

**Registered Address:**

5 Liska Villas  
Newry  
Co Down  
Northern Ireland  
BT35 8TN

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**Newry City Afc Special Olympic Club**  
**Statement of Receipts and Payments – Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024.**  
**NIC: 102526**

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**Newry City Afc Special Olympic Club**  
**Statement of Receipts and Payments – Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024.**  
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**Charity Name:** Newry City Afc Special Olympic Club

**Charity Registration Number:** NIC: 102526

**Registered Office:** 5 Liska Villas  
Newry  
Co Down  
BT35 8TN

**Trustees**

The following served as charity trustees during the year and up to the date of this report

Christopher Cooke (Chairperson)  
James Byrne (Vice Chairperson)  
Esther King (Secretary)  
Helen McKee (Treasurer)  
James Fox

**Bankers:** Ulster Bank  
11-16 Donegal Square East  
Belfast  
BT1 5UB

### **Objectives and Activities:**

Newry City Afc Special Olympic Club objectives are:-

To promote Special Olympics as an athlete-centered movement, in which athletes with intellectual disabilities are the central focus of each training, competition or events, and in which athletes are provided meaningful opportunities to participate in additional activities that support Special Olympics programming;

To develop the physical, social, psychological, intellectual and spiritual qualities and capabilities of each athlete;

To promote the spirit of sportsmanship and a love of participation in sports for its own sake, by stressing and celebrating the importance of, and the personal achievement associated with, each athlete's participation and personal effort in Special Olympics, regardless of that athlete's comparative level of ability or the results of a particular competition; encourage athletes to reach their highest level of athletic achievement in a particular sport, by providing opportunities for them to do so and by helping their coaches and families provide them with increased support and encouragement and increase public awareness of the needs and capabilities of persons with intellectual disabilities and increasing public support for Special Olympics.

Our club provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in aquatics, bowling, floorball, kayaking, open water swimming and stand-up paddle boarding for children and adults with intellectual disabilities by giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.

Our club operates within the Newry and Mourne area. Coaching activities leads to inclusive sports competition at the Special Olympic Games providing all athletes of all abilities with opportunities to compete and progress at local, regional, national and international levels competing at the Special Olympics World Games if they qualify which is a four year cycle.

We encourage athletes to compete and participate for the fun of it, rather than focus on winning. Some of our athletes chose not to take part in the competitions and train and participate in our range of sports on a recreational basis. Our club currently has 81 members with intellectual disabilities - Down's syndrome, autism spectrum disorders, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), learning disabilities and physical disabilities (Cerebral Palsy). This is made up of 57 members aged eight to twenty five and 24 members aged over twenty six. Athletes are supported by 33 volunteers and coaches.

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2024 presented new challenges for our club and our athletes with intellectual disabilities.

The closure of the swimming pool at Newry Leisure Centre left our members who participate in aquatics without a place to train. We had a few sessions in Kilkeel Leisure Centre but were unable to secure a block booking there. We also had a few sessions in Camlough Lake but this was not ideal as some of our novice members are not experienced enough to train in open waters.

This presented our club with a new set of challenges. Some of our athletes had regressed both physically and mentally from the period of inactivity.

Some of our coaches and volunteers encouraged our aquatics members to try different sports. We were able to secure funding from some generous charities that enabled us to purchase extra equipment allowing us to introduce floorball, bowling and football to new members.

We have been fortunate that we were able to secure numerous sources of funding which has enabled us to purchase new equipment and upgrade existing equipment. The funding also gave us the ability to pre-book facilities in the knowledge that we had the funds in place to meet these commitments.

One of the highlights of our year was our Floorball team qualifying to represent Ulster at the Ireland Games and finishing in a very commendable silver medal position.

Thankfully our club is thriving at the minute and our athlete, coaches and volunteers all committed to a happy and successful future.

#### **Financial Review**

Total receipts this year was £30,611.04 compared to £31,669.06 the previous year.

Total Expenditure this year was £26,269.85 compared to £33,225.65 the previous year.

Approved by the Trustees on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025 and signed on their behalf by



Christopher Cooke (Chairperson)