



Special Olympics
Ireland

ANNUAL REPORT
2011



Contents

Our vision is to build the programme offered by Special Olympics Ireland so that every person with an intellectual disability has the opportunity, in their local community, to participate in high quality sport and development activities that bring life changing experiences of increased skills, self-confidence and joy.

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Pictured on the cover is athlete Timothy Morahan from Dublin in action during the 800m final at the 2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games held in Athens, Greece.



Chairpersons Statement

When it comes to branding, Special Olympics Ireland is very aptly named!! This is a truly “special” organisation that show-cases and celebrates the triumph of ability over disability; where the very best qualities of humans caring for humans are constantly in evidence; where burdens are shared – and lives are changed. It is a privilege and a pleasure to participate in the work and mission of the team that is Special Olympics, from athletes to coaches, from parents to patrons, from volunteers to staff.

2011 was another landmark year for the movement, both in Ireland and globally, as the World Summer Games was hosted for the first time in Athens, the historic home of the Olympian spirit that drives athletes to excel. Team Ireland were superb ambassadors who once again rose to the challenge: 126 highly-trained athletes and dozens of coaches and technical specialists inspired the nation through a display of sheer determination and skill that delivered a bumper harvest of ribbons, medals and memories for athletes, families, coaches, staff and the 186 Irish volunteers who worked at the Games– and for those at home who were enthralled by the widespread coverage and sheer joy that countered the daily gloom.

But National and World Games represent only a part of what Special Olympics seeks to deliver week in and week out, in our 399 clubs across the country as they work tirelessly to inspire, train and educate our 10,772 athletes. During 2011 alone, a further 16 clubs affiliated, with 1,046 new athletes. These clubs, run largely by local volunteers, are the backbone of the movement, and a shining example of an invaluable community spirit that will be the bedrock on which Ireland’s recovery will be built, as we regain our confidence, overcome many challenges by working together – and get back in the game!

As the Annual Report highlights, we have had many high-points and successes in 2011, not least the wonderful cross-departmental support

granted by the Northern Ireland Executive, via Sport Northern Ireland, and the continued support of our sponsors and army of volunteers. And magnificent support from the public at large for our fundraising efforts.

That said, we live in challenging times, and through 2011, Special Olympics Ireland has had to contend with numerous challenges, not least the severe curtailment of Irish Sports Council funding due to Exchequer cutbacks. Were it not for our foresight and prudence in previous years in deliberately developing financial reserves, such a trend could have undermined the whole movement. We will continue to seek to educate the powers-that-be that investment in professionally operated National Governing Organisations such as Special Olympics pays rich dividends across a wide spectrum of critical national activities, including sports, but also ranging from education to equality, from health to social protection – and underpins a truism that we are, first and foremost, a community rather than simply an economy.

“The Board remains focused on growing our capacity to meet the needs of our athletes, and is actively pursuing a strategy to prove through formal research the payback that Special Olympics delivers, both as a major sporting body, and as a leader in the many communities that we serve.”

I am delighted to commend the very active and committed Board of Directors of which I have been honoured to serve as Interim Chair during 2011; the many thousands of volunteers who contribute to this truly special movement; the hugely committed Council of Patrons, led by Denis O'Brien; and in particular our wonderful staff, led so ably by CEO, Matt English.

2011 has been another exciting year in the on-going development of a volunteer-based movement that leads by example, and continues to be inspired by the people it seeks to serve – our athletes.



Ronan King
Interim Chairperson



Last November we announced details of a new funding package worth £2.296m over the next four years for Special Olympics in Northern Ireland. Five Government departments, including the Office of The First Minister and Deputy First Minister, joined together to agree the package which will be delivered through Sport Northern Ireland. Pictured are Junior Ministers Martina Anderson and Jonothan Bell with athletes Carole Catling and Denis Murray at the announcement.



2011 in Review

2011 Highlights

- 1,046 new athletes and 1,839 new volunteers registered
- 16 new Special Olympics clubs affiliated
- Successful participation by 126 athletes, their coaches, management team and family members, along with 186 volunteers, in the 2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Athens
- Increase in the opportunities for and uptake of sport education and training.
- Basketball Grading DVD produced as a resource for club coaches in Ireland and adopted by SO Europe Eurasia for other National Programmes
- 2 new online training courses developed, for the Health Promotion Programme and the Golf Leader Programme
- Growth in online activity on website, facebook, twitter, etc.
- Launch and implementation of Phase 1 Constituent Relationship Management (CRM) system in November
- 4-year sponsorship contract agreed with eircom
- Multi-annual grant from the Northern Ireland Executive
- 2012 – 2015 Special Olympics Ireland Strategic Plan approved

2011 Special Olympics Programme Reports

Sport

- 75 coach education and training opportunities offered
- 33 development sessions for coaches and athletes
- 921 coaches attended coach training
- 1,294 athletes attended development training

In the four years since tracking of coach and/or athlete education and training opportunities began, there has been a very significant growth in the number of opportunities offered within the programme. Similarly, the number of coaches and volunteers undertaking training and development has also significantly increased, as shown in the following table.

	2008	2011
Training opportunities offered to coaches	30	76
Coach/Volunteer attendance at training courses	348	937

Of greater significance, and one of the most notable increases, is in the number of Development Days delivered. With just 4 delivered in 2008, the potential benefits of Development Days was very quickly recognised and the initiative was adopted by all regions, leading to 33 days Development Days offered in 2011. This growth is a great reflection of the focus on quality training and the continual need to ensure that our coaches are educated and prepared as best as possible to provide a high quality sports training programme for our athletes.



Pictured are athlete Joe Lancaster and his coach Karen Conlon from Cheeverstown House, Dublin participating in Motor Activities. During 2011, a number of coach training days were held, which focused on training coaches in delivering the revised Motor Activities Training Programme.

To support coach and athlete education, 15 tutors trained and qualified with Coaching Ireland to Level 2 standard. This is a major milestone for the organisation and the commitment shown by this group of volunteers and staff to the coach education process of Special Olympics is immense. As a result of their commitment, over 500 volunteers have completed the Introduction to Coaching Practice

Course by December 2011.

An online golf-training module was developed and successfully piloted to support the Golf Leader Course. A total of 11 tutors participated in a weekend golf training course so as to be eligible to deliver the course to new volunteers and coaches going forward.

Increasing standards across all competition events continued to be a focus during 2011. The Events & Games Development team, working with regional teams, continue to increase the number of events that are assessed with a view to achieving the minimum standards of operation at events. Training in the Games Management System continued to be rolled out across all regions, training new volunteers and up-skilling those volunteers who have been using the system for some time. This training has led to a wider pool of volunteers who will be able to support the divisioning, scheduling and results process for competitions.

In an effort to ensure consistency, a number of project teams were established in 2011 to examine and review various key aspects of the sport programme, including minimum training standards for clubs, entry forms and competition formats, awards and the next four-year advancement cycle.

Increasing awareness and the promotion of inclusion through sport is a priority for Special Olympics. A National Training & Education Framework is being developed in conjunction with the disability sport National Governing Bodies (NGBs), Coaching Ireland and the CARA Centre. In addition, the organisation participated in the Irish Sports Council's review of the Sports Inclusion Disability Officer (SIDO) programme and in the Coaching Ireland, Coaching People with Disabilities Steering Group.

Ensuring that the programme stays in line with Special Olympics best practice, representatives of the programme attended the 2011 Special Olympics Europe Eurasia Sports conference, where a broad range of sports topics were covered. In addition, sport representatives attended sport-specific training, including basketball, football, golf, kayaking and gymnastics. In gymnastics, the focus was on education and training in the new artistic routines 2012 – 2020.

Sport-specific Reviews continued in 2011 with the completion of Athletics, Basketball, Football and Motor Activities Training Programme. Further to the Reviews, development plans were formulated based on the input received and needs identified from throughout the programme.

As the 2010 National Basketball Cup competition was cancelled due to the heavy snow, 2011 saw the hosting of two successful national basketball competitions, one in March and one in November. From both competitions, it is very evident and highly positive to see that the standard and quality of athlete training is improving year on year.



Athlete Mary Strain, captain of the winning team, NorthWest Special Olympics Club, accepting the National Women's Basketball cup on behalf of her team in November 2011.

