



Let me win,  
but if I cannot win,  
let me be brave  
in the attempt

# Year in Review 2016

*Special Olympics*  
Great Britain



# Message from the CEO

2016 has been another progressive year for Special Olympics Great Britain with the organisation continuing to grow, develop and establish new partnerships and programmes.

Over the course of the last 2 years, we have begun to see the impact our new approach to club structure and development is having on our reach with numbers of people with intellectual disabilities taking part in programmes, rising steadily from 8000 in 2014 to 10000 in 2016. Alongside, there has been a substantial amount of work developing a range of partnerships with national sports bodies to help support the ongoing regular delivery of competition opportunities.

With thanks to the funding boost received from the British government in 2015, we have been able to invest in a number of key strategic projects over the course of the year, including a long awaited youth engagement schools programme – Play Unified. The campaign, being delivered in partnership with Youth Sports Trust, has now been launched in 200 schools. A key outcome being to strengthen leadership and sport participation pathways for young people with intellectual disabilities. We are proud and thrilled that the values of Play Unified have been embraced by teachers, governors and students with and without intellectual disabilities.

Another key focus area in the charity's 5 year 2016-2021 strategy is to "Empower every athlete to fulfil their potential – both sporting and personal". It has been an exciting year watching the plans for the Athlete Leadership programme taking shape. The programme has seen the first group of fully supported Athlete Leaders begin their training helping them to develop and demonstrate their leadership skills and provide them with a voice to help guide and shape the organisation in the

future. In 2016, our partnership with National Grid came to end after 9 years. During the partnership National Grid always went the extra mile to help our charity establish itself as the leading sports organisation for people with an intellectual disability in GB. Raising £1.17million and 600 employees giving 3,000 volunteer hours in company time and over 5,466 hours in employees own time. Many employees continue to be involved in a variety of projects including the Athlete Leadership programme and volunteering locally for clubs.

The countdown is now on to our flagship event, held every four years, the National Summer Games which will be hosted in the City of Sheffield in August 2017; Sheffield last hosted the event in 1993. The event will be the biggest disability sports event in the country with 2600 athletes competing from across England, Scotland and Wales. The Games are a major undertaking involving many months of planning, organisation and fundraising. This event also presents a great opportunity for us to build on the ever increasing awareness of the charity showcasing the talents of people with intellectual disabilities and for those participating. The games are an opportunity for achieving personal bests, making new friends, experiencing independence and demonstrating their abilities to their communities.

Thank you to the continued commitment and dedication of our athletes, volunteers, families, staff, sponsors and supporters who continue to provide inspiring stories about their personal achievements and aspirations and continue to spread the word about our inspiring organisation.

I look forward to working with you all to continue to promote our unique and inspiring Special Olympics community too many more people with intellectual disabilities and their families over the next 12 months.

**Karen Wallin**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

# Thank you to our supporters

## Founding Partner



## Official Partners



## Supporters



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**Other Supporters** - Able Magazine, Bionical, Department of Culture, Media and Sport, Henry Smith Charity, Garfield Weston Foundation, Greater London Authority, IEWC, Metlife, Masonic Charitable Foundation, Pentland, Simpson Wreford & Partners, Sport England, Uniqlo.

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# Through the power of sport Special Olympics is transforming the lives of people with intellectual (learning) disabilities

- **Special Olympics GB is the largest provider of year-round, all ability, sports programmes in Great Britain and supports over 10,000 athletes with intellectual (learning) disabilities on a continued basis.**
- Across England, Scotland and Wales approximately 27,000 regular sports coaching sessions of at least 1 hour each are delivered locally each year by 140 accredited programmes across 28 different sports.
- **This coaching activity leads to an annual average of 100 all ability, inclusive sports competitions. Its competition pathways make Special Olympics Great Britain unique within the disability sports sector as it provides opportunities for athletes of all abilities to compete and progress at local, regional, national and international levels.**
- This extensive programme is led by over 4,000 dedicated volunteers in a variety of sports coaching, administrative, event, logistic, fundraising and supporting roles.

**10,000**  
**ATHLETES**  
**28 SPORTS**  
**140 ACCREDITED PROGRAMMES**

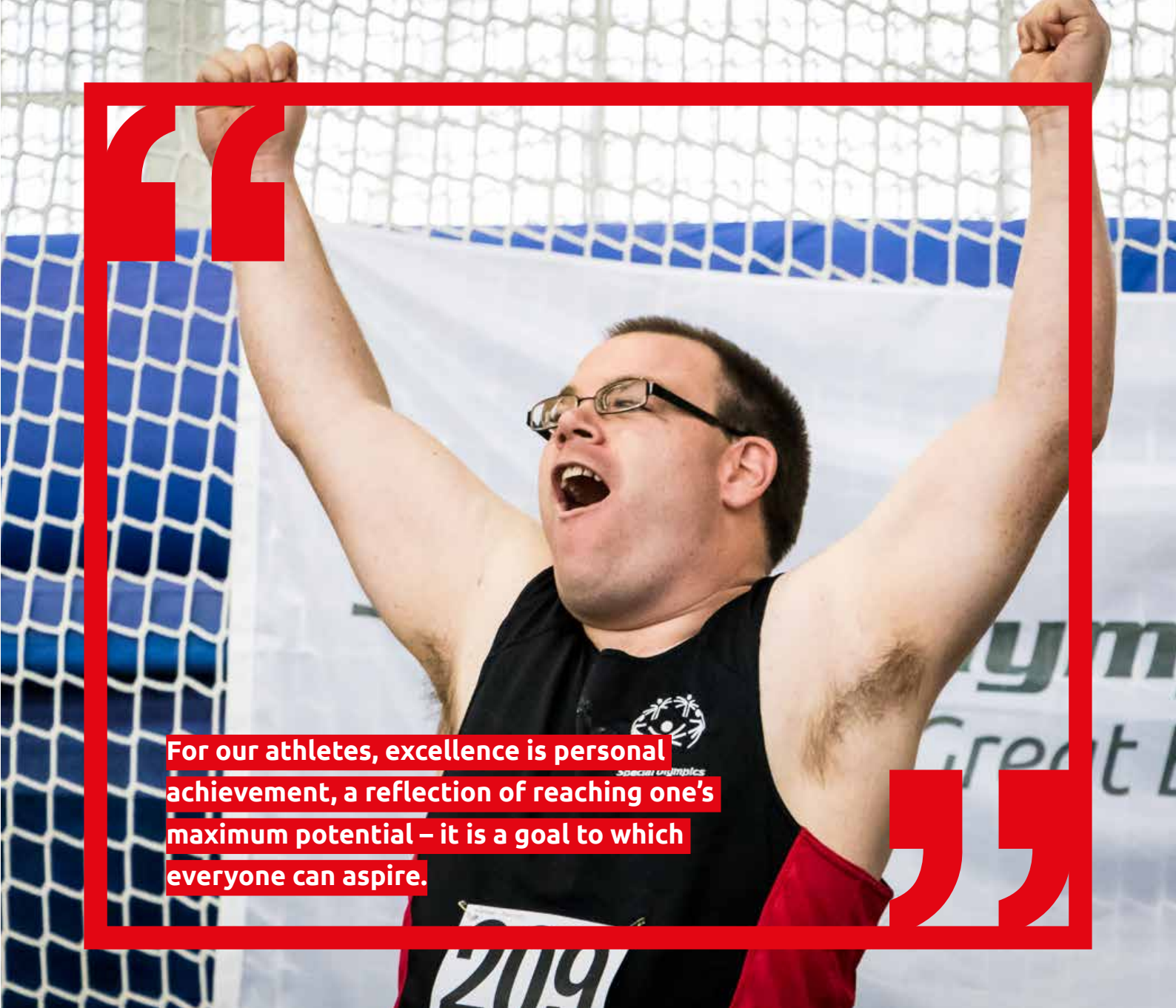
**27,000**  
**COACHING**  
**SESSIONS**

