducted. (e) Monies & toys raised “in Ireland” used to fund equipment in various Irish Hospital/Foundations.