



# **Lisburn 2gether Special Olympics Club** **Trustee Annual Report** **September 2023 – August 2024**

**Charity Name:** Lisburn 2gether Special Olympics Club

**Charity no.:** NIC 100 925

**This report relates to financial year:** September 2023 – August 2024

**The principal address of the charity is:** 10 Hampton Court, Dromore, BT25 1SB

The following individuals served as charity trustees during the year:

<b>Chairperson:</b>	Lorraine Foster	<b>Safeguarding Officer:</b>	David Burrows
<b>Secretary:</b>	Margaret Killough	<b>Sport Officer:</b>	Noreen Kavanagh
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Terry Conroy	<b>Membership Officer:</b>	David Hilland
		<b>Swimming Rep:</b>	Joanne Dixon

The following individuals were the charity trustees on the date the report was approved

<b>Chairperson:</b>	Lorraine Foster	<b>Safeguarding Officer:</b>	Noreen Kavanagh
<b>Secretary:</b>	Margaret Killough	<b>Sport Officer:</b>	Terry Conroy
<b>Treasurer:</b>	David Burrows	<b>Membership Officer:</b>	David Hilland
		<b>Swimming Rep:</b>	Joanne Dixon

The Charity was formed in 2004. The Charity is governed by a Constitution.

The Charity is constituted as an unincorporated association.

The Charitable purposes of charity are

- The advancement of health or the saving of lives
- The relief of those in need by reason of youth, age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage
- The advancement of amateur sport
- The advancement of citizenship or community development

**To further these purposes for the public benefit, we carried out the following activities:**

Athletes had the opportunity to participate in recreational and competitive sports as follows:

- Football
- Bocce
- Swimming
- Badminton
- Ten Pin Bowling

Within these sports the opportunity arises for each individual to enhance their skills through weekly training, this also improves their health and fitness levels. By athletes competing in their sport it also develops social skills, builds confidence and broadens friendships.

As well as participating in the above sports athletes, volunteers and family members are offered an opportunity to take part in social activities and fundraising throughout the year.

## 2023-24 Key Achievements

ATHLETES

77

VOLUNTEERS

27

AREA GAMES MEDALS

3

Our annual Gala Awards dinner took place on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023 at the Lagan Valley Island Centre.

The award winners were as follows:

	Endeavour Award	Most Developed Award	Athlete of the Year
<b>Badminton</b>	Adam Carson	Emma Smith	Claire O'Neill
<b>Bocce</b>	Matthew Neeson	Conor Magee	Andrew Massey
<b>Football – Titans</b>	Adam McKee	Paul White	Frankie McGowan
<b>Football – Gladiators</b>	Jason Clarke	Michael Corrigan	Conor Bassett
<b>Football – Spartans</b>	Joe McVarnock	Curtis Watters	Christopher Wilson
<b>Swimming</b>	Gillian Ferguson	Gareth Diack	Andrew Lindsay
<b>Ten Pin Bowling</b>	Kieran McCaugherty	James O'Neill	Adam Smyth

Volunteer of the Year was Artie Russell (Football).

This year we introduced the Thea Prescho Memorial Award for Personality of the Year Award, which was awarded to Ryan Neill (Football). Thea Prescho was a keen supporter of Lisburn 2gether who passed away during the year and this award will ensure her legacy and support is remembered in future years.

In July 2024, the Harry Ferguson Memorial Pipe Band organised a Tartan Dander fundraiser for the club, which raised £1,800.00.

Further to this, some of the key achievements for the individual sports were:

### Football

- Regular weekly training, 4.30-5.30pm and 5.30-6.30pm on a Thursday night in Lagan Valley Leisureplex (Sept-June)
- Entered three teams in the IFA George Best Community Cup (June 2024).
  - Spartans reached the Semi-Final of their Division

### Ten Pin Bowling

- Regular weekly training, 7.15-8.30pm at Airtastic Lisburn (Sept-June).
- Entered 2 teams in the Special Olympics Ulster Ten-Pin Bowling League.
  - Lisburn Lions came 4<sup>th</sup> in Division
  - Lisburn Tigers came 2<sup>nd</sup> in Division
- 9 athletes took part in the Area Advancement Competition



- 1 x silver medal
- 2 x bronze medals
- 2 x 4<sup>th</sup> place
- 2 x 5<sup>th</sup> place
- 1 x 7<sup>th</sup> place
- All 9 athletes progressed to the Regional Advancement stage

### Swimming

- The Swimming Club was unable to meet during this period due to the absence of a Head Coach.
- Efforts were made during the year to recruit a new head coach and to train up existing volunteers to lead the club.

### Bocce

- Regular weekly training, 7.00-8.00pm at Lagan Valley Leisureplex. (Sept-June).
- A team competed in the Special Olympics Ulster Bocce 7s tournament, playing matches against Banbridge SOC and Downpatrick SOC.
- 10 athletes travelled to Templepatrick in May 2024 to take part in a development day organised by Special Olympics Ulster.

### Badminton

- Regular weekly training, 6.30-8.30pm at Lisburn Racquets Club (Sept-Apr).
- Claire O'Neill won the Sports Person with a Disability Award at the Sport Lisburn & Castlereagh for her achievements at the 2023 Special Olympics World Games.

The trustees have read the Commission's Public Benefit requirement statutory guidance, and have had regard to this when running the charity.

### Plans for 2024-25

During 2024-25, Terry Conroy (Treasurer) has indicated that he plans to resign from his role. A new Treasurer has already been identified and we are in the process of setting up the necessary paperwork.

2024-25 will be a Regional Advancement year within Special Olympics and all sports will be preparing for Regional Advancement events.

The swimming club is still in the process of recruiting a new Head Coach and they hope to return to regular training as soon as this can be confirmed.

As with other years, our Gala Awards dinner will be held during November and we will be running other fundraising activities to ensure the smooth and sustained running of the Club.

A review of the charity's financial position at the end of the year:

in the financial year, September 2023 to August 2024:

INCOME	EXPENDITURE	TURNOVER	CLOSING BALANCE ON 31 <sup>st</sup> AUGUST 2024
£12,704	£14,448	-£1,744	18,942

Points to highlight:

- As with other years, the Gala Awards Dinner ran at a loss (-£2,095.30).
- Football and Bocce accounts recorded a loss, which was mostly due to the decision for Clubs to pay for bus hire where they could afford to (in order to protect funds in the Main account).
- Travel expenses increased significantly due to an increased Special Olympics competition programme.
- Programme Costs increased this year, mostly due to increased facility hire.

There are no funds held by the charity that are materially in deficit.

This annual report was approved at the Club's Annual General Meeting held:

On Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2025

At Lisburn Racquets Club

Print Name:	Lorraine Foster
Position:	Chairperson
Signature:	L Foster
Date:	28/5/25

Print Name:	David Burrows
Position:	Treasurer
Signature:	
Date:	28/5/25