**4,000**  
**VOLUNTEERS**

## Special Olympics Mission

To provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities - giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.

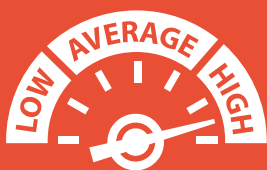




**For our athletes, excellence is personal achievement, a reflection of reaching one's maximum potential – it is a goal to which everyone can aspire.**

For those Special Olympics athletes who attain an elite level in their sport, we signpost and support a pathway into Paralympics and other elite competitions such as London 2012.

Special Olympics athletes also improve their fitness levels and expand their social networks significantly, improving:



**SELF  
ESTEEM**



**SOCIAL  
NETWORKS**



**STRESS  
LEVELS**



**QUALITY  
OF LIFE**

# 2016 Competition Highlights

In 2016, our athletes took part in a total of **142 competitions**. This is an increase of **48 more competitions** than in 2015. Competitions provide opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate with other Special Olympics athletes



## Regional – 92 Competitions

A total of 89 regional competitions were also held over 19 sports for over 8000 participants.

- In June, Special Olympics Skelton/ Cleveland hosted the SO North Super Regional 7-a-side Football Competition. Over 150 athletes from 16 teams competed.
- SOGB Greater London regional indoor athletics competition at The Lee Valley Athletics Centre in October. It was an incredibly full competition schedule with 290 athletes competing, most of them in three different events, plus the relay. There were over 130 award presentations.

## National– 14 Competitions

We provided 14 national single sport competition opportunities in 2016 in sports such as; Alpine Skiing, Aquatics, Badminton x4, Basketball, Boccia, Cycling, Figure Skating, Netball x2, Table Tennis and Tennis.

Highlights from this year include:

- Over 100 alpine skiers and coaches from regions right across England, Scotland and Wales travelled to the South of France for the 2016 National Alpine Skiing Competition, held every four years. This provided the athletes with the opportunity to qualify for the World Winter Games in 2017.
- 119 athletes from 13 teams from across Great Britain converged for the 2016 National Basketball Finals in Manchester. This event is held every other year and provided great practise in the lead up to the National Summer Games.
- Almost 150 swimmers from across North West, Northern, East Midlands and Yorkshire and Humberside regions travelled to Swansea to compete in the British Learning Disability Swimming Championships. This is an annual event where over 90% of the athletes are registered to Special Olympics GB.







