

Special Olympics

Impact Assessment Quarterly Report

Quarterly period
January – March 2025



Isle of Man

Community involvement, engagement and donation



Standard Bank Offshore and Radio Station 3FM.
As part of 3FM Blue Monday we were lucky enough to receive a £500 cash grant courtesy of Standard Bank Offshore AND an 8-week advertising package 3FM. We also must say a big thank you to **Jody Quayle** who nominated us. Check into the next quarterly report to hear about the advertising campaign!



Family Leader Programme – Continuing our monthly sessions which aim to celebrate and support all of the families who make up our big Special Olympic family, our Family Leader co-ordinator **Andy** organised for **Pete Corkhill** to deliver a really brilliant presentation to many of our family members, as well as some of our athletes and coaches who were also in attendance. A two-hour presentation and interactive talk on Autism and Aspergers- including the history of both and a whistle stop tour into various areas of difference, which included the voices of autistic adults throughout. Thanks Pete!

Andy then delivered a session himself the following month on effective communication with people with learning disabilities, which was attended by both family members and coaches. As an organisation we are delighted to be able to offer these opportunities to improve both our knowledge and skills when working with our athletes.



Community involvement, engagement and donation (cont'd)



Football Match Isle of Man v AFC Liverpool. We were very grateful to **Jacqui Dawson** from **Boal and Co**, and one of our closest and most cherished charity partners **Manx Mencap**, for inviting our athletes along as special guests at the Isle of Man FC v AFC Liverpool football match. It must be said that we were treated like kings by the club, having our players on the pitch before kick-off and taking penalties at half time against the Raven! Our very own DOUBLE gold medallist **Dylan Butler** from the Turin Winter Games even chose and presented the man of the match award. We can't thank the club enough for such a warm welcome. The players loved every second of it. This event was sponsored by our friends at **Boal & Co**. Such generosity even meant each player was awarded an FC IOM scarf. One of the things that makes Special Olympics such a fantastic organisation is being part of the local community and our athletes contributing to and being valued in it. Events like this are invaluable and ensure our athletes are seen and celebrated. Thank you once again to everyone that made this happen.

Valentines Day Park Run – Our partnerships with our friends at **Nobles Park Run** continues to grow. Over this three-monthly period our athletes and coaches attended several park runs, including the Valentines Day run. Great work, guys!



Community involvement, engagement and donation (cont'd)



Onchan AFC We've been very fortunate to establish a new and exciting partnership with the football club Onchan AFC, and our own football squad was joined by **Brian Callow** from Onchan AFC for two weeks during this three-month period. Brian (amongst other things) donated a "trainer of the week" award for us to give out. The inaugural winner was none other than **James Galley** for an inspirational goalkeeping performance! James accepting the award from his brother **Sam Galley** who fittingly won a penalty competition that evening, beating **Tash Keig** to a close second. Brian visited us again with a special delivery having had Onchan AFC kits (with names and numbers) printed for every one of our footballers.

Thank you to Brian and Onchan AFC for their generosity and keep an eye out in the next quarterly report to see how the partnership develops!



NatWest International we felt particularly blessed to establish a relationship with NatWest International. **Bery Wooldridge, Nicola Wooldridge** and Andy met with **Tracey Abernethy** and **Matthew Cory** to plan future voluntary support, and also gratefully receive a very generous donation. We are sure that this is a relationship that will continue to grow and flourish over the coming months, and we couldn't be happier about it.



Tournament and Competition

Turin Winter Games was a huge worldwide winter games with over 1,500 athletes from over 100 countries in attendance.

Robert Molesworth, Kanyeba Lubilanji, Rebecca Maller and **Dylan Butler** were our chosen athletes, competing in the snow-showing event and bringing home four medals between them (two Gold and two Bronze) plus a heap of personal bests. Ambassadors of Excellence for our small nation! Many thanks to their families for the support they gave, and for our coaches **Barbara Maller** and **Tony Fallon** for facilitating the training sessions and attending the Games with them. Read the report on our website!



Isle of Man Sports Awards as an organisation we are always striving to have the recognition of our athletes celebrated on an island-wide scale. It was great to see some of our athletes nominated this year in the Isle of Man Sports Awards. **Jamie Hardy** (football) and **Lawrence Dyer** (athletics) were both nominated in the Disability Sportsperson of the Year award, and the Bocce team which consisted of **Rebecca Maller, Shaun Anderson, Karl Monaghan** and **Nicola Wooldridge** were nominated in the Sports Team of the Year. A fantastic achievement. On top of that, our Football Coach **Pete Corkhill** was nominated in the Coach of the Year award. Congratulations to all of you – You did us proud!



Fund raising activities

Manx Telecom awards night. We were able to attend the Marg McGee Community Awards where we managed to get a few of our athletes up to the ceremony – **Katie Dulson, Harvey Shimmin** and **Jenny Jones**. We were one of 24 very deserving local charities and community groups to receive an award. We had applied for funds to get new tyres and inner tubes for our tricycle and road bikes to make them safe for use on the track. Huge thanks to our swimming coach **Barry Dulson** for making this happen, and thank you to Manx Telecom for their generosity, and all they do for our local communities.



Chicago the Musical. A big thank you to the Gaiety Theatre and Douglas Choral Society, who invited us to do a bucket collection on the opening matinee of Chicago the musical, where we raised a fantastic £500!

Athlete engagement and success stories



Jenny Jones and **Laura Oram** – Congratulations to both for the achievements and attendance at the **Manx Gateway** Ball. Laura collected the Karran Cup for Drama and Jenny won an award for her spin bowling throughout the Manx Gateway Cricket season. Well done, ladies!



We congratulated our athlete **Jamie Hardy** on his return to action for Marown FC in February. Jamie had been on the sidelines since September nursing an injury, but he dusted off his boots at Onchan Stadium for the final ten minutes of the game, immediately making an impact, coming agonisingly close to scoring within seconds after some brilliant skill to end up through on goal. Amazing stuff, Jamie!



Athlete engagement and success stories (cont'd)



Celebration evening following on from our celebration evening for the footballers in Belgium last year, we held another one for our four athletes who represented **Special Olympics Isle of Man** at this month's **Special Olympics World Games Torino 2025**.

Kanyeba Lubilanji, Robert Molesworth, Rebecca Maller and Dylan Butler

Our amazing Ambassadors of Excellence! Thank you to all four of you for your brilliant achievements in Turin (they brought home FOUR medals and all competed fiercely!) and for your fabulous speeches at the celebration.





A quick throwback....

Although these quarterly reports focus on the quarter itself(!) we recently discovered this video from our trip to the Malta Invitational Games in 2022, and we couldn't resist sharing it! Several of our coaches and athletes in the video, and a really good example of highlighting what a bleak time the pandemic was for all of us, but how quickly we can bounce back from such adversity.



<https://youtu.be/LVnSMV4jJzg?si=i8HRB-3L2da3SZa5>



Conclusion

Another fun-filled and action-packed quarter for Isle of Man Special Olympics! The theme that ran through these three months was connection to the wider community.

From our achievements at the Turin Winter Games, our representation at the Isle of Man Sports Awards, our strengthening of friendship with our families, and our attendance at our local Park Run. The scale of our connection is not important – It's the depth.

Achieving a personal best in training, winning a medal in international competition, or simply making a new friend – These connections all carry equal weight, and is what makes us so special- because we celebrate them all equally.

Our family continues to grow in strength and connection to our wider communities, and long may that continue!

