



Press Release

**Special
Olympics**
Suffolk



Dated: 29th August 2018

National success for Special Olympics Suffolk in Scotland

Stirling, Scotland was the host city for the 2018 Special Olympics GB Anniversary Games, held recently to celebrate Great Britain's 40 year membership of the Special Olympics movement.

Local badminton players and athletes returned to Suffolk clutching a handful of medals from the events, including gold in both the men's singles and doubles badminton events, as well as medals of all three colours from the athletics events.

The 'Special Olympics' are sport for athletes with an intellectual (learning) disability. The Anniversary Games involved 1,200 athletes competing in 10 sports with the support of over 500 volunteers all being cheered on by over 5,000 family and friends.

"We are so proud of all of the athletes who represented our county and region at the Games", said Mike McCarthy from ActivLives and Special Olympics Suffolk. "It is a particular type of challenge for all of the athletes to compete at a multi - sport event such as this with all of the travelling involved, the unfamiliar surroundings and even the food being very different from what they are used to at home. Despite all of this, the performances in both the badminton and athletics events were absolutely outstanding. All of the 7 strong team from Ipswich and Suffolk did themselves, the town and our county proud".

If you would like to find out more about Special Olympics Suffolk, please contact Terry McEntee on 07775557784, visit the website at www.specialolympicssuffolk.org or email terrymcentee474@gmail.com

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Photos attached were taken by Special Olympics Volunteers



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Notes to Editors

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Special Olympics Suffolk

Special Olympics Suffolk (SOS) is the Suffolk branch of Special Olympics Great Britain (SOGB). SOGB is the largest provider of year-round sport training and competition for all people with an intellectual (learning) disability. Special Olympics Suffolk helps to provide appropriate competitive and recreational sports opportunities in Suffolk. Currently the sports supported include athletics, badminton and gymnastics.

Special Olympics is recognised as the third member of the “Olympic Family” and is the only other organisation, in addition to the Paralympics, that is allowed to use the word ‘Olympic.’ Until recently, Suffolk was one of only four counties in Great Britain not to have a Special Olympics branch. This changed with the launch of Special Olympics Suffolk in November 2014.

www.specialolympicssuffolk.org