

UIM POWERBOATING



Race for Peace

The race for Peace Initiative was developed to promote and encourage racing between Northern Ireland, Southern Ireland and the United Kingdom

Three key partners were involved in this process the UIM, the Irish Sailing Association (newly appointed governing body for powerboat racing in Ireland) and the Royal Yachting Association



For more than 20 years powerboat racing in Ireland suffered from political disputes and disagreements that resulted in a serious detrimental affect on the sport

RYA and ISA determined to resolve these differences and work together to promote the sport

The UIM recognised the specific problems of the region and agreed to provide UIM support towards a peaceful solution



At the last UIM General Assembly a special derogation was granted to Ireland and the UK which would enable racing to take place between the two countries without the requirement of International status

It was extremely important as for the first time it enabled both the ISA and the RYA to issue national licences to competitors which could be used in either the UK or Ireland

It was seen as a significant milestone which removed all the “nationalistic” problems

At the May Council meeting it was agreed that a race would be held in Southern Ireland as part of the “Peace in Sport” initiative. The Race for Peace would be jointly organised by the ISA and the RYA under the guidance of the UIM.

This project was placed on the UIM Strategic plan and calendared to take place in September

The Race for Peace was recognised by Prince Albert of Monaco and his Peace and Sport Foundation as being a contender for an award in “Peace and Sport”

Sport as a Vector of Peace

- The Race for Peace for the first time promoted and encouraged powerboat racing between countries and competitors that had held deep rooted feelings of mistrust and resentment
- The Race for Peace did bring racing competitors and officials together in a region recovering from political turmoil and united them in the common goal of promoting the sport
- The lasting effect was to re-establish powerboat racing in Ireland and to create a joint series of racing between the ISA and the RYA for the future



The 2009 Race for Peace Event

- This milestone event took place at Virginia Co Cavan S. Ireland 5 – 6 September 2009
- Teams attended from all over Ireland and were joined by fellow competitors from the UK
- Classes participating included T850, F4, F2 and the new environmentally friendly SL250 class.
- Throughout the weekend competitors who had been bitter enemies in the past raced together on the water and socialised in the evening as part of this historic event



The UIM in supporting this event highlighted how a pathway in sport can lead to better understanding and cooperation. The ISA and RYA intend to build on this into the future.

