

Special Olympics Isle of Man – Turin Winter Games 2025 Report.



The Winter Games in Turin took place between 8th and 15th March 2025, and welcomed 1,500 athletes from 102 countries competing in eight disciplines: [alpine skiing](#), [cross-country skiing](#), [DanceSport](#), [figure skating](#), [floorball](#), [snowboarding](#), [snowshoeing](#), and [short track speed skating](#). In addition, more than 1,000 coaches, 2,000 volunteers, 1,000 accredited media, and approximately 100,000 spectators took part in the event.



Commencing with a spectacular opening ceremony held in the Inalpi Arena, the event was a spectacular success that we were truly proud to participate in. The Isle of Man Special Olympics proudly had a delegation of four athletes who competed in the games, all in the vent of snowshoeing.

One of our snowshoeing coaches, Tony Fallon, put together the report below-

Early March, and after 6 months of training in all weathers on Peel beach battling the wind, rain and tides, the time had arrived for our athletes: Rebecca Maller, Kanyeba Lubilanji, Dylan Butler, Robert Molesworth, alongside our coaches Tony Fallon, Barbara Maller and Head of Delegation Beryl Wooldridge to trek off to Sestriere, Italy to take part in the Special Olympics World Winter Games 2025.

After settling in to our accommodation, greeting old and new friends and explaining where the Isle of Man was, it was much easier to make a fist like revving a motorbike and mention the TT and all was clear, we headed to the practice slopes.

Taken by surprise we saw snow, and lots and lots of it, and many new friends revving their wrists when they met us. We quickly adjusted to the snow, helped by our new and superb shoe shoes, and soon commenced our practices and drills and checked out the snowshoe racing track itself. It was immediately clear all our high intensity training on Peel beach would pay off as the altitude made the athletes breathless very quickly and, surprisingly, the start to the 200 metres race was not to be staggered.

We came for an early practice as the organisers were using a waterfall start technique, all racers stood on a line with lane 1 being a massive



advantage and later 8 being a very difficult lane due to the first corner being 20 metres from the start line and very tight. It was similar to motorbike speedway on a track, whoever gets to the first corner often wins.

After divisioning, and much praise about our cool snowshoes, the races were upon us. Each race had 8 athletes, with similar times and we drew the outside lanes. However, we knew what to do and in the 200 metres race, Dylan got off to a flying start and went into the corner in first place and won the race superbly to get his first gold medal in snow shoeing. Robert



was also running well until the athlete's curse struck, a pulled hamstring, curtailed his hopes of a podium finish and he limped home with much cheering from our team. Rebecca and Kanyeba were up next, Kanyeba getting a superb bronze and Rebecca a hard-fought 4th place. The great cheering from the athletes, coaches and travelling supporters definitely helped the athletes.

After more divisioning, the blue-ribbon event of any meeting, the 100 metres sprint, was upon us and we were ready to go. Robert was

still bothered by a troublesome hamstring but decided to give it a go. The boys, again, again were off first. Dylan ignited the track in the early stages and kept his technique to win another Gold and first place on the podium, with Robert continuing to show gritty determination and finished in 6th place. Rebecca, too, had a scorching start and achieved a brilliant 3rd to win a well-deserved bronze medal and a place on the podium. Kanyeba was closing on the leaders all the time and finished with a great 5th place.

Overall this was a great competition, and all the athletes represented themselves, their parents and carers and the IOMSO with much pride, passion and performance.



Many thanks, to the athletes, parents, Beryl and Barbara for their organisation and support. Also, to the good people of Peel, especially the kiosk on the prom, for their support and cups of tea.