One of the gaps identified from the Review in basketball was the fact that a grading DVD, similar to what is in use in football, did not exist. Therefore, in 2011, the production of this DVD came to fruition, supported by funding from Special Olympics Europe Eurasia. This is a significant training tool for coaches and will greatly assist them in preparing their teams for competition. The DVD is also being rolled out across Special Olympics Europe Eurasia and has been translated into 6 languages.

European Football Week took place with a large number of events held across the five regions, with approximately 600 athletes participating.

The National Football Cup was hosted in St. Joseph's Boys FC, Sallynoggin in May and former international player, Ray Houghton, as guest of honour, presented the awards. The standard of football in the women's competition in particular was notable due to the vast improvement in the standard of play, much of which is due to the growth in the number of Development Days and regional blitzes over the last few years.

With thoughts turning to the 2013 World Winter Games, notification was received from Special Olympics International that Floorball was to be offered as a demonstration sport. An application was made by Special Olympics Ireland for a quota for a Floorball team to participate in the Games and it is exciting and positive news for that sport that our application was successful.

In early 2011, A Guide to Organising Inter Club Activity was distributed to all clubs to promote the opportunity for clubs to work with each other to help create additional training and development opportunities for their athletes, which may include some competitive elements too. There was a marked increase in the number of Inter Club Activity opportunities organised by and between clubs during 2011.

Sports Highlights from around the Regions:

Connaught

- 29 sports events held throughout 2011, with 1,524 athletes taking part.
- First Bocce 7's league final took place on 4th June at the purpose-built Bocce court in Kiltimagh, Co. Mayo. A total of 129 athletes from 13 clubs registered for the league, with 7 teams attending the final.
- 50 coaches took part in Coach Education and Training, delivered in Games Management System (GMS), the Golf Leader Programme and Introduction to Coaching Practices.

Eastern region

Development and education was the main focus for the Eastern Region in 2011. This was achieved through the various courses and workshops hosted in the region. Additional key highlights reflecting the outcomes of the regional review are as follows:

- 6 athletes and 3 coaches travelled to Austria on the 26th January for a European Alpine Skiing event. The Regional Alpine Skiing Event took place on 16th April with 30 athletes participating in the event.
- The Regional Basketball League 2010/11 had 18 teams competing throughout the season. The Awards Night was supported by members of the Killester Super League winning team who attended to present the awards to the captains of the winning teams.
- The Regional Football League 2010/2011 had 190 male players and 40 female players competing this season.



Eastern region athlete Ben Purcell is greeted by his family on his return from the European Alpine Skiing Event held in Austria.

- The 5th Annual Coach Forum was hosted in May in the National College of Ireland with 40 coaches from the region in attendance. Matt Williams, Setanta Sports, was the guest speaker and was absolutely inspirational.
- The first Bowling Tournament was launched on the 18th January 2011 with 231 athletes registered. The 2011/2012 tournament was launched in October 2011 and athlete numbers increased from 231 athletes in the first tournament to 256 athletes registered in 2011/2012 season.
- Recruitment of new officials, a focus area in the Regional Review, achieved the targets set for the new officials, resulting in 14 officials in Athletics, 18 in Aquatics and 20 in Bowling.

Leinster

- The region provided additional competition opportunities by organising for the first time, league competitions in Male and Female Basketball, Male 5-a-side Football, Bocce and Badminton.
- The development and growth in Badminton has resulted in 60 new athletes, from 3 clubs, taking part in competition events.
- 43 coaches completed Coach Education training on National Governing Body Courses
- Introduction to Coaching Practice Course completed by 23 volunteers from 10 clubs.
- Bocce Officials Course completed by 13 people from 5 clubs
- First ever Coaches' Forum was held in March.

Munster

- New sport of Floorball introduced, with first regional event being hosted in Killarney involving 80 athletes.
- New event team established in the Mid-West as part of the Ireland Games 2010 Legacy.
- Improved access to high quality sports facilities including Fota Island Golf Resort and 50m pool at the University of Limerick for the running of events.
- Division of the region into two areas (East/West) in order to cater for the increasing number of athletes wishing to take part in competition.
- Great support from the corporate sector including the Johnson & Johnson group of companies, E.M.C. and a new addition for 2011, Assurant Solutions in the organisation of events.



Athlete Conrad McCullough from St. Clare's in Ennis participating in a Munster Regional Artistic Gymnastics event held in April.

Ulster

- Development Days held in five sports – aquatics, athletics, football, kayaking and motor activities.
- Increased coach education opportunities offered, with 55 volunteers getting a new qualification and 107 others up-skilled to add to their existing qualification.
- 4 Inter club activities occurred during the year
- A review of Events, their management and delivery, was initiated during 2011 and will continue into 2012.

2011 World Games – Athens

Undoubtedly the highlight of the year for 126 athletes, their coaches, management team and family members was their participation in the 2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Athens, Greece. The athletes were supported by a team of 48 volunteers consisting of the management team members, head coaches and coaches, all of whom gave extremely willingly of their time. The training given to the team in terms of briefings on nutrition and, in particular, on hydration and sun safety was invaluable. Ireland had a strong representation of international-level officials at the Games, with 22 sports officials, 5 Technical Delegates and 1 Healthy Athlete clinician forming part of the Games Organising Committee.

Prior to the Games, the Irish team participated in the Host Town Programme, where they were hosted on the island of Rhodes. At the Games, the standard of the sports facilities was exceptionally high, giving many of our athletes the opportunity to compete in venues that hosted the 2004 Olympic and Paralympics Games – an incredible honour and achievement for them.

The Irish team were given huge support at their sports venues as a result of the large number of family members and supporters who travelled to the Games, including many of the 186 volunteers who made tremendous efforts to support the team during any time off from their volunteer duties. In addition, the presence of a number of members of the Board of Directors, the Council of Patrons and staff members was a huge boost for the team.

Minister of State, Michael Ring, accompanied by Donagh Morgan, Assistant Secretary, represented the Government at the Games. Kieran Mulvey, Chairperson of Irish Sports Council (ISC) and John Treacy, Chief Executive Officer (ISC), attended and also gave their wholehearted support.

Special Olympics is delighted that the athletes' achievement on this international stage was recognised by their presence and support.

Prior to the Games, a relationship was established between Special Olympics Ireland and the Irish Embassy in Athens. The Irish Ambassador and his staff were a terrific support to the team. The Irish Ambassador visited the team in Rhodes prior to their departure for Athens, hosted the Irish family members and volunteers at a reception in Athens and, on several occasions during the Games, arrived at the competition venues to support the athletes.

Team Ireland performed extremely well at the Games. The commitment to training was very evident, with athletes well prepared for the competitions, climate and other conditions, and resulting in the delivery of high quality performances. For many athletes, this may be their only opportunity to compete on the world stage in international standard sports venues, and each and every athlete showed great dedication in their efforts during the Games. With 13 personal best performances, the team performed beyond expectations in the hot summer weather in Athens. Team Ireland returned with 52 Ribbons (twenty one 4th places, fourteen 5th places, seven 6th place, five 7th place, three 8th place and two Participation Ribbons) and 107 medals (31 Gold, 43 Silver and 33 Bronze). On their return, the Team were honoured by a reception hosted by President Mary McAleese in Áras an Uachtaraín.



The Special Olympics Ireland bocce team pictured at the 2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Athens.

Club Development

	New 2011	Total at 31st Dec 2011
Athletes	1,043	10,772
Clubs	16	399

Athlete numbers continued to grow strongly in 2011 with 1,043 athletes joining the programme and 16 new Special Olympics clubs were established. There were a number of clubs that were disaffiliated during the year but all athletes in these clubs have been supported in finding a nearby club to join. The annual affiliation process for clubs saw improvements to the type of data issued to clubs and the data was presented in a more user-friendly and informative manner.

The Club Handbook underwent its second revision to update information and to make it more user-friendly for club volunteers. The handbook is due to issue in the first quarter of 2012.

A membership leaflet was developed and is available to clubs to use as a welcome and information leaflet for new athletes and/or their family members when they first join a club.

By end of 2011, a total of 6,800 membership cards have been distributed to athletes. Many of our clubs are promoting the carrying and production of these cards at their weekly club training sessions.



Cheetah's Special Olympics Club in Belfast is one of the 16 new Special Olympics clubs who affiliated during 2011.

Club Programme Highlights from around the Regions:

Connaught

- 160 new athletes have joined the programme.
- 3 new clubs established.
- 30 Support and Engagement visits completed. These consisted of individual visits and 3 cluster meetings in Westmeath, Mayo and Sligo.
- Athlete recruitment was re-launched in Galway, with the new athletes joining existing clubs within the county.

