

Special Olympics

Impact Assessment Quarterly Report

Quarterly period

April–June 2025



Isle of Man

Community involvement, engagement and donation



Our footballers had an absolutely fantastic afternoon at **Onchan FC's** training ground and club house. 17 footballers and their families were welcomed with open arms at Onchan, where we held our weekly training session before being hosted in the clubhouse for burgers, hot dogs, table tennis and pool! A massive thank you to **Brian Callow** and Onchan FC for having us and making us feel so welcome. A great partnership is developing between SO and Onchan and we're really excited by it!



Our connection with the **Nobles Park Run** continues to flourish, and our regular attendances are always greeted with such friendliness from the organisers. Connection with the wider Manx community is one of the cornerstones of what we try to achieve, ensuring that our athletes are included and celebrated for the brilliant people they are. Thank you Nobles Park Run, you always make us feel so welcome.



Community involvement, engagement and donation (cont'd)



A huge thank you to **Manx Telecom** and the **Marg McGhee Community Awards** for donating money to purchase equipment for our cyclists. Accompanied by some of our amazing cyclists and athletes Jenny Jones, Kaite Dulson and Harvey Shimmin, our swimming coach **Barry Dulson** was at the event to spoke brilliantly on behalf of Special Olympics. Thanks, Barry!
[Facebook](#)

Bushy's TT Village 2025

We were really honoured this year to create a fantastic connection with **Bushey's Village** during TT week. We were chosen as one of their charity partners this year. We held bucket collections at The Village over both Saturdays and raised some funds, but more importantly made lots of friends. Many thanks to Harry, Dave and Ella at **Bushy's TT Village 2025** for allowing us to join them!

And as well as the bucket collection, we had the opportunity to promote Special Olympics on their big screen. A HUGE thank you goes to Cameron Turner, the older brother of our amazing footballer Eryn. Cameron put together not one but two fantastic promo videos for us. Here's one of them– thanks Cameron! It was another great opportunity for our athletes to shine and be celebrated for the brilliant people they are!



Community involvement, engagement and donation (cont'd)



Oie Vaoldyn Fire Festival it was a great honour this year to be part of an event celebrating a long standing tradition on the Isle of Man – The Oie **Vaoldyn Fire Festival** in Peel. Along with the opportunity to have a stall there throughout the day, we were also part of the finale celebrations on the beach during a magical and mythical celebration of the timeless battle between Summer and Winter. A brilliant spectacle – And a huge response from the crowd – Thank you for cheering us on!

[Facebook](#)

We're very grateful to the **Southern Young Farmers**, who chose Special Olympics as one of their charities to benefit from proceeds raised at their Christmas auction – Thank you so much! And a particular thank you to one of our athletes **Duncan Watterson**, who gave a talk at the start of one of their meetings in May to let them know what the Special Olympics is about. We strongly believe that our athletes are our best advocates. Thank you, Duncan!



Community involvement, engagement and donation (cont'd)



Parish Walk a number of our coaches, athletes and family members took part in this year's Parish Walk. Congratulations go to David Antony, Suzanne Unsworth and Zoe Lambie for their amazing efforts, and for fund-raising for Isle of Man Special Olympics!

Douglas Rugby Club a big thank you goes to Bryn Snellgrove from Douglas Rugby Club Isle of Man who came down to help coach one of our keep fit sessions, showing the athletes some rugby skills. We already know that this is going to be just the start of a great friendship!



Tournament and competition



Northwest Regional Special Olympics Swimming Championships were held in Liverpool over a weekend in May. We managed to bring 9 athletes away to a very well attended swimming competition that involved 180 swimmers from 18 different teams. Congratulations go to **Angela Maiden, Dawn Horsfield, Kanyeba Lubilanji, Katie Dulson, Chloe Rollitt, Thomas Unsworth, James Heselton, Natasha Keig and Edgar Denyer** who between them brought home an amazing fourteen medals!

Thanks to our swimming coaches **Barry Dulson** and **Suzanne Unsworth**, and to James' parents **Hannah** and **Chris** for supporting the athletes to be all that they can be. For a full report check the website.



Manx Tri Club A large number of our coaches and athletes took part in the **Manx Tri Club Triathlon** in sunny Ramsey. The club have always been so welcoming and supportive towards us and this year was no exception. We entered two teams this year which consisted of athletes and coaches along with extra swimmers and runners. It was a fantastic event and everybody played their part in achieving some great results. Thanks also to **[Dkphotographyiom](#)** who took photos of the event. – Thanks so much Dave! Also many thanks to one of our athletics coaches **[Tony Fallon](#)** who helped to coordinate the athletes and coaches .

