

Chairperson's Report 2010 - 2011



This my first report as Chairperson of the Police Service of Northern Ireland, Law Enforcement Torch Run Committee. I am delighted to be involved in what is a fantastic programme, both supporting and raising funds for the Special Olympics movement and servicing as 'Guardians of the Flame'. This report affords me the opportunity to highlight the excellent work undertaken by the committee and its members over the past year. The committee through the events outlined not only further the aims and

objectives of the LETR but make a huge difference where it matters most – enabling our athletes of whom we are so proud to maximumise their true potential.

LETR Prize Draw

The Chief Constable Matt Baggott drew out the winning tickets as part of the LETR Prize Draw coordinated by Davy McCausland. This event netted the committee over £3,500.

Committee Meeting in Special Schools

The committee continued to progress the ethos of holding meetings away from police premises. On Friday 27 May 2010 the committee attended Torbank School, Dundonald (which specialises in meeting the holistic needs of individual pupils with complex learning preferences), where the committee spoke with the Principle Mr Davis who briefed the group on the exciting new plans for the school in the coming years. The committee presented Mr Davis with a cheque for £250.

This meeting which was attended by Student Officers from the Police College (Course 3/11) who as a result undertook work at the school as part of their Business in the Community project. Due to a new school being built with planned opening in October 2012, very little funds are available for the current maintenance of the existing building. As a result the grounds had become overgrown and unkempt. This made it difficult for some children and young people who attend the school, to access all areas.

The student officers cleared away overgrown bushes and trees from pathways and grass areas, enabling the children easier and safer access. In addition the Blue Course both planted and tidied flower beds and prepared an area as a vegetable patch for the children. The course also painted a number of classrooms in need of freshening up, and repainted a large wooden train used as an outside activity centre.

Feedback from the Principle Mr Colm Davis highlighted Blue Course worked extremely hard and did a fantastic job, radically improving the learning environment for the children, prior to the new school year.

Team Ireland Launch 13th March 2011



This showcase event was attended by Ministers, Athletes, Council Patrons and the Greek Ambassador provided an excellent opportunity for the PSNI and An Garda Síochána to show the unique relationship which exists on the island of Ireland between the two police services. Members of both services LETR received a fantastic welcome when they entered the stage with the 'Torch'.

Super Plunge Friday 4th & Saturday 5th March 2011

This event was organised by Tim Craig and Steve Douglas attracted 43 plungers over the 24hrs. ACC McCausland opened the event at 12.00 accompanied by the Lord Mayor of Belfast, during the course of the next 24 hrs plungers were joined by two MLAs Conall McDevitt and Chris Lyttle. It is worth noting that four athletes also plunged continuously over the 24 hours. Plungers who raised £150 received a fleece and woolly hat, while one off Plungers received a Tee shirt. Some 60 student officers from Red course attended late afternoon to participate in a one off plunge. As a result the event raised £6500 after expenses.

Charity Golf Day at Belvoir Golf Club Tuesday 19th April 2011

Organised by Robert Gardiner the Charity Golf day was a great success, with over 100 golfers of all abilities taking part at Belvoir Golf Club. Athletes Ryan Craig and Ross Stewart lead the way and played several holes. This very well organised event supported by local business and the local area Commander C/I Derek Martin, raised £4500 which was shared between Cystic Fibrosis and LETR.

Street Collection – Tim Craig stated, went well, £78,000.00 raised in Ulster.

Belfast Marathon May 2011



Organised by Tim Craig and Jeremy Adams, the PSNI LETR again took part in the Belfast Marathon. Special Athletes from North Down accompanied by PSNI officers running the five legs. Again this was a great success with both police and more importantly the athletes. Mr McCausland presented medals to everyone at a reception post event at Newforge Country Club.

New Chairperson PSNI LETR



Assistant Chief Constable Will Kerr

Victoria Square Send of Event Athletes to Athens 16 June 11

The PSNI LETR committee had received an invitation from Special Olympics Ulster to take a key role in the send off team Ulster to the World games in Athens. The event was attended by members of the committee, student officers from Course 3/11 and was the first official Torch Run event attended by ACC Kerr. ACC Kerr informed the audience who and what the Torch Run was about and illustrated tangible support for Special Olympics Ulster with a donation for £10,000. The event provided an excellent opportunity for the softer, more personal side of policing to be undertaken with those present interacting with athletes, friends, family and volunteers. Everyone who attended agreed the event was a huge success and drew local media coverage (UTV).

Athens Athletes Homecoming Event 11 August 2011



Such was the success of the Send off event on 16th June 11 the PSNI LETR committee were again invited to welcome the athletes home. This event saw athletes parading through Victoria Square accompanied by LETR members and student officers. The event showcased the fantastic achievement of the athletes with numerous medals on display.