Eastern region

- 234 new athletes have joined the programme.
- 6 new clubs were established in 2011, offering a range of sports such as Bocce, Aquatics, Athletics, Equestrian and Motor Activities Training Programme. A total of 61 athletes are catered for across these clubs, 36 of whom are new athletes to the programme.
- 11 Support and Engagement visits completed.

Leinster

- 136 new athletes have joined the programme.
- 1 new club established.
- 28 Support and Engagement visits completed.
- 3 Clubs have completed training on the Special Olympics Ireland's Intellectual Disability Training Modules.

Munster

- 205 new athletes have joined the programme.
- 1 new club established.
- 26 clubs received a Support and Engagement visit.
- Clubs in the mid-west benefited from the Legacy of 2010 Ireland Games through the recruitment of new volunteers, new sports being offered and support from Games sponsors.

Ulster

- 308 new athletes have joined the programme.
- 5 new clubs registered
- 16 Support and Engagement visits completed.

Athlete Leadership Programme (ALPs)

The key focus in the Athlete Leadership Programme during 2011 was to build the support teams at regional level. Many successful and positive developments have taken place in the regions. As part of the development of the Strategic Plan for the National Institute for Intellectual Disability, a number of athletes from Special Olympics had the opportunity to participate in the consultation process for this strategy.

ALPs Programme Highlights from around the Regions:

Connaught

- ALPs Connaught training continued throughout the year with new athletes attending.
- Volunteer opportunities made available to ALPs athletes at the Bocce 7s final in June.

- The annual Awards Night took place in November. One Silver Award was presented, along with certificates for all ALPs Connaught athletes and mentors.

Eastern region

- ALPs Cookery workshop took place on Saturday 1st October 2011 in our new offices in Northpark. 16 athletes took part in the cookery workshop whilst the athletes' mentors completed two modules of the Intellectual Disability Training.
- 74 athletes attended the first ever ALPs Forum on 26th and 27th November 2011 in Dublin City University. The purpose of the forum was to encourage athletes new and existing to become involved in the ALPs programme and learn about Special Olympics. Mickey Whelan and Dublin All Ireland winner, James McCarthy, attended the forum, during which ALPs bronze awards were presented to 4 ALPs athletes.

Leinster

- Two ALPs Workshops were held, in Dundalk and Carlow.
- ALPs athlete, Barry Olwilll, from the Carlow Special Olympics ALPs Group, attended the 2011 Special Olympics Europe Eurasia Youth Training Seminar in November. The seminar focused on training athletes and mentors on how to create websites
- 6 ALPs athletes completed Introduction to Coaching Practice Course.

Munster

- ALPs athletes played key roles at a number of high profile events including the launch of the Johnson & Johnson association with the Munster programme and the All Ireland Collection Day.
- An introduction to ALPs workshop held involving 50 athletes and 20 mentors.

Ulster

- 8 new ALPs athletes recruited in 2011.
- New sponsor secured for the ALPs Programme in Ulster, with Northern Bank agreeing to support the programme.
- Area volunteers recruited to support ALPs in Ulster.
- ALPs athletes involved in Ulster funding launch.

Family Programme

As a result of a key objective during 2011 to capture the details of one designated family contact person for as many as possible of our registered athletes, the total number of designated family contact persons registered has now grown to 6,499. The aim is to establish a key person to be the point of contact for communication purposes.

Family members of the 126 athletes who participated in the World Summer Games were supported by a monthly communication in addition to a number of information meetings held in their region. A total of 392 family members attended the Games in Athens.



The Eastern Region family event in November had a "Grease" theme. Family members made a huge effort to get into the spirit of the event with some fantastic 'T-Bird' and 'Pink Lady' costumes on display.

Family Programme Highlights from around the Regions:

Connaught

- An Information Evening took place in May for family members of Team Ireland athletes. Over 50 family members attended.
- A Family Hospitality Area was available at various competition events.
- The 4th Annual Families Halloween Party took place on Sunday 30th October.

Eastern region

- A Family Event took place on Saturday 5th November 2011, with 487 attendees at the event. Various activities were on offer for family members and athletes. Guests of honour included Bernard Jackman, former Irish Rugby international player, and members of Team Ireland who competed at the 2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games.

Leinster

- 200 new family members registered.
- A Family Day was hosted in Knightsbrook Hotel, Trim, Co. Meath on May 22nd, with 70 attendees at the event.
- Family hospitality area and information centres were set up at Aquatics and Athletics Events.

Munster

- A Family Event was held in Limerick, involving 150 family members.
- Two new members recruited to Regional Families team.

Ulster

- 50 new family members registered this year, bringing the total registered family members to 1,436.

Volunteer Services

	New 2011	Total at 31st Dec 2011
Volunteers	1,839	23,839

It was a very busy year for the Volunteer Programme with 1,839 newly registered volunteers during 2011. All new volunteers eligible to receive photographic membership cards have been issued with their cards.



Some of the Special Olympics Ireland volunteers pictured in Athens during the 2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games.

A highlight of the year was the participation of 186 volunteers at the 2011 Special Olympics World Games in Athens. The calibre and commitment of our volunteers was greatly valued by the Games Organising Committee in Athens and recognised by their assignment to key management roles in different venues and for key programmes. Much credit and thanks is due to the enthusiasm and commitment shown by our Irish volunteer team. 30% of these volunteers were relatively new to Special Olympics Ireland and, since their return from Athens, have taken on more responsibility at a local level.

The number of volunteers now receiving our Volunteer Newsletter 'CONNECT' electronically has increased to 75%. This further increase has resulted in cost savings of over €12,000 during 2011.

The volunteer section of the website was re-developed in 2011, making it easier to navigate and download applicable vetting forms and other information.

Training

Over 500 new volunteers completed Volunteer Induction training in 2011. This training took the form of either online training or tutor-led training sessions across the programme. 6 new volunteer tutors were recruited and trained to deliver the course during 2011. From January 1st 2012, the Volunteer Induction training will be a mandatory requirement for all new volunteers.

In preparation for the Games, a number of Games-related training was provided to the 186 volunteers.

Two new online training courses were developed during the year. One of the online courses supported the delivery of the Health Promotion programme and is designed to be delivered by a facilitator to athletes within their service, centre or club. The second online training developed was to support the delivery of the Golf Leader Programme. Both of these online modules were piloted during the latter stages of 2011 and a full rollout is planned for 2012.

Video resources were created showing elements of volunteer roles at competition events and will be used to support volunteer Event and Games Management training. These resources are being further developed with voluntary support from former students of Dublin City University.

Deirdre Flood, a volunteer, from the Drogheda Special Olympics club, created six videos to educate volunteers on 'Life in a Special Olympics club'. These videos have been made available to Special Olympics for use in volunteer training and Deirdre received an international MEDEA award resulting from this great work.

Health Services

All clubs were updated with information on the availability of both the Intellectual Disability Education modules and the Athlete Code of Ethics workshops. Tutors delivered the Intellectual Disability Education modules to 3 clubs with a total of 70 attendees. Clubs that have indicated an interest in each of the courses during 2011, and who have not yet received training, and are scheduled for training during 2012.



A group from Loughrea, Co. Galway who participated in an Athlete Code of Ethics workshop.

During the year, resources in the Health Promotion Programme were piloted in participating clubs within the current pilot project. During the evaluation of the project a very positive response has been received to the ongoing work and value to our athletes of the project. In particular, family members have found the Health Promotion Programme to be of great assistance to them as, previous to this, there were no materials available that were specifically targeted for people with intellectual disabilities. To promote the programme to a wider audience, a number of Health Promotion Information Sessions were held in the regions throughout the year.

As a result of inter-departmental funding support from the Northern Ireland Executive, additional resources have been made available to Special Olympics Ulster to help drive the rollout of the Health Promotion Programme in the region.

A Healthy Athlete Event was held in Cavan at a regional competition event where athletes received information on nutrition, Body Mass Index (BMI) and other health promotion areas.

Research

In today's economic climate, attracting funding is an increasingly competitive and difficult task. Funders often look for concrete evidence, as opposed to anecdotal, on the outcomes of particular programmes or initiatives. Without concrete data to justify funding applications, organisations such as Special Olympics Ireland will find it increasingly difficult to secure funds to develop new or continue existing programmes.

Furthermore, research of this nature is required not only to examine the impact of Special Olympics on people's lives but also to provide clear evidence of the direct impact of participation in terms of achieved outcomes.