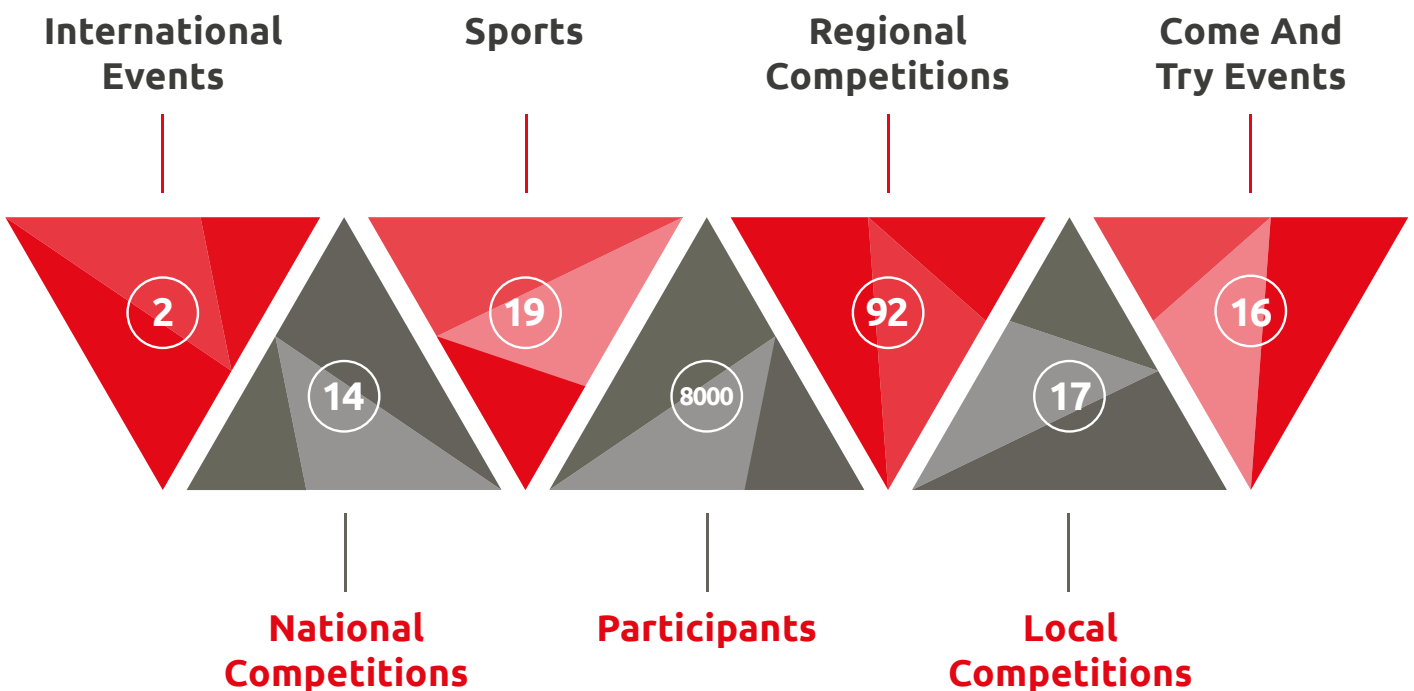
## International – 2 Competitions

As well as opportunities to compete around Great Britain at local, regional and national level, our athletes also have the chance to show their sporting skills abroad at international events.

- Four athletes and four coaches took part in the Special Olympics Pre-World Winter Games in Austria in January; returning home with five medals. Our athletes who

attended were Stefan Nakoneczny (South East/Surrey), Wayne McCarthy (South East/South East Ski Group), Stephanie Gott (North West), Meg McFarlane (East Midlands/Nottinghamshire).

- Three golfers competed at the Special Olympics Golf Masters in Macau in April where they tied for first place. The golfers were Mikael Undrom (South East), Robert Wright (North West) and Lewis Eccles (Yorkshire & Humberside).



# Young Athletes

**Special Olympics Young Athletes involves play activities using a series of basic skills and fun exercises promoting physical, cognitive & social development amongst children with and without Intellectual Learning Disabilities aged 2-7.**

Thanks to the continued support from the One 4 All Foundation, Young Athletes across Great Britain has begun to grow throughout its first full year. In 2016, Young Athletes reached out to a number of primary provision schools. In May, supported by MetLife Community Week of Service, Swiss Cottage School Development and Research Centre launched Young Athletes in London. We have also implemented Young Athletes in schools in Sheffield which will play a part in a Young Athletes showcase event at the 2017 National Summer Games.

The first Young Athletes Demonstration took place at the West Midlands Regional Athletics Competition in June. With great success, Young Athletes competed in sports using skills they had practiced over the past six months. A new partnership with Youth Sport Trust (YST) linking their Start to Move programme with Young Athletes established an Early Years Inclusion Training day which was delivered to 30+ delegates across four counties.

2017 will focus on transitioning Young Athletes into their local SO Clubs, strengthening our network of schools to provide Young Athletes and providing Young Athletes across Great Britain.



## The Families Programme

**Family engagement throughout Special Olympics GB is hugely important to us. We aim to listen and involve families in decision making and ensure to meet their needs, which in turn will maximise their support for SOGB and the athletes whilst giving them all a sense of belonging.**

The launch in 2015 set us up for a great 2016. This included launching the Families Programme Registration for the 2017 National Summer Games. We are expecting up to 6000 people to support the Athletes. We are also set to launch a wider Families Programme Network in September 2017. This will include all families who did not attend the Games and our new Young Athletes families.



**We successfully supported our families at the National Alpine Skiing Competition in March and have assisted throughout registration for families attending the 2017 World Winter Games and 2017 National Summer Games.**

We are now working on a new Online Welcome Induction for new families which will extend into 2017.



**To see these children come on and learn skills and to be confident and make a circle of friends is the best thing I have ever found.**

**Marie White – Young Athlete Parent**

# Spotlight on National Summer Games in Sheffield - 7-12 August 2017

The National Games – which are held every four years – will be the biggest disability sports event in the country in 2017, with 2,600 athletes with learning disabilities from across England, Scotland and Wales taking part in 20 different sports.

These Games are a chance to make a huge difference to the lives of many; inspiring athletes with learning disabilities and their families – who will remember this National Games experience forever.

## Volunteer Registration was launched

Special Olympics GB is thrilled to have long-term supporter, Coca-Cola European Partners backing the Volunteers Programme at the 2017 National Games.



[www.Sheffield2017.org.uk](http://www.Sheffield2017.org.uk)

.....  
"Volunteers are the backbone of Special Olympics and will play an important part in making our athletes shine in Sheffield."

Gearoid Mitchell, National Volunteer Manager Special Olympics GB

.....

## Support the Games

### TEXT

SHEF17 + your amount (e.g. SHEF17 £2, £5 or £10) to 70070

### DONATE BY CREDIT CARD

Call 020 7247 8891 ext 201

### DONATE ONLINE

[www.sheffield2017.org.uk/support/donate](http://www.sheffield2017.org.uk/support/donate)

### POST

Cheques made payable to Special Olympics Great Britain send to  
Special Olympics GB,  
Corinthian House,  
1st Floor,  
6-8 Great Eastern Street,  
London,  
EC2A 3NT

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**2600 SPECIAL  
OLYMPICS ATHLETES**

**800 COACHES**      **6000 FAMILY MEMBERS**

**6 DAYS**

**900 VOLUNTEERS**

**20 SPORTS**

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**SPECIAL OLYMPICS  
GB NATIONAL GAMES  
SHEFFIELD 2017**



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**CHEER ON THE ATHLETES**  
Competition starts Tuesday  
8th – Friday 11th August visit  
[Sheffield2017.org.uk](http://Sheffield2017.org.uk) for details

**Sheffield2017.org.uk**  
**#SeeingIsBelieving**

## Families Programme

Lions Clubs International are delighted to support the Families programme for the second consecutive National Games – to coincide with their 100th anniversary. The plans are already in place to facilitate a successful family's programme.

There are to be approximately 6000 family members and friends expected to support our athletes at the 2017 NSG.



