



Press Release

**Special
Olympics**
Suffolk



Dated: 15th May 2018

Special Olympics Badminton Tournament in Suffolk, a great success!

The second Special Olympics Eastern Region Badminton Tournament was held recently in Ipswich and has been hailed as a great success by players and coaches alike. The tournament, which was organised by Special Olympics Suffolk with the support of ActivLives and the Suffolk County Council 'Most Active County' initiative, involved 25 players from as far afield as Bournemouth, Southampton, Lincoln and Exeter as well as our own local Suffolk players.

The standard of play was excellent throughout the day with some very tight matches deciding the final medal placings.

"Special Olympics, which is sport for athletes with an intellectual disability, is relatively new to Suffolk with the local branch having only been established as recently as 2014. Special Olympics Suffolk currently focusses upon badminton, athletics and gymnastics.

"This tournament provided a great opportunity for our local badminton players to compete with and against Special Olympians from other clubs across the country, said Mike McCarthy from ActivLives and Special Olympics Suffolk.

"We have had such positive feedback from the players, coaches and volunteers at the event. The volunteers that supported this event have been absolutely brilliant, huge thanks must go to them as events like these simply wouldn't take place if it wasn't for the volunteers who organise and deliver them", added Mike.

The tournament served as one of the last opportunities for selected players to prepare for the Special Olympics GB National Anniversary Games, which are being held in Stirling, Scotland this August. "Four of our Suffolk players will be taking their places in the Eastern Region team for Stirling, we wish them well", said Terry McEntee, Chairman of Special Olympics Suffolk.



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

ENDS

Photos from the event are attached

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Notes to Editors

Tournament Results (all Suffolk players are in blue)

Men's Division One (Unified)

Gold – B. Lale & D. Murray (Bournemouth)

Silver – C. Sherman & O. Priestley (Suffolk)

Bronze – M. Bailey & S. Harris (Suffolk)

Men's Division Two

Gold – G. Hiscock & M. Maleczek (Southampton)

Silver – D. Ball & H. Creasey (Suffolk)

Bronze – E. Martin & O. Waters (Suffolk)

Women's Doubles

Gold - J. Goldsack (Bournemouth) & K. Brill (Suffolk)

Silver – D. Wyatt & H. Emmett (Suffolk)

Bronze – D. Booth & G. Thomas-Green (Lincoln/Exeter)



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Scramble Doubles (Unified) Division One

Gold – J. Rednall & B. Lale ((Suffolk/Bournemouth)

Silver – N. Sherman & O. Priestley (Suffolk)

Bronze – C. Sherman & D. Murray (Suffolk/Bournemouth)

Mixed Doubles Division One

Gold – J. Goldsack & E. Martin (Bournemouth/Suffolk)

Silver – D. Wyatt & J. Rednall (Suffolk)

Bronze – A. McNeil & G. Hiscock (Southampton)

Mixed Doubles Division Two

Gold – G. Sherman & M. Maleczek (Southampton)

Silver – G. Thomas-Green & H. Creasey (Exeter/Suffolk)

Bronze – H. Emmett & G. Turland (Suffolk)

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



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branch. This changed with the launch of Special Olympics Suffolk in November 2014. www.specialolympicssuffolk.org

ActivIpswich

ActivIpswich is a partnership between ActivLives and Ipswich Borough Council. The project is funded by the National Lottery through Sport England's *Community Sport Activation Fund*.

The emphasis is very much upon the social as well as the physical benefits that can be gained from getting involved with regular physical activity and is particularly targeted at those who find sports opportunities difficult to access.

The ActivIpswich Project supported the hosting of this tournament and is a delivery partner of Special Olympics Suffolk.

www.activlives.org.uk