In 2011, a research project was initiated, with the primary aim established 'To investigate and assess over a three year period the impact and contribution of the programmes of Special Olympics Ireland to the health and well-being of persons with an intellectual disability on the island of Ireland'.

The results of the research programme will identify strategic recommendations that will inform policy in the future and provide a robust evaluation, for current and future funders, on the benefits of participation in Special Olympics Ireland programmes from the perspective of the person with intellectual disability themselves, their family members and their community.

The research programme will be assisted in 2012 by the Irish Sports Council and supported by the Iris O'Brien Foundation.

Marketing, Communications and Fundraising

Public Relations and Media

2011 was a really busy year from a Public and Media Relations perspective. The organisation received vast media coverage in 2011, making it a very significant year for the organisation in terms of raising awareness. The two main projects in the spotlight were the 2011 Annual All Ireland Collection Day and Team Ireland's participation at the 2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games.

Undoubtedly Team Ireland's participation at the 2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games meant that a significant amount of time was dedicated to communicating details of the team's preparations ahead of the Games.

In March, the official Team Ireland Launch took place in the National Convention Centre in Dublin. The media were hugely supportive of the Irish team, resulting in a significant amount of coverage ahead of the Games. RTÉ, Today FM, Newstalk and Sportsfile attended the Games to follow Team Ireland's progress. In addition, the media in Ireland were constantly looking for news of their local athletes and daily updates were sent to them to keep them informed.



Jonathan Griffin holds the Flame of Hope with Garda Síochána Deputy Commissioner Nacie Rice & Assistant Chief Constable Duncan McCausland, Police Service of Northern Ireland, at the official announcement of Team Ireland held at the National Convention Centre.

Increasing brand awareness and understanding of the Special Olympics program has been an ongoing challenge in Northern Ireland. A great opportunity to increase awareness of Special Olympics in the Ulster Region has been made possible due to Sport Northern Ireland funding. In late 2011, an audit on perceptions of Special Olympics was conducted and work started on building stronger relationships with the media in the region. An assessment of the baseline level of awareness will be undertaken in 2012.

eMarketing

- 158,876 visits made to www.specialolympics.ie by 80,931 visitors.
- 1,271 messages of support for athletes on "Support your Sporting Heroes" Facebook app.
- 21,780 Facebook fans.
- 2,792 Twitter followers.
- 350 personal fundraising pages created.

In 2011, there were 158,876 visits to www.specialolympics.ie by 80,931 visitors. Traffic peaked during the 2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games with significant traffic visiting the specially created Games microsite at www.specialolympics.ie/athens. This microsite profiled each member of Team Ireland and showcased the individual behind the athlete.

A significant volume of traffic to the website was generated by RTE.ie who included results directly from the Special Olympics Ireland website during the Games

A "Support your Sporting Heroes" Facebook app, which allowed people to leave messages of support for Team Ireland, was created in conjunction with eircom. 1,271 messages of support were gathered and these messages were presented to Team Ireland by eircom on their return to Dublin Airport.

An online registration system was created which allowed people to sign up online as a Collection Day volunteer. Online banner advertisements, encouraging people to volunteer in the run up to the Annual All Ireland Collection Day and to donate on the day, were created and placed across the Electric Media network (including Irishtimes.com, examiner.ie, thepost.ie, entertainment.ie, Boards.ie and Daft.ie).

A Merchandise Section was added to www.specialolympics.ie that allows people to purchase Special Olympics Ireland merchandise online.

Fundraising

The overall fundraising target for 2011 was €2.4 million. Plans to achieve this amount included organising a number of campaigns and activities, using the World Games as an opportunity to maximise the publicity. The year started with the Annual All Ireland Collection Day where 3,000 people came out to raise money on the day. Over €661,000 was raised on Collection Day in 2011.

In order to alleviate some of the costs associated with the World Summer Games in Athens, a Support An Athlete (SAA) Campaign took place. Each supporter received a pack that included a profile of the athlete been supported and a certificate in recognition of their support. During the Games frequent updates on the athlete's progress were sent to the supporter. This campaign raised over €230,000 and introduced Special Olympics to a new audience of corporate bodies and organisations.

In all five regions, Regional Fundraising Co-ordinators worked successfully in raising local funds and encouraging fundraising activity in a wide variety of communities. These coordinators also supported the 186 volunteers who travelled to Athens as part of the Volunteer Programme for the Games. Each individual volunteer made a commitment to raise a minimum of €3,250 each, resulting in the overall programme raising €641,000.

The organisation continues to receive fantastic support from our Council of Patrons. The Council, chaired by Denis O'Brien, is made up of a group of influential, high profile business, community, entertainment and sporting personalities. The Council meet twice a year to get updates on progress and future plans. Throughout the year, the Council provided support in a number of ways from fundraising to creating opportunities for networking and raising awareness and indeed patrons were involved in various projects and programmes to promote Special Olympics.

By end of 2011, the fundraising target was exceeded, having raised a total of €2,545,710.

Sponsorship

Special Olympics Ireland has been fortunate to have eircom as the premier sponsor of the programme for over 26 years. In 2011, following successful negotiations, a new four-year sponsorship contract was agreed that would ensure continued value-in-kind and financial support, as well as volunteering support from eircom staff for Special Olympics Ireland.

Munster has continued a strong relationship with their sponsor, Johnson and Johnson. In Ulster, the Northern Bank agreed to sponsor the ALPs programme.



Carolyn Lennon, Chief Marketing Officer with eircom, sponsors of Team Ireland, presenting Head of Delegation Fiona Murray with a copy of the 1,271 goodwill messages sent to the Team through the 'Support your Sporting Heroes' Facebook app.

Commitment to Standards in Fundraising Practice

Special Olympics Ireland is fully committed to achieving the standards contained within the Statement of Guiding Principles for Fundraising.

The Statement exists to:

- Improve fundraising practice.
- Promote high levels of accountability and transparency by organisations fundraising from the public.
- Provide clarity and assurances to donors and prospective donors about the organisations they support.

We, Special Olympics Ireland, have considered the Statement and believe we meet the standards it sets out. We welcome your feedback on our performance via any of the contact points provided.

Contact:

Matt English
Chief Executive Officer

Sahra O'Neill
Marketing Communications & Fundraising
Director

Special Olympics Ireland
4th Floor, Park House,
North Circular Road,
Dublin 7

Tel: +353 1 8823972
Email: info@specialolympics.ie

Our offices are open 5 days a week from
9.00am to 5.00pm.

Strategy 2012 - 2015

As 2011 was the final year of Special Olympics Ireland's prevailing strategic plan, the development of the next four-year strategy got underway in January 2011. During January and February, initial consultations were held with stakeholders including the five Regional Councils, volunteer support teams, staff teams and the Board of Directors. A dedicated strategy email was established, as well as an online facility option on the Special Olympics website, both allowing for direct input to the consultation phases.

A Draft 1 Strategy document was issued on 31st March for review by stakeholders. A second round of consultations took place during April and early May and following the collation of feedback from the consultations, a final draft strategy was issued to Board of Directors for review and approval. The Board of Directors confirmed their approval of the Special Olympics Ireland Strategy 2012 -2015 at the Annual General Meeting on 11th June 2011.

The Strategy is available to download at www.specialolympics.ie/strategy

Support Functions

Administration

All regional office premises were reviewed for their suitability and it was recommended that all regional offices needed to secure larger office space. A new office property for the Eastern region was identified early in 2011 and an agreement negotiated and signed by the start of July. Following a complete fit-out of the office, the Eastern Region moved into their new premises at the end of August 2011.

A search for new premises for the Ulster Region commenced in August 2011 and three properties have been short listed to go before the Board of Directors early in 2012.

2012 will see the continuation of the Ulster region office move. A review of the central office and the Leinster office accommodation will both take place in 2012 as the contracts for both will be coming up for renewal in 2013. Additional space requirements in Munster will also be explored.

The annual review of the Special Olympics Ireland Health and Safety Statement took place late in October 2011 and an update was distributed to all the Regional Offices.

Apart from identifying the need for more suitable office space, no other material health and safety issues arose.

Logistics

A new inventory system has been put in place for the management of stock.

Information Technology

From an Information Technology perspective, the focus through 2011 lay firmly with improving the organisation's "Information". In late 2010, the organisation was invited by Special Olympics Europe Eurasia to help source and trial a new Constituent Relationship Management (CRM) system which could be used as a model for other Special Olympics programmes across the region.