.....  
**"At the end of long and exciting days cheering on their own athlete, the families will spend the evenings socialising together and recalling the events of the day.**

Tom Adams, Young Athlete and Families Manager

.....



# National Summer Games Sponsors

## Presenting Sponsors



## Games Partners



## Games Sponsors



## Games Supporters



# Play Unified

**Play Unified is a Special Olympics global campaign inspired by a simple principle: training together and playing together is a quick path to understanding, acceptance and friendship, breaking down the barriers that exist for people with intellectual disabilities.**

Play Unified is aimed at young people aged 14-25 and will be delivered in partnership with Special Olympics GB, by Youth Sport Trust in 200 schools across the country over a two year period. The campaign is funded and jointly administered by DCMS and Sport England.



## The Problem

- Young people today face many challenges, from achieving personal and academic success to feeling emotionally and physically healthy and safe. Unfortunately, the typical school and social environment for young people can be fraught with obstacles that hamper their learning and that negatively impact their overall happiness and development. These challenges are compounded for some students due to the presence of an intellectual disability. While progress has been made, many students with disabilities experience social isolation and rejection, and even victimisation in the form of bullying.

## The Solution

- With sports as the foundation, the Special Olympics and Youth Sport Trust Play Unified Strategy for schools in the UK offers proven programmes and activities that equip young people with tools and training to create sports, classroom and community experiences that improve attitudes and behaviours among all young people, both with and without intellectual disabilities. As social inclusion promotes positive health and wellbeing, socially inclusive Unified Schools are likely to also be successful schools.

## Outcomes

- This Play Unified Strategy is built on the premise that lasting change must start with young people. Young people will act as agents of change in school and the wider community.
- The goal is to inspire a transformation in attitudes of the next generation, so that their actions towards those with intellectual disabilities will be radically different and more inclusive than ever before.
- The Play Unified Strategy is based on the evidence that students who 'play unified' become better at helping others, standing up for each other, and sharing responsibility. These students gain patience, the ability to compromise, and empathy.

# Progress so far



## Unified Sports

Sitting within Play Unified is a project called Unified Sports which puts people with and without disability on the same field of play and sits wholly within the goal of creating a greater understanding of people with intellectual disabilities and their ability and aspirations. The Unified Sports project is bringing together 80 schools (both special schools and secondary mainstream schools) to work collaboratively in order to deliver school-based Unified Sports programmes. Unified Sports will be supported by Thierry Henry's One4ALL Foundation.

- 1440 pupils impacted on through Unified Sport activity
- **17 schools involved in either Unified Basketball or Unified Football**
- 240 pupils regularly participating in Unified Sports coaching and competition (56% with intellectual disabilities)
- **2 new county competitions taken place**
- 1 international visit with a GB Unified Sports team taking part in the ISF 2016 Games
- **Unified Basketball and Unified Football now recognised as School Games activity**





**GLASGOW**  
**St Mungo's High School**  
 St Mungo's School are appealing to their pupils' Funny bone... through running a comedy and talent show. But that's not all! They are aiming for cross-curricular involvement by running inclusive sports clubs involving boccia, tennis and cricket. If anyone's hungry, the Cupcakes Club will be on hand to provide handmade cakes.



**STIRLING**  
**Wallace High School**  
 Wallace High School are uniting their pupils using a range of inclusive sports and the Friends Buddy System to allow for barriers to be broken down, building a greater understanding between pupils across the whole school.



**ABERDEEN**  
**Bridge of Don Academy**  
 Bridge of Don Academy are linking up with their sports council to run Play Unified Lunchtime Clubs. The clubs are for people who want to use sport to make new friends and try exciting new activities. With ambassadors like these the whole school will be smiling!



**DURHAM**  
**Durham Trinity School and Sports College and Durham Johnston Comprehensive School**  
 Durham Trinity and Durham Johnston are joining together to take part in some innovative nature projects. Get your handmade bird feeders and measuring tape at the ready, as the schools have created a simple competition through counting the number of birds coming to each school and the race of the tallest sunflower! But it doesn't stop there; Durham Trinity's Reading Club for younger students in their school is making a huge difference to the confidence of the students involved. You can read more about this in Durham Johnston's Play Unified Newspaper. The journalists of the future started here!



**TOULSTON**  
**Tadcaster Grammar**  
 Europe, watch out! Tadcaster Grammar's Young Ambassadors have been jet setting across to Germany for the Special Olympics European Leadership Summit in Frankfurt! During the summit they discussed their own ideas for Play Unified... their own Inclusive Committee! The committee will be used to make decisions around activities in school, to ensure that all pupils are a part of the whole school community.



**DERBYSHIRE**  
**Highfields School**  
 The Highfields' Young Ambassadors want to "Make it Equal" in their school through creating a multi-skills club in which pupils from across the school can develop their team-building skills and get fitter in a fun and inclusive environment. They are buying their school more inclusive equipment to ensure that ALL students can take part.



**MERSEYSIDE**  
**Clare Mount Specialist Sports College**  
 Clare Mount School have been putting their Unified teams together, to take part in their whole school sports competitions and festivals. The school is working hard to ensure that all students can take part in new exciting activities, including Unified Football.



**ROTHERHAM**  
**Aston Academy**  
 The Aston Academy Young Ambassadors are working tirelessly with their five partner schools to ensure all young people are empowered and included in their cross-curricular festivals, including Unified Sports, cooking and Play Unified Ball activities.



**CEREDIGION**  
**Ysgol Cyfun Aberaeron**  
 Ysgol Cyfun Aberaeron are raising awareness with a few familiar faces! The school are asking as many celebrities as possible to sign and pose with the ball on social media, so keep your eyes out on Twitter! Pupils will come together for school competitions to win amazing prizes and opportunities throughout the year.



**RUSKINGTON & SLEAFORD**  
**St George's Academy**  
 St George's Academy at Sleaford and Ruskington joined together in inclusive teams for a Rio themed mini Olympics Day, including activities such as boccia, New Age Kurling, netball and football. The aims of the day were to encourage, engage and empower students to try and learn about new sports and the importance of teamwork and gamesmanship.



