



Dated: 19th October, 2016

Suffolk Special Olympians fly the flag in Bournemouth

A group of Suffolk badminton players recently took part in the Southern Regional Special Olympics Badminton Tournament held in Bournemouth.

“The event was the first official badminton competition that Suffolk Special Olympians have ever participated in”, explained Mike McCarthy, one of the Special Olympic coaches.

“It was a brilliant experience for our players. They all performed well above their rankings but what was most impressive was how they rose to the challenges presented by the competitive situation, which was new to all of them”.

The Suffolk team of Ed Boggis, Kathy Brill and Cameron Sherman, who have all been training regularly in Ipswich with ActivLives and Special Olympics Suffolk, competed against players from across the south of England at the Bournemouth event.

“This was our first tournament, we will definitely be looking for more opportunities to compete at future Special Olympics events and hopefully for some players to qualify for the National Games in 2017. This experience has given the team a real taste for competition!” said Mike.

If you would like to find out more about how you can get involved with badminton with Special Olympics Suffolk or ActivLives, please contact Mike McCarthy on 01473 345350 or email mike@activlives.org.uk

Special Olympics is sport for athletes with a learning disability and provision is growing in our county led by Special Olympics Suffolk. A team of athletes, gymnasts and badminton players have been selected to compete at the National Summer Games in Sheffield in August 2017 as part of Team Eastern Region. If you would like to support the team in any way or you would like to find out more, please contact Terry McEntee on 07775557784 or email terrymcentee474@gmail.com

ENDS

Photos attached



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Notes to Editors

Special Olympics Suffolk

Special Olympics Suffolk (SOS) is the Suffolk branch of Special Olympics Great Britain (SOGB). SOGB is the largest provider of year-round sport training and competition for all people with an intellectual (learning) disability. Special Olympics Suffolk helps to provide competitive and recreational sports opportunities particularly in the Ipswich and Lowestoft areas. Currently the sports supported include athletics, badminton and gymnastics.

Special Olympics is recognised as the third member of the “Olympic Family” and is the only other organisation, in addition to the Paralympics, that is allowed to use the word ‘Olympic.’ Until recently, Suffolk was one of only four counties in Great Britain not to have a Special Olympics branch. This changed with the launch of Special Olympics Suffolk in November 2014. www.specialolympicssuffolk.org

ActivIpswich

ActivIpswich is a partnership between ActivLives and Ipswich Borough Council. The project is funded by the National Lottery through Sport England’s *Community Sport Activation Fund*.

The emphasis is very much upon the social as well as the physical benefits that can be gained from getting involved with regular physical activity and is particularly targeted at those who find sports opportunities difficult to access.

The type of activities offered as part of this project vary widely and currently include: Walking Football, New Age Kurling, Boccia, Lawn Bowls, Badminton, Short Tennis and Table Tennis.



ActivLives

ActivLives is an independent charity working with individuals and communities, of all ages, but with a particular focus on people over the age of 45 who live in hard pressed areas in Ipswich and across Suffolk. It grew out of the Town and Bridge Project, which started in 2006.

www.activlives.org.uk