By early February, a suitable system was chosen, enabling better capture and management of our stakeholders' information (athletes, volunteers, family members, donors, etc.). Other core functionality provided by the system included Event, Volunteer and Fundraising management tools. Over the following nine months, the project went through various design, development, data conversion and testing phases, culminating in a mid-November release date for users. Smaller phased rollouts of additional system functionality are scheduled during the first half of 2012.

Two other significant IT projects during 2011 included the award of a €320k grant from Microsoft to upgrade desktop and server software and the upgrade of our data lines by eircom to help improve connectivity between central and regional offices.

Human Resources

With financial support received from Northern Ireland Executive, and with the support of Sport NI, two new positions were advertised and successfully filled in the Ulster region, resulting in the appointment of a new Regional Development Officer with responsibility for Clubs and a Project Officer in Education and Health Promotion.

To assist in the rollout of the Constituent Relationship Management (CRM) software, an employee was appointed to the role of CRM and Business Applications Support. A Direct Marketing Co-ordinator was appointed to the Marketing, Communications & Fundraising Department. This new post was the final one to be filled as part of the new fundraising strategy launched in 2010.

Special Olympics is delighted to have received the continued support of FÁS in 2011 through its Community Employment Scheme, where 20 part time assistants were engaged in the programme, providing support across six offices.

The Board of Directors established a Human Resources and Remuneration Subcommittee in 2011 and regular meetings were held throughout the year.



Financial Report and Accounts

Registration Number: 228545

SPECIAL OLYMPICS IRELAND LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital)

REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2011

BOYLAN & DODD

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

SPECIAL OLYMPICS IRELAND LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital)

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SPECIAL OLYMPICS IRELAND LIMITED

(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital)

COMPANY INFORMATION:

DIRECTORS:

Mary Davis (Chairperson) (Resigned 11/06/2011)
Michael Quinlivan (Resigned 11/06/2011)
Teresa McCabe
Brian Osborne
Peter Fitzgerald
Dervila O'Mahony
Ann Bourke
Nicole Redmond
Ronan King (Interim Chairperson) (Appointed 11/06/2011)
Fiona Donaghy
Maurice Redmond
Liam Collins
John Spillane
Laura Murphy
John McKernan (Appointed 11/06/2011)

SECRETARY:

Liam Collins

COMPANY NUMBER:

228545

CHARITY NUMBER:

CHY 7556

REGISTERED OFFICE:

4th Floor,
Park House,
North Circular Road,
Dublin 7.

BANKERS:

Bank of Ireland,
Lower Baggot Street,
Dublin 2.

AUDITORS:

Boylan & Dodd,
Chartered Accountants,
41 Percy Place,
Dublin 4.

SOLICITORS:

Beauchamps,
Riverside Two,
Sir John Rogerson Quay,
Dublin 2

SPECIAL OLYMPICS IRELAND LIMITED

(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital)

DIRECTORS' REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2011

The directors present their Annual Report together with the Audited financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2011.

Principal activity

The company was incorporated on the 4th July 1978 and its principal activity is the development and promotion of the Special Olympics movement in Ireland.

Current Business and future developments

Special Olympics Ireland (SOI) continued to provide a year-round sports training and competition programme for athletes with an intellectual disability, in Special Olympics clubs around the island. The Special Olympics Programme offers 15 different sports and a comprehensive Motor Activities programme for those not yet ready for competition. The programme includes a range of sporting, social and community-based activities which generate enormous health, educational and social inclusion benefits for people with intellectual disabilities. We are now one of Ireland's largest sporting and voluntary organisations with 10,772 Athletes registered to 399 clubs right across the thirty two counties at the end of December 2011. The programme is supported by 86 full time equivalent staff and 23,839 registered volunteers.

A key aspect of the work of the organisation is the support and development of clubs involved in the year-round sports programme. In this regard, 2011 was also an extremely busy year on the competition front with some of the major highlights including:

- 1,046 new athletes and 1,839 new volunteers registered
- 16 new Special Olympics clubs affiliated
- Successful participation by 126 athletes, their coaches, management teams and family members, along with 186 volunteers, in the 2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Athens
- Increase in the opportunities for and uptake of sports education and training
- Basketball Grading DVD produced as a resource for club coaches in Ireland and adopted by SO Europe Eurasia for other National Programmes
- Two new online training courses developed, for the Health Promotion Programme and the Golf Leader Programme
- Growth in online activity across the website, facebook, twitter, etc.
- Launch and implementation of Phase 1 Constituent Relationship Management (CRM) system in November
- 4-year sponsorship contract agreed with eircom
- 4-year multi-departmental grant awarded by the Northern Ireland Executive
- 2012 – 2015 Special Olympics Ireland Strategic Plan approved

At regional level, the support and engagement visits with clubs continued to be a huge focus. A need was identified to update the Club Handbook and this was undertaken in 2011, made user-friendly for club volunteers and committees. The handbook is due to issue in the first quarter of 2012. Terrific work has been achieved at regional level in promoting coach education and training and the numbers of volunteers and coaches attending courses last year rose significantly.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS IRELAND LIMITED

(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital)

DIRECTORS' REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2011(Contd.).

Undoubtedly the highlight of the year for the organisation was the participation of 126 athletes, their coaches, management teams and family members in the 2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Athens, Greece. The athletes were supported by a team of 48 volunteers consisting of the management team members, head coaches and coaches. Ireland had a strong representation of international-level officials at the Games, with 22 Sports Officials, 5 Technical Delegates and 1 Healthy Athlete clinician forming part of the Games Organising Committee. Team Ireland performed extremely well at the Games and each and every athlete showed great dedication and application in their efforts during the Games. This was evident as they yet again surpassed all expectations in the hot summer weather with a fantastic 13 personal best performances, 52 ribbons and 107 medals.

2011 was also a hugely significant year for fundraising with the World Summer Games providing an opportunity to maximise publicity. The All Ireland Collection Day took place on Friday 15th April and incredible support was received as over 3,000 volunteers came out to help fundraise for Special Olympics Ireland and over €661,000 was raised on the day. Across all five regions the fundraising strategy succeeded in raising local funds and encouraging fundraising activity in a wide variety of communities. The 186 volunteers who travelled to Athens as part of the Volunteer Programme for the Games committed to raise a minimum of €3,250 each, and their efforts resulted in the overall programme raising €641,000.

This year also saw us continue our partnership with our premier sponsor, eircom, ongoing now for 26 years. This is a cause of tremendous pride on the part of both organisations. Special Olympics Ireland also continued to build relationships with others sponsors, including Ulster Bank (Families Programme Sponsor) and with Kia Ireland (Vehicle Sponsor). Special Olympics Munster has continued a strong relationship with their sponsor, Johnson and Johnson and in Ulster, the Northern Bank have agreed to sponsor the ALPs programme. These relationships are much valued and continue to be strategically important.

Special Olympics Ireland also signed up to a multi-annual agreement with the Northern Ireland Executive which secured core grant funding for the Northern Ireland element of our programme into 2015.

In the current economic circumstances, maintaining current levels of funding is critical for the organisation. We continue to work with both the Irish and Northern Ireland governments in relation to securing and maintaining core grant funding towards sustaining the All Ireland programme across the 32 counties. The Irish Sports Council continued to be our main core grant funder. The 2011 grant was cut by 23.5% compared to that received during 2010.

Fundraising activities with the general public will remain a key factor in both generating required funds and maintaining a high awareness profile.

Demand for new clubs and new sports activities remain buoyant and the organisation continues to be underpinned by the dedication of thousands of volunteers which continues to be a focus for us in 2012.

Results

The surplus for the year before transfers amounted to €119,179 (2010 – deficit of €99,893).

Post Balance Sheet Events

There have been no significant events affecting the company since the year end.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS IRELAND LIMITED

(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital)

DIRECTORS' REPORT **YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2011(Contd.).**

Directors of the Company and their interests

The Directors of the Company are given in a list on page 1 of the Accounts. The Directors have no financial interest in the company which is limited by guarantee without a share capital.

Books of Account

The company's directors are aware of their responsibilities, under section 202 of the Companies Act 1990, to maintain proper books of account and are discharging their responsibility by employing qualified and experienced staff. Ensuring that sufficient company resources are available for the task and liaising with the company's auditors seeking external professional accounting advice.