**DORSET**  
**Gillingham School**  
 Gillingham School's Young Ambassadors have been adding some celebrity spark to their school, by creating the Giles Moore group. In November the group spent a day with the England Cerebral Palsy Football team's goalkeeper, Giles Moore. The group introduced him to an exciting New Age Kurling festival, targeting those who are not currently engaged in sport across the whole school.



**ESSEX**  
**Market Field School**  
 Market Field School in Essex are engineering an all inclusive Social Enterprise Community Fayre for local schools to attend. The pupils are hoping to form stronger relationships between students and raise money for the Multi Schools Pupil Council, which looks to bring students from local schools together to discuss ways of breaking down barriers and creating friendships across twelve schools.



**PLYMOUTH**  
**Woodlands Special School**  
 Bonjour from Woodlands School! An eight day inclusive outdoor adventure sport trip in Lou Valaگران is an exciting way to put pupils' perceptions to the test. Friendships and bravery will be formed during a kayaking trip along the Ardèche river in the south of France.



**BERKSHIRE**  
**Waingels**  
 Playing Unified is going to become second nature to students from Arbourvale, Brookfield and Denefield schools due to their inclusive activity days, including sports such as boccia, wheelchair basketball and dance.



**KENT**  
**Five Acre Wood School**  
 Five Acre and Holmesdale school are joining together to form a cheerleading club for pupils from both schools to attend. The club will focus on team-building and communication skills to help develop friendships and amazing routines.





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**“All our lives we have been called idiots and made to feel like idiots by peers. Today has shown us we are definitely not idiots, and we need to get out there and show everyone our abilities”**

Group of Young Ambassadors, Durham summit

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# Athletes leading the way

**This year we have seen athlete leadership placed high on the agenda of our 5 year strategy 2016-2021. Our key focus is to “Empower every athlete to fulfil their potential - both sporting and personal”. This year we have spent time building the foundations and shaping our plans to ensure we can deliver our strategic goals successfully.**

We need to encourage everyone to fully include people with intellectual disabilities not just on the field of play but at home, in the workplace and in the wider community.

One of the most powerful ways we do this is through focus on athlete leadership.

Athlete leadership will see our athletes develop and demonstrate their leadership skills, provide them with a platform for their voice to be heard, and the support to undertake meaningful leadership roles, and influence change inside and outside of Special Olympics to help create inclusive communities all over the world.

If we want the world to be inclusive, Special Olympics athletes can and should contribute in ways beyond the sports field. This means athletes leading the way as the voice of the movement, educating others about their potential and driving Special Olympics forward through their insights and contributions.

## Goals for 2017

Having identified our 13 athlete leaders we are working to identify a group of mentors to support them during 2017. Bank of America and National Grid are supporting athlete leadership.

We have identified technology designed for people with ID, Rix wiki, to enable each athlete leader to capture their personal and organisational goals and journey during 2017. We will bring this group of athlete leaders together to work as a team and one of our key goals will be to establish the first SOGB Athlete Input Council.

- The council will be a forum for athlete leaders to discuss what is happening in their areas, voice their opinions about important issues, and gain leadership training and experience.
- We will aim to introduce the council in 2017 and hold the first meeting at the end of 2017.
- The first council members will be this group of athlete leaders.

We will be delivering 4 key events to support and upskill our athletes with the support of their mentors and other external organisations who have volunteered their services, these include Andy Lopata Business Networking Strategist and Beth Chadwick Potentialgain.



**Bank of America**  
**Merrill Lynch**

**nationalgrid**



# Spotlight on Athlete Leaders



**Matt Dodds**

Matt was selected to attend the World Youth Leadership Summit in Austria in March 2017.

.....  
**“Gives us a voice and an opportunity to spread the word about SOGB”**  
.....



**Kiera Byland**

Kiera is now a member of the SOEE athlete input council.

.....  
**“I feel I can now be honest about my strengths, my own limitations and about how I learn best”**  
.....



**Ian Harper**

Ian was identified to speak at the CEB Reimagine HR Conference about employment for people with intellectual disabilities.

.....  
**“Special Olympics changes your life completely and it feels like you’ve got more opportunity”**  
.....

# Partnership Development

## In the last year we have ...

- Finalised Memorandums of Understanding with the below sporting bodies.
- Clearly outlined plans and/or project work being undertaken with England Athletics (London Project), Tennis Foundation (Partnership Competitions), Basketball England (Satellite clubs for PWID), Table Tennis England (Level 1 coaching courses for PWID), Badminton England (Kit bags & small grant for activity), England Golf (local club engagement grant), and British Canoeing (local club engagement grant).
- Scoped out some project work with Boccia England and British Gymnastics to take forward in the coming months.

- Released media campaigns and profiles with Table Tennis, Boccia England, British Gymnastics and Tennis Foundation

Another notable success relating to National Governing Bodies is around development of highquality competitions. Our sanctioning process now better recognises other competitions outside of Special Olympics GB (Competition Advancement Pathway).

Over the past year we have witnessed an increased number of NGBs engaging with us to deliver partnership competitions; improving their competition pathway for people with an intellectual disability.



## NGB Partnership Competitions 2016

**Local – 1    Regional – 6    National – 7**  
(Sports – Tennis, Badminton, Boccia, Athletics, Netball)

CSP Engagement and Network Development - South Yorkshire, Kent and Medway, Derbyshire, Merseyside, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, Gloucestershire, Northamptonshire and Oxfordshire Networks were commissioned and are fully accredited Special Olympics programmes, which has resulted in 473 new participants in 6 months.

The focus for them going forward will be the development of succession plans, further development and engagement of partners to ensure sustainability and transition of 'Participants' into Special Olympics registered athletes where appropriate. In addition, 87 of the new participants have transitioned into registered Special Olympics athletes and will be involved in delegations representing their region at the 2017 National Summer Games taking place in Sheffield in August 2017.