Letter to Athens 2011 Athletes – ACC Kerr briefed the committee on a letter he had forwarded to Shaun Cassidy Regional Director Special Olympics Ulster. Letter circulated.

Torch Run, Lisburn Saturday 10th September 11



This was an inter-club athletic competition organised by one of the local Special Olympic Athletics club and was held at Thiepval Barracks, Lisburn. 3 committee members attended and participated by helping, cheering and even competing! The event was also attended by Dame Mary Peters. There was a short torch run with many of the athletes getting the opportunity to carry the torch. This was followed by opportunities for families to get photos of their athletes with the torch. The participation was greatly appreciated by the organisers, the families and the athletes. All in all a great day, despite the weather!

Europe/Eurasia TR Legacy and Development Conference

An Advisory Council was formed to expand TR across Europe & Eurasia and Jeremy Adams is the Co-Chair of this committee along with Claire Kennedy from SOEE

Two Legacy & Development Conferences were held and coordinated by Jeremy and Claire



December 2010 in Dublin and PSNI were represented by Teresa OShea and September 2011 in Malta. The TR programme here in Ireland is highlighted as best practice and new programmes have been established in Malta and Slovenia and programmes re launched in Italy and Portugal. Estonia & Latvia are starting a programme in Spring 2012.

ACC Kerr and AC Feehan (member of Advisory Council) have agreed to promote LETR during European Policing Conferences that they may attend. An European/Eurasia promotional LETR DVD is currently being produced.

World Summer Games Athens – Final leg David Smith

In June 2011 David Smith had the honour and privilege of being selected to represent the PSNI and the LETR committee at the SO World Summer Games in Athens. The following paragraphs capture something of his adventure:

“What an amazing experience! It was a veritable whirlwind tour of Greece and North West Turkey. We gathered in Athens on 7th June and over a period of 24 hours I exchanged greetings with over 100 other law enforcement officers from every corner of the globe. Within days I know I had made friends I would have for life.



We hit the ground running, literally! Within 2 days we were on the Acropolis and involved in the Torch lighting ceremony on the close by hill of Pnyx. I was in Team 1 (of 3) consisting of about 35 runners and support staff. We then carried the torch along with 3 amazing special athletes for 16 days straight, completed 60 ceremonies in a variety of locations including 10 islands. We met with the Greek Orthodox Patriarch in Istanbul and witnessed first hand the hospitality and generosity of the Greek and Turkish people.

The trip ended with the opening ceremony in Athens where we paraded into the stadium in dress uniform to see the main cauldron set alight and so end our guardian duties. Instead of going directly home I stayed on for a few days and travelled around a number of the sporting venues with some of the SO Team Ireland volunteers I had the great pleasure of seeing many of our athletes participating in football, handball, gymnastics and badminton.

The trip finished all too soon but I returned home a very happy but tired person. I can honestly say that the whole trip was an experience that exceeded all my already high expectations! I have made dozens of new friends (athletes, law enforcement officers and Greek hosts alike), people I have kept in contact with, some almost daily through the miracle of Facebook!

Since my return I have been able to speak to some of the primary schools in my area about the trip. I love doing this as it has amazed and educated my audiences and allowed me to share some of my 1600 photographs! and relive the experience over and over again. My only regret is that I will be unable to attend the conference in Calgary. A reunion with many of the group would have been great.”

2011 Programme Survey LETR

Correspondence was submitted on October 11 to the Special Olympics International, Washington, DC 20036 USA outlining:-

Torch Run Logistics, Cash Donations, Cash from events and In-kind Donations which was estimated at \$128,478.

Nominations for Hall of Fame (International) and Carion Award (Unsung Hero)

Hall of Fame Appointee!!!

PSNI LETR Nomination Jeremy Adams

Carion Award – PSNI LETR Nominations Robert (Rab) Gardiner & Gareth McKeown

Donut Event Dublin with An Garda Síochána



Davy McCausland and Steve Douglas travelled to Dublin to support our colleagues in the Garda with their funding raising event.

This was a great success with everyone enjoying the interaction and has given David and Steve some new ideas regarding fund raising initiatives.

LETR CALGARY 2011 – “Reaching New Heights”

Inspector Davy McCausland travelled to the 30th anniversary of the LETR the annual conference in the beautiful setting of down town Calgary in Canada. The following is his report:

Over 1000 delegates were in attendance with only 3 being from outside of North America – namely Poland, Turkey and Northern Ireland (yours truly)

With Jeremy our European Rep taking a dicky tummy on the eve of the flight out..... over \$42 Million Dollars now raised there was a lot to celebrate and a great time was had by all- those who have attended these events before will know what I mean

Congratulations to Jeremy for being elected to the Hall of Fame – one of the most prestigious honours that LETR can bestow on one of its own and to come from our small part of the world is an honour indeed amongst such sizeable company. My thanks of course go out to Jeremy for emailing me his speech at the last minute and leaving me to get up at the banquet dinner to accept on his behalf..... that dinner



went down well!!!!

