



Press Release

**Special
Olympics**
Suffolk



Dated: 25th April, 2017

First Special Olympics Badminton Tournament in Suffolk, a great success!

The inaugural 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 26 players from as far afield as Bournemouth and Sutton Coldfield as well as our own local Suffolk players.

"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 badminton players in Suffolk 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, which was a doubles competition, served as one of the last opportunities for selected players to confirm their qualification for the Special Olympics GB National Summer Games, which are being held in Sheffield this August. "Two of our Suffolk players, Kathy Brill and Cameron Sherman, confirmed their places in the Eastern Region team for Sheffield with their performances at this tournament, which is great news", 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

Gold – D. Checkley & M. Knight (Sutton Coldfield)

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

Bronze – D. Carloss (Sutton Coldfield) & [C. Sherman \(Suffolk\)](#)

Men's Division Two

Gold - G. Chapman (Bournemouth) & [S. Harris \(Suffolk\)](#)

Silver - [E. Boggis](#) & [O. Priestley \(Suffolk\)](#)

Bronze – [J. Rednall](#) & [G. Leach \(Suffolk\)](#)

Combined Doubles

Gold - C. Mann & L. Tolley (Sutton Coldfield)

Silver – J. Goldsack (Bournemouth) & [K. Brill \(Suffolk\)](#)

Bronze – M. Southern & J. Runham (Sutton Coldfield)



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Scramble Doubles (Unified) Division One

Gold – [J. Rednall \(Suffolk\)](#) & B. Lale (Bournemouth)

Silver – D. Checkley & D. Carloss (Sutton Coldfield)

Bronze – L. Tolley & M. Knight (Sutton Coldfield)

Scramble Doubles Division Two

Gold – J. Goldsack & G. Chapman (Bournemouth)

Silver – [K. Brill & C. Sherman \(Suffolk\)](#)

Bronze – [J. Rednall & S. Harris \(Suffolk\)](#)

Scramble Doubles Division Three

Gold – C. Mann & N. Horton (Sutton Coldfield)

Silver – W. Simpson & M. Southern (Sutton Coldfield)

Bronze – J. Runham (Sutton Coldfield) & [H. Creasey \(Suffolk\)](#)

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

Special Olympics GB National Summer Games

The SOGB National Summer Games are held every four years and will be held this coming August in Sheffield. A team of athletes, gymnasts and badminton players from Suffolk will compete for the very first time in these games. 23 Suffolk athletes have been selected to compete at this event as part of Team Eastern Region.

www.sheffield2017.org.uk

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



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