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**It's the best thing ever! You get  
to experience new things**

**Special Olympics GB Athlete**

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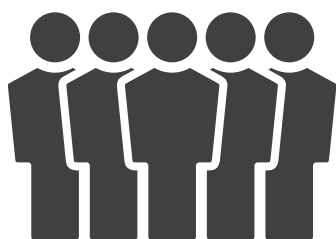
# Reaching our Potential

## London

**In 2014 Special Olympics GB was funded by the Greater London Authority to deliver a project aimed at developing the training and competition pathway in the Capital allowing more athletes with an intellectual disability the opportunity to compete in their chosen sport.**

Special Olympics GB fundamentally wanted to bring London up to speed with the rest of the country in terms of people involved, London for a long time has been very under represented. The project was a huge success. Over the course of the 3 years 16 new clubs/networks were developed with 2772 participants taking part in Special Olympics activity. Of these 2772 participants 43% were regular participants attending 9 or more sessions over a 12 week period. A key milestone within the project was to engage a percentage of participants who have not previously taken part in sporting activity (33%). We exceeded this target engaging with 42% in-actives.

To celebrate and mark the end of the project on Thursday 23rd November a Multi-Sport Activity Festival was held at the Copper Box Arena on the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. Over 300 individuals with an intellectual disability from Special Olympics Clubs, Schools and Community Groups attended the event trying out 12 different sports.



**2772 Participants**



**New Clubs**

# 43%

**Were regular participants attending 9 or more sessions**



# Play Unified Ambassadors Appointed to Special Olympics Europe Regional Youth Committee



Special Olympics GB was proud to announce that a brother and sister from Yorkshire have been appointed to the Special Olympics Europe Inclusive Youth Activation Committee (iYAC).

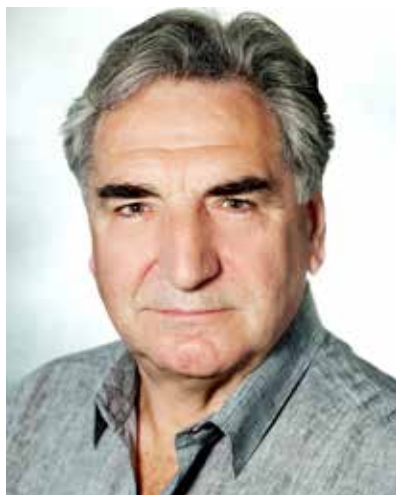
Jemima and Will Browning, who are both students at Tadcaster Grammar School in North Yorkshire, attended their first Special Olympics Europe Youth Activation Committee in Frankfurt on the 11th & 12th December 2016.

**The inclusive Youth Activation Committee (iYAC) is a group of young people with and without intellectual disability (ID), who advise SOEE on youth topics. They will also have an important role in developing and maintaining youth structures in their own National Programs.**

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## Ambassadors in Action

Special Olympics Great Britain was delighted to announce that Jim Carter as a new ambassador for the charity. Jim is a leading British actor best known for his role as Mr Carson in the multi award-winning television hit series, Downton Abbey.



Jim commented: "I first became involved with Special Olympics GB through Downton Abbey's support fundraising for the charity.

"Having met some of the young people who had benefitted from Special Olympics' work; having listened to their inspiring stories and seen their enthusiasm at first hand, I was honoured to accept the invitation to become an Ambassador.

"I'm looking forward to helping to promote the National Summer Games in Sheffield next year where 2,600 athletes with an intellectual disability will show their abilities and talents.



## Nicole Scherzinger at the Special Olympics Greater London Regional Indoor Athletics Competition

Special Olympics Great Britain was delighted to see global recording artist Nicole Scherzinger attend our hugely successful London Indoor Athletics event at Lee Valley and volunteer her time, passion and energy at the event in October. Nicole is a Global Ambassador for Special Olympics and made a huge impact on the event by not only connecting with our athletes, volunteers, families and coaches but also raising our profile to a national level.

“The reason why I am so fired up about Special Olympics and providing chances for people with intellectual disabilities dates back to my childhood. I became a Special Olympics ambassador because I was raised with my aunt – who is two years younger than me – and who has Down’s Syndrome. I know how important chances and opportunities are for people with intellectual disability.



## Tributes

### Trisha Swift

It is with great sadness we learnt that Trisha Swift passed away peacefully at home on the 23 February 2016, aged 71. She was actively involved as a volunteer of the Special Olympics GB club in Brighton, as well as the National Summer Games held in this city in 1986. She was also part of the evaluation committees of the National Games in Portsmouth in 1997 and in Cardiff in 2001. Her sister Valerie Cook shared “Special Olympics was one of Trisha’s passions and she spent a lot of time volunteering and doing things for her club.”

Rita Bamber, shared an account of Trisha’s involvement with Special Olympics GB “In 1978, Trisha was appointed by East Sussex Social Services as a manager of a day centre for people with learning disabilities. She was invited by Chris Malone (founder of the programme in Britain) to bring a few athletes over to the Isle of Man to take part in a

competition. From this moment, Trisha didn’t look back. She was hooked as she witnessed the power Special Olympics has in changing lives of people with learning disabilities. On her return, Trisha secured funding to set up ‘East Sussex Sports Association’ as a Special Olympics club. Trisha also was head of delegation for the South East region for the national Games in Portsmouth in 1997, and in Cardiff in 2001”.

Trisha will be greatly missed by the Special Olympics GB family, athletes, fellow volunteers and coaches.





# Accolade

## Keith Wilcox

Following over 30 years' service to people with learning disabilities, Keith Wilcox, 64, is stepping down from the board of Special Olympics GB. Keith has operated in both in a voluntary capacity as a local, regional and national volunteer for Special Olympics Great Britain and through his role for over 25 years as a Day Centre Manager for people with learning disabilities.

In 1974 Keith set up the Cleveland Adult Training Centre Sports Club. In 1982, Keith was in his first year as manager of the Skelton Centre and all his spare time was devoted to the Cleveland Sports Club. He found out about an organisation called Special Olympics. This was a platform for competitors with learning disability from around the country to participate on a national basis in sport.

