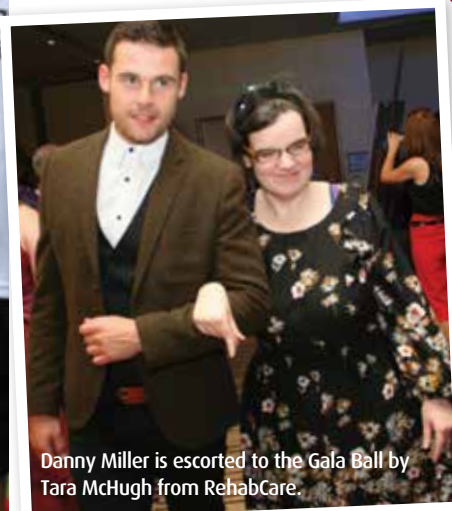




Stephen Byrne, Keith Nibbs, and Dave O'Sullivan from the victorious RehabCare All-Star team.



Danny Miller is escorted to the Gala Ball by Tara McHugh from RehabCare.

pundit on RTÉ's *MNS* Alan Cawley all travelled from Dublin to join local stars including Ian Baraclough (Manager of Sligo Rovers) and Conor O'Grady (former captain of Sligo Rovers).

The teams lined out at McSharry Park on an overcast Sunday afternoon. The light drizzle didn't dampen the spirits of the teams who from the kick-off showed high levels of footballing skills. The match was full of action (and one or two minor injuries!) and it was a battle until the end. The home side emerged victorious; beating the visitors 4-3.

But the weekend wasn't just about soccer. Off the pitch, both teams got to see first-hand where the money raised from the weekend would go as they visited RehabCare's supported accommodation in Sligo on the Saturday to meet some of the people who live there. Then there was the Gala Ball in the Radisson Hotel, hosted by RTÉ's Eileen Magnier. Amid cheers, the players were escorted into the room one by one, each on the arm of a lady who uses local RehabCare services.

Eamonn Wheeler, Community Services Manager, RehabCare in Sligo organised the fundraiser. Commenting on the weekend, he said, "The Gala Ball was brilliant. Seeing the people who use our services mingle with the stars that they know from the TV was great to watch. Their flash-mob dance at the start of the night brought the roof down! It's a weekend that we'll all remember for a long time. We wouldn't have been able to do this without the support of so many local Sligo businesses and for that, we are very grateful." ■

RehabCare
Investing in People, Changing Perspectives

Celebrity Soccer in Sligo

LET'S FACE IT, soap stars are used to performing, but possibly not on the football field! So, tensions were running high when current and former stars from *Emmerdale*, *EastEnders*, *Hollyoaks* and *Fair City* joined other famous faces in lining up for the RehabCare Celebrity Soccer Match last August.

The event, which was organised by RehabCare in Sligo, saw a host of UK stars travel to the west of Ireland with the UK charity 'Once Upon a Smile'. Leading the UK team was charity patron Danny Miller, now starring in the ITV drama *Scott and Bailey* but probably best known for his role as Aaron in

Emmerdale. *EastEnders'* Tony Discipline who played Tyler Moon on the hit BBC soap also travelled over for the match alongside his former co-star Thomas Law who played Peter Beale in the east end hit. They were joined by other famous faces from *Hollyoaks*, *Emmerdale*, *Waterloo Road* and *Shameless*.

The Irish team was also well represented with Irish celebrities and local famous faces signing up for the RehabCare All-Star selection. Paul Walsh, lead singer with top Irish band Royseven, RTÉ presenter Stephen Byrne, *Fair City* stars Sean Doyle, Dave O'Sullivan and Ryan Andrews, and former League of Ireland player and