

## Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018

The Trustees of Banbridge Special Olympics Club provide their Annual report and Accounts for the year ending September 2018 and confirm that they have referred to the Commissions Public Benefit statutory requirements to ensure that the activities have fulfilled the charity's public benefit requirement statement.

As per the Constitution of Banbridge Special Olympics Club dated 16 November 2011, Banbridge Special Olympics Club aims to provide a safe environment for athletes and volunteers to participate in activities by providing year-round training opportunities and to assist athletes to improve their skills with a view to attending Special Olympics Competitions.

The direct benefits include athletes and volunteers developing a better sense of involvement in their communities and forming relationships and friendships outside of their normal social circles through participating in sport, equality of opportunities to participate in sports activities for people with intellectual disabilities, improved physical and mental health from participating regularly in sport, improved quality of life through enhanced self-esteem, social skills and greater social awareness. Because of more people participating in amateur sport, the sports themselves will develop and grow in the wider community.

These benefits are demonstrated through volunteers communicating with athletes and their families on a regular basis and feeding back any notable comments to the committee. We have qualified coaches leading the sporting activities and many volunteers trained with relevant qualifications. These benefits are incidental and necessary to ensure that the club is well run and meet minimum operating standards as set out by Special Olympics Ireland.

The Special Olympics Ireland Games took place in Dublin between Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> June and Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> June, in the year marking the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the movement in Ireland and the fiftieth anniversary of the international movement. Over 1,600 athletes took part from across the island of Ireland, including eleven from Banbridge Special Olympics Club. Thirteen sports were on offer at the Games, and athletes from Banbridge club took part in Athletics, Bocce, Swimming, Table Tennis, Golf and Gymnastics, winning five gold medals, nine silver and six bronze. Appearing in his first games Josh McAuley represented the club in Swimming, and came back with one gold medal, one silver medal and a fourth-place finish; another Games debutant, Sean McPolin got silver and a fourth-place finish in Bocce, with Lesley McAleese winning a gold and silver medal and Emma Higgins winning two silver medals. In Athletics Nevin Kelly got a silver and bronze medal, as well as a sixth-place finish, Stefan McGrath got the full rainbow range of gold, silver and bronze medals whilst David Ochiltree got a gold medal and a Personal Best ribbon in Athletics; in Table Tennis Phillip Patton got gold and a fourth-place finish and Alex Dawson got bronze and a fourth-place finish. Billy Wilson got a bronze medal in golf

playing alongside his father, and in Gymnastics Tony Lunny got silver medals on the parallel bars and floor exercises, and a bronze medal on the rings. The hard work put in by the athletes every Wednesday and Friday night at training sessions paid off! The motto of Special Olympics is "Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt" – Banbridge athletes exemplified this not only in their achievements but also their unfailing sportsmanship throughout the four days of competition.

Our Financial statement shows an income for 2017/2018 of £1,003.

We received grant aid from Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council which has been used towards rent which is a significant portion of the club's expenditure. We depend significantly on the athlete's families and the public for their generosity and efforts in relation to supporting fundraising events held by the club. Over £2000 raised because of Tesco's bag pack in December. A substantial part of the grants and fund raising went towards expenses for the all Ireland games.

**Names of the Trustees:**

**Dairmuir Sands, Brendan Whittle, Tracy Davis, Joan Ross, Anthony McGrath, Tamla Meredith, Christine Scott**

Signed: Tracy Davis

Date: 15.10.18