The books of account are held at the company's business premises, 4th Floor, Park House, North Circular Road, Dublin 7.

Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005

The well being of the company's employees is safe guarded through strict adherence to health and safety standards. The Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005 imposes certain requirements on employers and the company has taken the necessary action to ensure compliance with the Act, including the adoption of a safety statement.

Structure, Governance and Management:

Structure

Special Olympics Ireland is a company limited by guarantee (incorporated on the 4th July 1978) and the company is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association, which sets out its purpose in the following terms:

To organise and conduct Special Olympics training and competition programmes in Ireland and Northern Ireland in accordance with and furtherance of the mission, goal and founding principles of the international Special Olympics movement, including in particular,

- (a) The mission of providing year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for persons with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community, and
- (b) The ultimate goal of assisting persons with intellectual disabilities to participate as productive and respected members of society at large, by offering them a fair opportunity to develop and demonstrate their skills and talents through sports training and competition, by providing social and leisure opportunities for them, and by helping to increase the public's awareness of their capabilities and needs.

The company's purpose as stated above was in place during the period of these accounts.

Governance

The Board of Special Olympics Ireland (SOI) is committed to maintaining the highest standard of corporate governance and they believe that this is a key element in ensuring the proper operation of the company's activities. To this end the Board are working towards full implementation of the Code of Governance for the Community, Voluntary and Charitable sector, which was launched at the end of February 2012.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS IRELAND LIMITED

(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital)

DIRECTORS' REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2011(Contd.).

The members of the Board are the directors of Special Olympics Ireland and the Board has the function of overseeing, directing and coordinating the policies, organisation, affairs and activities of Special Olympics Ireland.

The Board is responsible for providing leadership, setting strategy and ensuring control. Board members are drawn from diverse backgrounds, bringing their significant expertise and decision-making skills achieved in their respective fields to Board deliberations.

Clear division of responsibility within the organisation is maintained, with the Board retaining control of major decisions under a formal schedule of matters reserved to the Board and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) having responsibility for devising strategy and policy within the authorities delegated by the Board.

SOI has a comprehensive process to ensure that performance is monitored and that appropriate management information is prepared and reviewed regularly by both executive management and the Board. Board members receive induction training and an information pack designed to familiarise them with the company's operations, management and governance.

During 2011 the Board comprised of fifteen non-executive-directors. All Board members are appointed for an initial two-year term, which may be renewed for two further terms of two years each, giving a maximum of six continuous years for any one non-executive-director. The Board met seven times in 2011. The Board has formed the following subcommittees, chaired by a member of the board and with agreed terms of reference:-

- **Human Resources & Remuneration Subcommittee**

Chairperson: Laura Murphy

The role of the subcommittee is to support the human resources (HR) management function of the organisation, ensuring compliance with all legislative requirements and to monitor and review the Remuneration Policy and to make recommendations to the Board on any HR matters.

- **Finance Subcommittee**

Chairperson: Ronan King

The role of the Finance Subcommittee is to share the workload of the Treasurer in monitoring and managing the organisation's finances. It provides an opportunity for detailed discussions and consideration of financial matters, with regular reporting to the Board.

- **Investment Subcommittee**

Chairperson: Ronan King

The Investment Subcommittee is responsible for reviewing and making recommendations to the Board regarding the organisation's investment strategy.

- **Audit Subcommittee/Governance Subcommittee**

Chairperson: Maurice Redmond

The role of the Audit Subcommittee is to ensure that the organisation applies consistent financial reporting and internal control procedures and maintains an appropriate relationship with the Company's Auditor.

In terms of Governance, the subcommittee's role is to ensure the Code of Practice for Good Governance of Community, Voluntary and Charitable organisations in Ireland is implemented as it applies to the company.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS IRELAND LIMITED

(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital)

DIRECTORS' REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2011(Contd.).

- **Distinguished Service Award Subcommittee**

Chairperson: Brian Osborne

The role of the Distinguished Service Award Subcommittee is to review nominations for the Award and to make recommendations to the Board on the recipients.

Internal Controls

The Board acknowledge its overall responsibility for the organisation's systems of internal control and for reviewing its effectiveness. They have delegated responsibility for the monitoring of these systems to the audit subcommittee and responsibility for the implementation of these systems to the CEO and the executive management.

The internal control systems are designed to provide reasonable but not absolute assurance against material mis-statement or loss, to enable the Board to meet its responsibilities for the integrity and accuracy of the company's financial and non-financial records. They include:

- a) A four-year strategic plan including financial projections approved by the Board.
- b) An annual budget approved by the Board.
- c) Regular consideration by the Board of both financial results including variances from budgets, and non-financial reports on key performance indicators.
- d) Delegation of day-to-day management, levels of authority and segregation of duties.
- e) Identification and management of risks.

Risk Management

The company's risk-management processes are designed to enable the organisation to conclude whether the major risks to which SOI is exposed to have been identified and reviewed and systems and procedures been established to mitigate these risks. Major risks are those which have a high likelihood of occurring and would, if they occurred, have a severe impact on either operational performance or achievement of purposes and objectives, or cause damage to the organisation's reputation.

As Trustees, the Board concentrates its efforts on ensuring that the most serious risks are being managed effectively. The Board does this by conducting a regular review of the organisation's risk register. The risk register identifies material risks and assesses their probability, in order to mitigate any impact that Special Olympics Ireland is exposed to currently and in the short to medium term. To assist in the identification of risks, SOI adopts four risk categories:

- a) Governance and management risks
- b) Financial risks
- c) Risks to reputation
- d) Operational risks

The above risk management systems can only seek to manage, rather than eliminate, the risk of failure to achieve business objectives and can provide only reasonable, not absolute, assurance against material misstatement or loss.

Management

The Board is responsible for the strategic direction of the Special Olympics Programme, ensuring the objectives of Special Olympics Ireland, and of the wider international movement, are met by delegating day to day management to the CEO.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS IRELAND LIMITED

(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital)

DIRECTORS' REPORT
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2011(Contd.).

The Special Olympics programme is offered as an All-Ireland programme which is managed centrally across 5 departments, under the direction of the CEO.

The programme is sub-divided into five regional programmes, namely Connaught, Eastern, Leinster, Munster and Ulster. At regional level, the programme is managed on a day-to-day basis by a team of regional staff, under the direction of the Regional Director, supported by the Regional Committee which is made up of regional volunteers who, in turn, work alongside many other teams of volunteers.

Commitment to Standards in Fundraising Practice

Special Olympics Ireland is fully committed to achieving the standards contained within the Statement of Guiding Principles for Fundraising. The directors have considered the Statement and believe we meet the standards it sets out.

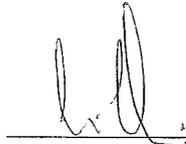
Auditors

The auditors, Boylan and Dodd, have indicated their willingness to continue in office in accordance with the provisions of Section 160 (2) of the Companies Act, 1963.

On behalf of the Board:



Director



Director

Date: 21/4/2012

SPECIAL OLYMPICS IRELAND LIMITED

(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital)

STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE MEMBERS' FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2011

The directors are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable Irish law and Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland including the accounting standards issued by the Accounting Standards Board and published by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland.

Irish company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the surplus or deficit of the company for that period.

In preparing those financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors confirm that they have complied with the above requirements in preparing the financial statements.

The directors are responsible for keeping proper books of account which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and to enable them to ensure the financial statements are prepared in accordance with the accounting standards generally accepted in Ireland and with Irish statute comprising the Companies Acts 1963 to 2009.

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Where financial statements are to be published on the web, the directors are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the company's website.

In so far as the directors are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information (information needed by the company's auditors in connection with preparing their report) of which the company's auditors are unaware, and
- the directors have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

The directors are also responsible under company law for securing the company's compliance with its relevant obligations, as defined in the Companies (Auditing and Accounting) Act 2003, and for preparing an annual directors' report setting out specified matters. Those matters specify whether, based on the company's procedures and their review of those procedures, they are of the opinion that they have used all reasonable endeavours to secure the company's compliance with its relevant obligations during the year to which the report relates.

On behalf of the Board:



Director



Director

Date: 21/4/2012

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
SPECIAL OLYMPICS IRELAND LIMITED**

(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital)

We have audited the Financial Statements of Special Olympics Ireland Limited for the year ended 31st December 2011 which comprise the income and expenditure account, the balance sheet, cash flow statement and related notes. These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and the accounting policies set out therein.