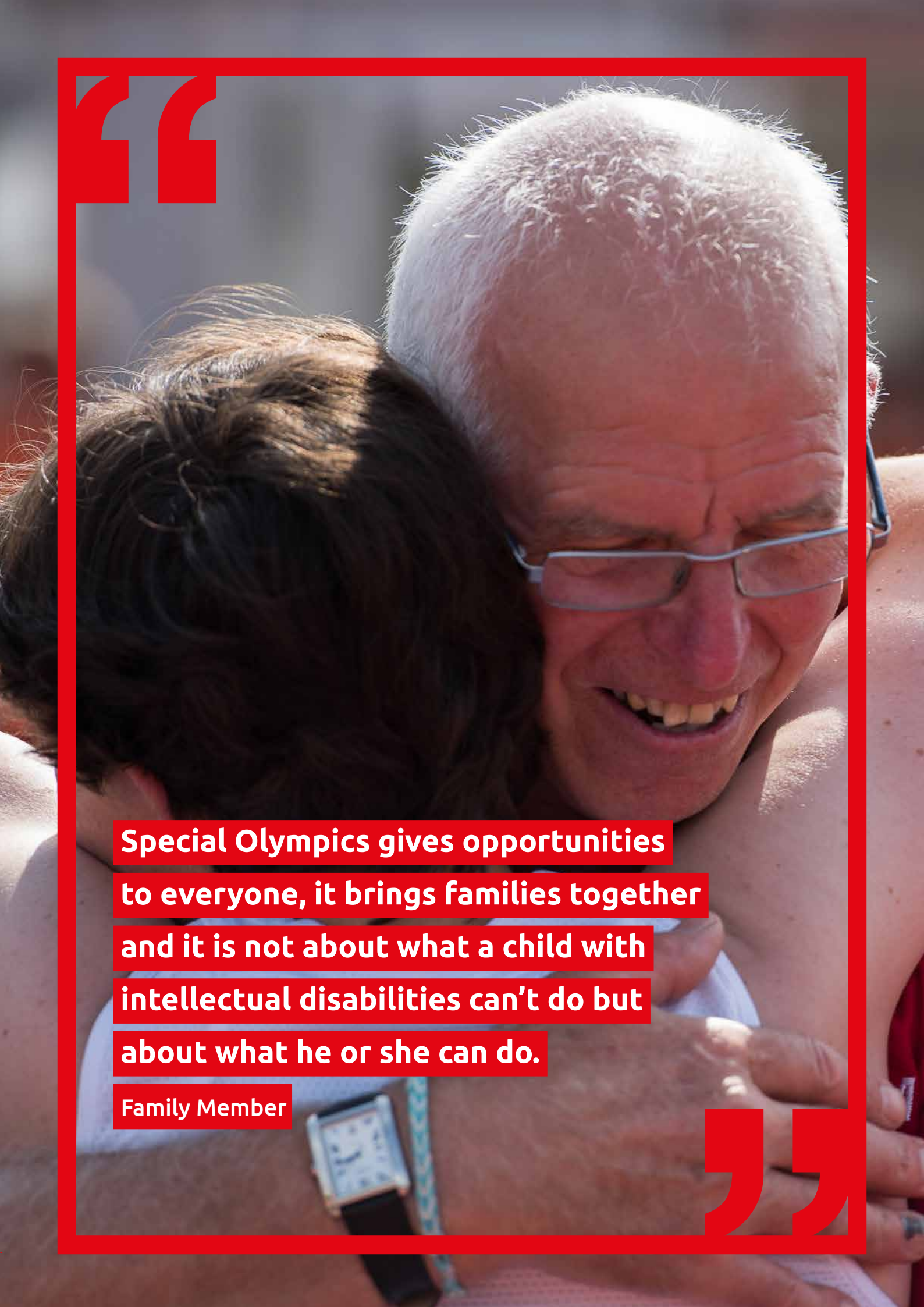
With his experience organising events for the 300 individuals at the Cleveland Club, Keith became Chairman of the Northern Region Special Olympics and Chairman of the Skelton & Cleveland Special Olympics committee. This was over 30 years ago. Here is a selection of the positions Keith has held to service for need of Special Olympics GB athletes.

- Every 4 years since 1982 to present day, Keith has been Head of Delegation and organised for the Northern Region Special Olympics team to attend the National S.O.G.B.Games. This task involves fundraising, recruiting coaches, team selection, transport and all the logistical issues
- In 1999 he was Head Coach for the GB Football team which participated in the Special Olympic world summer games in North Carolina U.S.A.
- In 2000 he was Head of Delegation Team G.B. for a team of 120 at the Special Olympics European Summer games in Groningen Holland
- In 2003 He was Assistant Head of Delegation for the Special Olympics World Games in Dublin, Ireland
- In 2007 he was Head of Delegation and took 255 athletes and coaches to Shanghai, China to compete in the Special Olympics World Summer Games

Keith will continue running the SO Skelton Cleveland club and is still the chair of the Northern region. Huge thanks to Keith for his endless energy and endeavour for our Special Olympics Athletes.



Murton Mann- Special Olympics GB Chairman, Keith Wilcox and Lawrie McMenemy MBE, Honorary President.



**Special Olympics gives opportunities to everyone, it brings families together and it is not about what a child with intellectual disabilities can't do but about what he or she can do.**

**Family Member**



# Growing Recognition

Many congratulations to Special Olympics GB's Plymouth club leaders Maureen and Alan Stockdale for being nominated for the BBC Unsung Hero award in the South West!



**A selection of awards enjoyed by Special Olympics GB's athletes, coaches, clubs and volunteers during 2016.**

**Special Olympics Hastings & Rother** Judo Club received the Queen's Award for Voluntary Services

**Kiera Byland** - BTEC level 2 sports qualification with merit, Qualified First Aider, Level 1 Swimming Teaching, Special Olympics Athlete Leadership Committee and also gained a British Cycling level 2 qualification

**Ian Harper** – Appointed onto Liberal Democrats Executive Disability Association Committee

**Special Olympics Gateshead, Tyne and Wear** - 'Outstanding Sports Club' award (out of 23 clubs) at the North East Disability Sports Awards & 'Putting People First / Personalisation' award at the Great Britain Care Awards

**Special Olympics Gateshead, Tyne and Wear** Athlete Jemma Robinson (Powerlifter) - was awarded the Female Personality of the year award at the North East Disability Sports awards

**Matt Dodds** – Appointed Global Ambassador for Special Olympics World Youth Leadership Summit

**Maureen and Alan Stockdale from Special Olympics Plymouth** for being nominated for the BBC Unsung Hero award in the South West

**Ben O'Brien** – Worcester Senior Male Sports Person of the Year

**Sheffield athlete Niall Guite** awarded a place at Westminster Abbey to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of the Duke of Edinburgh award

**Special Olympics GB Rhythmic Gymnasts** awarded A Certificate of Outstanding Achievement by the Mayor of Crewe Town Council



# A fond farewell & thanks to National Grid

nationalgrid

## SOGB Partnership Timeline

2007



Employees from **The Strand** joined law enforcement runners and athletes as they followed a route past some of the famous landmarks in London.