Tournament and competition (cont'd)



Gibraltar – Every year our friendship and connection with Gibraltar Special Olympics grows and grows with our annual trip to their National Games, and this year was no exception—although it was rather different from other years... After a successful first evening of medals in the athletics competition, many of our coaches and athletes came down with a severe bug which meant the rest of our involvement in competition didn't happen. A huge shame after many weeks of training and preparation. But out of adversity came solidarity and team spirit. Our Gibraltar hosts really looked after us, and we looked after each other, and by the end of the trip everybody was back on their feet again. *True* team spirit – Well done, everybody!



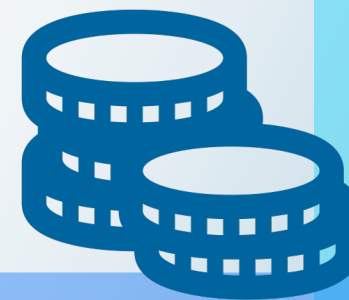
Fund raising activities

Our **Bingo Night** nights are always popular, and great way for athletes, coaches, volunteers and families to spend quality social time together whilst raising funds. Our Easter bingo session raised over £1,000!

A big thank you goes to **Hannah** who works at **J Qualtrough & Co. Ltd** who coordinated a very generous sponsorship of £500 towards the Swimming Competition in Liverpool. Donations such as these enable us to do what we do; we are very grateful!



A big thank you to **Georgia**, who raised over £250 for our organisation through her sign language videos on TicToc. Brilliant stuff, thank you so much!



Athlete engagement and success stories



We love to celebrate the achievements of our athletes away from their sporting endeavours with the Special Olympics. Here's **Nicola Wooldridge** with a Rosette Award from the International Dance Teachers Association. Nicola has been attending **Christine Wild Dance School** for over 35 years, gracing the stage at local shows and musicals on the Gaiety stage and other illustrious venues. Amazing stuff, Nicola!



Kanyeba Lubilanji – One of our brilliant athletes, Kanyeba, volunteers with **Hospice Isle of Man** at one of their charity shops. For part of National Volunteers Week, she was highlighted by Hospice as one of their most wonderful shop volunteers. As well as talking about how volunteering has helped to boost her confidence and learn new skills, she had this to say about the Special Olympics – “Outside of Hospice, I’m a keen swimmer and part of the Special Olympics. I train once a week at the NSC, and recently I competed at the Northwest Regional Championships where I proudly brought home two gold medals, a silver, and a participation ribbon. Earlier this year, I had the amazing opportunity to represent the Isle of Man at the Winter World Games in Italy, where I won a bronze medal and came fifth in snow shoeing”

Kanyeba – We think you’re amazing!

Athlete engagement and success stories (cont'd)



Website we finally have our very first website up and running. Please do take a look!

<https://www.specialolympicsiom.im>

We would like to take this opportunity to express our SINCERE and heartfelt thanks to Dave from **IOM Web Design**, who has worked tirelessly (and in his own time) to set up this website as a gift to our organisation.

We genuinely cannot thank him enough! He has been utterly brilliant throughout the process and helped us to achieve our long-held ambition to have a website that celebrates our athletes in the way they deserve. We couldn't be happier – Thank you Dave!



Conclusion



The biggest moment by far of this quarterly period was the celebration of our 40th Anniversary. For forty years now we have been so proud to provide a platform for our incredible athletes. Through the years we have represented our nation across all corners of the globe in some of the world's biggest tournaments, with some of our athletes becoming the most decorated in the history of the Isle of Man. Overachieving greatness that greatly surpasses our size and number.

But this is not what we are most proud of.

Our greatest achievement by far has been the privilege of watching our athletes become all that they can be. Growing in confidence, growing in independence and most importantly growing in friendship and connection. Seeing the bonds that develop with our athletes during a training session far exceeds any medal or personal best (although we love those happening too!)

To celebrate our 40th we had a family party, and a fantastic time was had. Attended by our Lord and Lady Governor and many other dignitaries, but most importantly our athletes past and present with their families. A special mention goes to **Lawrence Dyer** and **Julie Hinstridge**, two of our athletes who have been with us from the very start! A big thankyou to everyone that helped to make the day be such a success.