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with Section 193 of the Companies Act, 1990. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective Responsibilities of Directors and Auditors

As described in the statement of directors' responsibilities the company's directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and Irish Accounting Standards issued by the Accounting Standards Board in the UK and Ireland (Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland).

Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland and are properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Acts 1963 to 2009. We also report to you whether in our opinion: proper books of account have been kept by the company; and whether the information given in the Directors' Report is consistent with the financial statements. In addition, we state whether we have obtained all the information and explanations necessary for the purposes of our audit and whether the company's balance sheet and its profit and loss account are in agreement with the books of account.

We also report, to the members if, in our opinion, any information specified by law regarding directors' remuneration and directors' transactions is not disclosed and where practicable, include such information in our report.

We read the directors' report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements within it.

Basis of audit opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the directors in the preparation of the financial statements and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
SPECIAL OLYMPICS IRELAND LIMITED (continued)**
(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital)

Opinion

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view, in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland, of the state of the Company's affairs as at 31 December 2011 and of its surplus and cash flows for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Acts 1963 to 2009.

We have obtained all the information and explanations we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit. In our opinion, proper books of account have been kept by the company. The financial statements are in agreement with the books of account.

In our opinion, the information given in the Directors' Report is consistent with the financial statements.



Donal P. Boylan
For and on behalf of

Boylan & Dodd
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors
41 Percy Place,
Dublin 4

21st April 2012

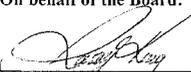
SPECIAL OLYMPICS IRELAND LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital)

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2011

		Continuing Operations			
		<u>2011</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
		Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
<u>Notes</u>		€	€	€	€
<u>INCOME:</u>					
	Irish Sports Council	-	1,765,000	1,765,000	2,307,842
	Northern Ireland Executive	-	404,875	404,875	-
	Health Service Executive Grant (Northern Area)	-	92,518	92,518	94,190
	Health Service Executive Grant (North West Area)	-	20,000	20,000	20,000
	Other Grants	-	405,500	405,500	382,988
	Irish Aid	-	63,750	63,750	36,000
	Fundraising, Sponsorship and Donations	-	2,664,192	2,664,192	2,143,640
	Investment Income	-	340,112	340,112	356,996
	Sundry Income	-	42,954	42,954	90,249
	Cost Recovery Income	-	51,814	51,814	57,474
	Participation Fees	-	77,264	77,264	2,190,578
	Merchandise Income	-	<u>6,477</u>	<u>6,477</u>	<u>59,480</u>
	Total Income	<u>-</u>	<u>5,934,456</u>	<u>5,934,456</u>	<u>7,739,437</u>
<u>EXPENDITURE:</u>					
	Sports Programmes	(2) 16,794	1,695,907	1,712,701	1,726,471
	Games and Events	(3) -	806,359	806,359	3,286,842
	Support Programmes	(4) -	1,439,335	1,439,335	1,414,236
	Governance	(5) -	396,045	396,045	353,004
	Advocacy	(6) -	285,597	285,597	312,049
	Fundraising	(7) -	<u>1,175,240</u>	<u>1,175,240</u>	<u>746,728</u>
	Total Expenditure	<u>16,794</u>	<u>5,798,483</u>	<u>5,815,277</u>	<u>7,839,330</u>
	(Deficit) / Surplus for Year	(8) (16,794)	<u>135,973</u>	<u>119,179</u>	<u>(99,893)</u>

There are no recognised gains or losses other than the surplus or deficit for the above two financial periods.

On behalf of the Board:


 Roman King (Chairman)


 Liam Collins (Company Secretary & Director)

Date: 21/4/2012

SPECIAL OLYMPICS IRELAND LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital)

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2011

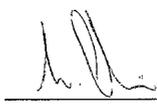
	<u>Note</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
		€	€
<u>FIXED ASSETS:</u>			
Assets	(13)	62,848	64,828
Investments	(14)	-	<u>250,000</u>
		<u>62,848</u>	<u>314,828</u>
<u>CURRENT ASSETS:</u>			
Stocks	(15)	110,732	116,428
Bank & Cash		9,275,410	9,040,159
Debtors & Prepayments	(16)	<u>165,075</u>	<u>122,262</u>
		9,551,217	9,278,849
<u>CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year</u>	(17)	<u>(426,180)</u>	<u>(524,971)</u>
<u>NET CURRENT ASSETS:</u>		<u>9,125,037</u>	<u>8,753,878</u>
<u>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES:</u>		<u>9,187,885</u>	<u>9,068,706</u>
<u>RESERVES:</u>			
<u>Restricted Reserves</u> (18)			
Regional Office Reserves		1,306,254	1,236,140
Host Town Fund		70,619	87,412
Open Eyes Fund		6,230	6,230
Paris to Nice Cycle Fund (Eastern)		<u>60,136</u>	-
		<u>1,443,239</u>	<u>1,329,782</u>
<u>Unrestricted Reserves</u> (19)			
Unrestricted Funds		2,460,905	2,455,183
Designated Funding Reserve 2008 to 2011		<u>5,283,741</u>	<u>5,283,741</u>
		<u>7,744,646</u>	<u>7,738,924</u>
<u>MEMBERS FUNDS:</u>	(20)	<u>9,187,885</u>	<u>9,068,706</u>

On behalf of the Board:



Director

Date: 21/4/2012



Director

SPECIAL OLYMPICS IRELAND LIMITED*(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital)***CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2011**

	<u>Note</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
		€	€
<u>Reconciliation of operating (deficit)/surplus to net</u>			
<u>Cash outflow from operating activities</u>			
Operating (Deficit) / Surplus		(220,933)	(456,889)
Depreciation		33,408	47,684
(Increase) / Decrease in debtors		(42,813)	18,485
(Increase) / Decrease in stock		5,696	(40,600)
Increase / (Decrease) in creditors		<u>(98,791)</u>	<u>68,489</u>
Net cash (outflow) / inflow from operating activities		<u>(323,433)</u>	<u>(362,831)</u>
<u>Cash flow statement</u>			
Net cash (outflow) / inflow from operating activities		(323,433)	(362,831)
Returns on investment and servicing of finance	(21)	340,112	356,996
Capital expenditure and financial investment	(21)	<u>218,572</u>	<u>(60,842)</u>
(Decrease) / Increase in cash in the year		<u>235,251</u>	<u>(66,677)</u>
<u>Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net funds (Note 22)</u>			
(Decrease) / Increase in cash in the year		235,251	(66,677)
Net funds at 1 st January 2011		<u>9,040,159</u>	<u>9,106,836</u>
Net funds at 31st December 2011		<u>9,275,410</u>	<u>9,040,159</u>

Note:

Operating Deficit is stated after deduction of interest receivable.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS IRELAND LIMITED

(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital)

NOTES ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2011

1. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES:

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the company's financial statements.

(a) **Basis of Financial Statements Preparation:**

The audited financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting standards generally accepted in Ireland and Irish statute comprising the Companies Acts 1963 to 2009. Accounting Standards generally accepted in Ireland in preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view are those issued by the Accounting Standards Board and published by the Auditing Practices Board in the UK and Ireland.

(b) **Income:**

Income is recognised as it is received for the following categories:

Sponsorship Income, Fundraising, Trusts, Investment Income, Sundry Income, Cost Recovery Income and Merchandise Income.

Grants Income is recognised in the Income and Expenditure Statement as the related expenditure is incurred.

(c) **Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation:**

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation less residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Leasehold Improvements	-	30% Straight Line
Computer equipment	-	Straight Line over 3 years
Office Equipment	-	25% Straight Line
Fixtures & Fittings	-	25% Straight Line
Motor Vehicles	-	25% Reducing Balance

(d) **Investments:**

Fixed asset investments are stated at cost less provision for diminution in value.

(e) **Stock:**

Stock is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

(f) **Pensions:**

The Company operates a defined contribution scheme. Contributions payable to this scheme are charged to the profit and loss account in the period in which they relate. These contributions are invested separately to the company's assets.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS IRELAND LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital)

NOTES ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Contd.)

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2011

(g) **Foreign Currencies:**

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into Euros at the rate of exchange prevailing at the accounting date. Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the date of the transactions. All differences are taken to the Income and Expenditure account.

(h) **Reserve:**

It is stated policy of the charity to ensure that there are sufficient reserves available to meet projected expenditure for a minimum of twelve months ahead.