2012



Employees raised funds to buy a horse for the **SOGB** sports club in St Albans. **National Grid** seconds senior communications manager to support **SOGB**.

2008

Thirty **National Grid** employees supported the Golf Triple Crown Gold event at the Belfry Hotel and Golf Club.



2013

Bath Summer Games - 50 employees supported the games and **National Grid** sponsored the Volunteering programme.



2009

Nineteen employees volunteered at the Summer Games in Leicester.



2014

**National Grid** wins Best Single Project at charity award for supporting the summer games 2013.



2010

Twelve employees from across the business support the **SOGB** Southern Region Athletics event.



2015

It's Knock Out games to raise funds as well as get together to have fun with colleagues and athletes.



2011

**National Grid** and **SOGB** launch the Sports Development fund to enable grassroots sports clubs to gain funding.



2016

**National Grid** supports the Young Athletes Programme as well as the Athlete Leadership Programme.



**Special Olympics**  
Great Britain

# World Winter Games 2017

We were proud and honoured to have a team of 21 athletes with intellectual (learning) disabilities - eleven Alpine Skiers and ten Figure Skaters – represent Great Britain at the 2017 World Winter Games.

The Special Olympics World Winter Games is one of the biggest events in the movement’s global calendar and held every four years.

This sporting showpiece event was held in Austria in March 2017 - commencing with a spectacular opening ceremony on 18th March 2017 with 3,000 Athletes with Intellectual Disabilities from 110 different countries competing.



**Special Olympics matters because it gives people with learning disabilities a platform to show off their sporting talents and to be recognised for their achievements.  
Special Olympics GB Coach.**





# ROAD *to* VICTORY

**I will be Victorious.**  
Will you?

**In Great Britain Special Olympics athletes with intellectual disabilities take on their own Road to Victory when they choose a sport, train weekly and take part in competitions.**

Their Road to Victory helps Special Olympics GB athletes overcome the challenges and exclusion they experience daily.

Why not support the journeys of our athletes by undertaking your own Road to Victory challenge?

First decide which challenge level suits you best then select an event from a range of sports, distances, locations and times of the year. There is something for everyone from the super sporty to the complete beginner, as well as for both individuals and teams.

The funds you raise on the Road to Victory challenge will help set up more Special Olympics clubs around England, Scotland and Wales, which means that more people with intellectual disabilities in GB will have more chances to play sports, and be victorious!



[www.specialolympicsgb.org.uk/victory](http://www.specialolympicsgb.org.uk/victory)

# Our new journey begins....

A very important 2016 proved to be another seminal year for Special Olympics GB as we started the journey on our exciting five year strategy and vision that by **'using sport, SOGB will empower children and adults with an intellectual disability to enhance their health and wellbeing, develop as individuals and feel equal and valued.'**

Being the first year of the strategy, 2016 was key in ensuring a good foundation was built and creating further momentum to build on past achievements. There have been many local, national and international highlights throughout 2016.

Just two of many I would like to mention is the National Alpine Skiing Competition in France which was our biggest event of the year. Also, the success of our DCMS funded Play Unified campaign that we are delivering in partnership with Youth Sport Trust.

Throughout the year it was wonderful to see so many SOGB athletes getting involved in additional activities on top of everything they commit to their sport. All of which is only possible with the dedication of the army of our volunteers that commit so much of themselves. Be that directly involved in providing the sporting and non-sporting opportunities or the often unsung work that constantly goes on in the background. Again, I say thank you! There were many interesting political twists in the country and around the World in 2016 and I am sure it provided challenges to many of our current and potential supporters and partners.

What was great, however, was that through all the distractions both organisations and individuals understood the valuable opportunities

we provide for fun and development of our athletes – plus the thousands we have yet to reach. We appreciate their continued and invaluable support.

A lot of hard work went in to enhancing our media exposure and it was wonderful to see a significant increase of SOGB on mainstream media during the year which helps us reach many more people. Our valued Ambassadors also help us achieve this vital goal. Looking ahead, 2017 will offer many highlights. Two of those being our team of 21 athletes, families and coaches heading to the World Winter Games in Austria.

In addition, our own National Summer Games in Sheffield which so many people are working immensely hard on. There will also be exciting developments in our national programmes and, of course, equally as important local developments and successes!

All of our successes in 2017 will be built on the generous effort that everyone gives at Special Olympics GB in every area of the organisation.

I leave you with these warming words from Andre Agassi:

***"The only perfection there is...is the perfection of helping others!"***

Very best wishes to all in the Special Olympics GB family.



**Murton Mann.**  
**Chairman.**

**Thank you for your interest in  
Special Olympics Great Britain.**

**If you want to get involved, or need more  
information, please visit our website:  
[www.specialolympicsgb.org.uk](http://www.specialolympicsgb.org.uk)**

**If you want to keep in touch with ongoing  
developments, you can join our on-line  
community via Twitter and Facebook.**

** [facebook.com/SpecialOlympicsGB](https://facebook.com/SpecialOlympicsGB)**

** [@SOGreatBritain](https://twitter.com/SOGreatBritain)**

** [SpecialOlympicsGB](https://www.instagram.com/SpecialOlympicsGB)**

**You can help us improve the opportunities  
for people with intellectual disabilities to  
benefit from our work by donating to Special  
Olympics GB via Give as you Live:**

**[www.giveasyoulive.com/join/sogb](http://www.giveasyoulive.com/join/sogb)**



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**Cover photograph courtesy of Jonathan Whipp,  
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**Special Olympics  
Great Britain**

