



Press Release

**Special
Olympics**
Suffolk



Dated: 21st May 2019

Special Olympics Badminton Tournament in Ipswich, 'breaks new ground'.

The third Special Olympics Eastern Region Badminton Tournament was held recently in Ipswich and has been hailed as terrific 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 41 competitors who, in addition to a very strong Suffolk contingent, came from as far afield as the south coast, midlands and even the west of Scotland!

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

Special Olympics, which is sport for athletes with an intellectual disability, is developing steadily in Suffolk with four sports currently being focussed upon, these being badminton, athletics, gymnastics and boccia.

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

We really feel as though we have broken new ground this year with this being our first time at Ipswich Borough Council's Gainsborough Sports Centre, a record number of entries and the brand new 'Team Relay' format, that we introduced and which was a terrific success with the competitors.

We have had such positive feedback from the players and coaches as a result of the event. Everyone has commented upon the great team of volunteers who made this event happen. 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.



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Murton Mann, Chairman of Special Olympics GB, commented having visited the tournament, "This is a great event for Special Olympics Suffolk to be running – great for Suffolk and obviously great for the athletes, their families and everybody involved. It was absolutely brilliant to see everybody having such a terrific day, this competition is now very much part of the national Special Olympics calendar".

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 -

Contact: Mike McCarthy, (Project Manager, EverydayActive-Ipswich), on 01473 345350/07531 236442 or email at mike@activlives.org.uk

Notes to Editors

Tournament Results are attached

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.



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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

‘Everyday Activ-Ipswich’ is an **ActivLives** initiative which is supported by Ipswich Borough Council.

This initiative is about giving people who don’t consider themselves to be ‘sporty’, opportunities to get involved with regular sport and physical activity. 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.

The type of activities offered as part of this project vary widely and currently include: Walking Football, New Age Kurling, Boccia, Bowls, Yoga, Badminton, Short Tennis and Table Tennis.

ActivLives and Special Olympics Suffolk are delivery partners.

www.activlives.org.uk