2.	<u>SPORTS PROGRAMMES:</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
		€	€
	Staff Costs	1,119,372	1,121,465
	Programme Costs	463,026	485,059
	IT	21,468	11,936
	HR and Operations	19,131	6,832
	Rent, Services and General Office Costs	56,613	52,056
	Other Project Costs	<u>33,091</u>	<u>49,123</u>
		1,712,701	1,726,471
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>
3.	<u>GAMES AND EVENTS:</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
		€	€
	Staff Costs	409,350	397,519
	Programme Costs	5,269	6,761
	Games Costs	311,146	2,811,737
	IT	21,468	11,936
	HR and Operations	2,512	6,832
	Rent, Services and General Office Costs	<u>56,614</u>	<u>52,056</u>
		806,359	3,286,841
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>

SPECIAL OLYMPICS IRELAND LIMITED*(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital)***NOTES ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Contd.)****YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2011**

4. <u>SUPPORT PROGRAMMES:</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
	€	€
Staff Costs	911,279	929,418
Programme Costs	358,919	312,856
Volunteer Services	23,310	40,893
IT	21,468	11,936
HR and Operations	2,512	6,832
Rent, Services and General Office Costs	56,613	52,056
Other Projects	<u>65,234</u>	<u>60,244</u>
	1,439,335	1,414,235
	<hr/>	<hr/>
5. <u>GOVERNANCE:</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
	€	€
Staff Costs	234,287	217,514
Financial Administration	80,362	64,665
IT	21,468	11,936
HR and Operations	3,315	6,832
Rent, Services and General Office Costs	<u>56,613</u>	<u>52,056</u>
	396,045	353,003
	<hr/>	<hr/>
6. <u>ADVOCACY:</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
	€	€
Staff Costs	190,838	182,997
Strategic Costs	33,297	45,358
PR, Marketing and Communications	<u>61,462</u>	<u>83,694</u>
	285,597	312,049
	<hr/>	<hr/>
7. <u>FUNDRAISING:</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
	€	€
Staff Costs	556,626	499,433
IT	21,468	11,936
HR & Operations	2,512	6,832
Rent, Services and General Office Costs	56,613	52,056
Fundraising Activities	<u>538,021</u>	<u>176,471</u>
	1,175,240	746,728
	<hr/>	<hr/>

SPECIAL OLYMPICS IRELAND LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital)

NOTES ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Contd.)

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2011

8. <u>(DEFICIT) / SURPLUS FOR YEAR:</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
	€	€
(Deficit) / Surplus for the year is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Depreciation of Tangible Assets	33,408	47,684
Loss/ (Gain) on Foreign Currencies	(5,169)	(15,790)
Auditors Remuneration	17,080	17,484
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

9. <u>EMPLOYEES</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
<u>Number of employees</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Number</u>
The average number of employees during the year was	86	88
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

<u>Employment costs</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
	€	€
Wages & Salaries	3,045,610	3,151,714
Social Welfare Costs	321,155	332,431
Other Pension Costs	<u>50,976</u>	<u>50,285</u>
	<u>3,417,741</u>	<u>3,534,430</u>

10. TRANSACTIONS WITH DIRECTORS:

There were no related party transactions with the directors during the period.

11. PENSION COSTS:

The Company operates a defined contribution scheme for the benefit of its employees. The scheme and its assets are held separately from those of the company in independently administered funds. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the company to the funds and amounted to €50,976 (2010-€50,285).

12. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS:

There were no related party transactions during the period.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS IRELAND LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital)

NOTES ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Contd.)

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2011

13. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS:

	Leasehold Improvements	Computer Equipment	Office Equipment	Equipment, Fixtures & Fittings	Motor Vehicles	Total
	€	€	€	€	€	€
<u>COST:</u>						
At 1 st January 2011	47,619	208,043	29,565	44,608	81,411	411,246
Additions	-	28,148	-	6,904	-	35,052
Disposals	(47,619)	-	-	(3,624)	(25,570)	(76,813)
At 31 st December 2011	-	236,191	29,565	47,888	55,841	369,485
<u>DEPRECIATION:</u>						
At 1 st January 2011	47,619	189,024	29,565	33,001	47,209	346,418
Charge for Year	-	14,094	-	6,501	14,340	34,935
Depreciation on Disposals	(47,619)	-	-	(1,522)	(25,570)	(74,716)
At 31 st December 2011	-	203,118	29,565	37,975	35,979	306,637
<u>NET BOOK AMOUNTS:</u>						
At 31 st December 2011	-	33,073	-	9,913	19,862	62,848
At 31 st December 2010	-	19,019	-	11,607	34,202	64,828

SPECIAL OLYMPICS IRELAND LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital)
NOTES ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Contd.)
YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2011

14. <u>INVESTMENTS:</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
	€	€
Growth Opportunity Bond	-	250,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The Growth Opportunity Bond matured in December 2011. This fund was created to meet future funding requirements.

15. <u>STOCKS:</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
	€	€
Stocks	110,732	116,428
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Stock consisted of merchandising items

16. <u>DEBTORS:</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
	€	€
Trade Debtors	19,537	34,095
Other Debtors	51,472	18,032
Prepayments & Accrued Income	<u>94,066</u>	<u>70,135</u>
	165,075	122,262
	<hr/>	<hr/>

17. <u>CREDITORS:</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
	€	€

Amounts falling due within one year:

Trade Creditors	35,141	64,842
PAYE and social welfare	100,136	87,334
Accruals and deferred income	278,210	363,435
Other Creditors	<u>12,693</u>	<u>9,360</u>
	426,180	524,971
	<hr/>	<hr/>

SPECIAL OLYMPICS IRELAND LIMITED*(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital)***NOTES ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Contd.)****YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2011****18. RESTRICTED RESERVES:**

	<u>Regional Office Reserve</u>	<u>Host Town Fund</u>	<u>Paris To Nice Fund</u>	<u>Open Eyes Fund</u>	<u>Total</u>
	€	€	€	€	€
At 1 st January 2011	1,236,140	87,412	-	6,230	1,329,782
Transfer from unrestricted reserves	70,115	-	60,136	-	130,251
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year	<u>-</u>	<u>(16,794)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(16,794)</u>
At 31 st December 2011	<u>1,306,255</u>	<u>70,618</u>	<u>60,136</u>	<u>6,230</u>	<u>1,443,239</u>

19. UNRESTRICTED RESERVES:

	<u>Designated Funding Reserve</u>	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>	<u>Total</u>
	€	€	€
At 1 st January 2011	5,283,741	2,455,183	7,738,924
Transfer to restricted reserves	-	(130,251)	(130,251)
Surplus for the year	<u>-</u>	<u>135,973</u>	<u>135,973</u>
At 31 st December 2011	<u>5,283,741</u>	<u>2,460,905</u>	<u>7,744,646</u>

Funding Reserve 2008/2011:

A Designated Funding Reserve was created in 2004 to meet planned budgetary requirements estimated at €32m for the four year period 2008 to 2011.

The balance to credit on this fund was €5,283,741. It is the stated policy of the charity to ensure that there are sufficient reserves available to meet projected expenditure for a minimum of 12 months ahead.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS IRELAND LIMITED*(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital)***NOTES ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Contd.)****YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2011**

20. <u>RECONCILIATION OF MOVEMENTS IN MEMBERS' FUNDS</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>	
	€	€	
(Deficit) / Surplus for the year	119,179	(99,893)	
Opening Members' Funds	<u>9,068,706</u>	<u>9,168,599</u>	
Closing Members' Funds	<u>9,187,885</u>	<u>9,068,706</u>	
21. <u>GROSS CASH FLOWS:</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>	
	€	€	
<u>Returns on investments and servicing of finance</u>			
Interest received	<u>340,112</u>	<u>356,996</u>	
<u>Capital expenditure and financial investment</u>			
Payments to acquire tangible assets	(31,428)	(60,842)	
Receipt from financial investment	<u>250,000</u>	<u>-</u>	
	<u>218,572</u>	<u>(60,842)</u>	
22. <u>ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS</u>			
	<u>Opening Balance</u>	<u>Cash Flows</u>	<u>Closing Balance</u>
	€	€	€
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>9,040,159</u>	<u>235,251</u>	<u>9,275,410</u>
Net funds	<u>9,040,159</u>	<u>235,251</u>	<u>9,275,410</u>



ANNUAL REPORT
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4th Floor, Park House, North Circular Road, Dublin 7
www.specialolympics.ie