Some great contacts were made with fellow LETR teams and some very good ideas and tips picked up to help with fundraising and raising our profile – anybody for towing a Boeing?

Bannff, Lake Louise and the Rockies are now distant but still vibrant memories along with the cold nip in the Calgary air

The 2013 WPFs were well promoted throughout my time at the conference and as many there considered themselves half Irish to begin with there was little convincing to get many to come to Belfast.....a great opportunity awaits us in 2013 with so many LETR colleagues coming our way will be the perfect opportunity to show the LETR Committees and delegates that the annual conference could move to other parts of the world. One of the themes of the conference was to raise the profile of LETR and the Special Olympics movement and ethos – what better way, what better way.....

To our Rep fortunate enough to be selected next year Indianapolis awaits and the race track will feature according to the guy with the helmet...

Fundraising Event Victoria Square 18th November 2011



The Garda Horses (Cumhall & Fiachra) joined ACC Kerr, members of the PSNI LETR Committee and Special Olympics Ulster at Victoria Square on Friday 18th November 2011, to raise awareness and funds for Special Olympics. May thanks to everyone who gave of their time, which raised just under £600!!

SOLE Programme (Police College)

Special Olympics Law Enforcement (SOLE) programme concluded its role out to student officers in the Police College Garnerville on Wednesday 11 May 2011. Up to this point the SOLE Programme was delivered every ten weeks to new entrants into the PSNI. Special Olympics Ireland (Anne Hughs) and Special Athlete (Paul Nugent) continue to play a critical role in the programmes continued success. Stephen Reid & Jeremy Adams actively delivered these presentations.

Athlete, ALPS and SOLE presenter Mr Paul Nugent was also nominated by the Police College for a **'Justice in the Community'** Award – 'Rewarding Justice Champions within our Communities' hosted by David Ford MLA Minister of Justice on 19th October 2011 at the Great Hall, Parliament Building, Stormont.

Commissioners Participation Awards – 'Commended'



The SOLE Programme reached the finalist stage of the Commissioners Participation Awards – receiving a ‘Commended Award’ at the celebration event which took place on Wednesday 23rd November in the Long Gallery at Stormont.

Chief Inspector Reid and co-presenter Mr Paul Nugent attended the event which highlighted some of the great work which is being carried out. Other organisations will be inspired to create opportunities for young people to participate in decisions which affect their lives.

Commissioner for Children and Young People, Patricia Lewsley-Mooney, said:

“The Commissioner’s 2011 Participation awards celebrate the best participative practices across the civil service and public sector. To be shortlisted for an award demonstrates exemplary achievement in making sure children and young people are involved in the decisions that affect their lives. Congratulations in being a finalist!”

Police College Student Officers Running Belfast to Athens

Chief Inspector Reid persuaded the Police College Recreation Club to fund the purchase of 400 T-shirts promoting awareness of the 2011 Athens Summer Games. T-shirts were distributed to four SOTP courses who undertook to run the equivalent of Belfast – Athens (1766.7 miles) as part of their course fitness training. Thanks to the officers of the SOTP who ran the miles and to the PE staff who encouraged and monitored progress. The event proved an excellent opportunity to raise awareness of the LETR with Student Officers and the wider work of the Special Olympics movement. Student Officers also used this event to raise funds for the LETR and sold “Be a fan” laces. The laces were worn with pride by the SOs enabling them to:

“Raised awareness of Special Olympics as a global movement for people with intellectual disabilities that ties us together through the power of sport. By wearing the laces you show that you are a fan of unity.”

Police Federation of Northern Ireland Lottery Application

In October the secretary of the LETR Committee submitted an application for lottery funding to the PFoNI. The application was supported as sponsorship with £3000 being donated to the PSNI LETR committee.

Torch Run DVD presented at EURO COP Conference

On Wednesday, 23rd November 2011 PFNI Secretary Stevie McCann gave a short presentation on LETR to the Eurocop delegates attending the Eurocop Congress. This was to an audience of approximately 150 officers representing over 502,000 officers in 26 countries within Europe. The LETR DVD was translated into each

respective language during this presentation. Stevie McCann has arranged that any Organisation interested should contact him for further details.

2013 Law Enforcement Torch Run Final Leg in Korea

Sergeant Tim Craig and Inspector Jeremy Adams of the Police Service of Northern Ireland have been selected by the Law Enforcement Torch Run Executive Council, Final Leg Committee, to be a part of the 2013 Final Leg for the Special Olympics World Winter Games in Korea in leadership roles.