

Chairperson's Report 2011 - 2012



this report.

I am delighted to pen my second report as Chairperson of the Police Service of Northern Ireland, Law Enforcement Torch Run Committee. Over the last twelve months I have seen at first hand the excellent partnerships which have been forged by dedicated members of the PSNI LETR Committee, a flavour of which is include in

I encourage everyone to become involved, there is a role for all officers and staff right across the service, you don't need to run long distances or be an outstanding athlete – we simple ask that you help make a positive difference for our athletes, assisting them to maximumise their true potential.



This report affords me the opportunity to highlight the excellent work undertaken by the committee and its members over the past year, both supporting and raising funds for the Special Olympics movement and servicing as 'Guardians of the Flame'.

Fire Side Quiz

In November/December 2011 Ruth Smyth organised a Fireside Quiz based around villages, towns and cities in Northern Ireland. The winner was selected randomly from all correct answers and received a £30 gift voucher for Marks and Spencer.

Garda Horses – Victoria Square

December 2011 saw the Garda Horses patrolling the streets and shopping mall of Victoria Square. The horses as you can imagine attracted huge attention for Christmas shoppers and passers by. This was another successful event with £600.00 being raised on the day.



Abseil – Victoria Square

On Sunday 5th February 12 Stephen Reid, Tim Craig, Noel Mullan and several other brave soles from the LETR committee took up the challenge of abseiling down the inside of Victoria Square in Belfast, along with many more from the greater Special Olympics family. Those involved were joined by Policing Board Member and MLA Conall McDevitt, who entered into the spirit of the event. This was a great and well supported initiative which helped raise awareness and funds for Special Olympics. It also cured some height phobias as well!

Donut Sale 3rd March 2012

This event was coordinated by Davy McCausland and was supported by the LETR and SO Ulster. Many donuts of three different flavours were sold in and around Victoria Square by numerous teams of volunteers. £1700.00 was raised on the day from sales. Davy and Stevie also went down to Dublin and helped the Garda to sell donuts on O'Connell Street.



Belfast Marathon 7th May 2012

Tim Craig coordinated this event and for the 9th year in succession the LETR entered 3 teams in the Belfast Marathon Relay. Two teams from the LETR ran with a team of Special Olympics athletes: Amy McAllister, Althea Clarkson, Niall Rainey, James Neeson and Aaron Reid.

Preparation for the event started in March 12 with training sessions each Sunday morning, the craic was good and it meant everybody was suitably prepared for the event. The athletes were fine, it was the LETR who required the additional training!!

On the day we were joined by North Down Special Olympics Club who also had a number of teams in the relay. The teams ran well, despite the heavy rain and very cold running conditions and the relay was completed with everyone still in one piece! All the teams then finished the day with refreshments at Newforge Country Club, where ACC Kerr presented medals and certificates to all of the athletes.

We look forward to the Belfast Marathon on Monday 6th May 2013, which will mark the tenth anniversary of the LETR and local Special Olympics athletes participating in the event.

Scottish Pipe Band Championships Saturday 12th May 12

On Saturday 12/05/12 a collection took place at The Scottish Pipe Band Championships at Portaferry Road Newtownards. Special Olympics was the nominated charity for the event. Over the four hours of the collection £275 was collected. Eric McCune was assisted by Michelle Ennis, Tim and Ryan Craig, Sarah Hamilton, and my family members.

We were also assisted on the day by a young girl who had agreed to assist as part of a Youth Conference plan.



Visit - Thursday 24th May 2012 Hillcroft School, New Mossley Newtownabbey

As has become custom the PSNI LETR committee have endeavoured to be active within the community visiting schools to raise awareness of the Torch Run and Special Olympics. Organised by the Area Commander Chief Inspector Stephen Reid the committee attended Hillcroft School to hold its meeting. During the event ACC Kerr presented the school principle Roz McFeeters with a framed LETR T-shirt and small cheque in thanks for hosting the visit. All present were very impressed with the school, facilities, teachers and most importantly pupils.

Inaugural Dundalk to Scarva Cycle Challenge

David Smith represented the LETR at this event along with Gillian Uprichard, Warren Todd and Gill Hoyle. On 1st September 2012, 60 cyclists cycled from Dundalk to Scarva to raise funds for Special Olympics Ireland. Deputy Commissioner, An Garda Síochána, Nacie Rice, Chief Superintendent, PSNI, Alistair Robinson, Deputy Mayor of Newry and Morne, Packie McDonald and An Cathaoirleach, Cllr Finnan McCoy, Louth County Council were joined by PSNI and Garda Síochána Police Officers at the beginning of the race, to see the cyclists off.

The event, which was sponsored by FPM, saw the cyclists take on a 90km route, setting off from Dundalk Stadium and taking in the fabulous surrounds of Ravensdale National Park and Flagstaff then through Newry and onto the towpath to Scarva.

There were two different routes on offer on the return section of the cycle; one for seasoned cyclists looking for a challenge, took on the hills around Long Womans Grave and then back to Dundalk while the alternative route brought the cyclists back through Ravensdale to Dundalk Stadium.

Both itineraries provided a good test for cyclists of all levels, with professional support in the form of roadside assistance, support vehicles, and refreshments stops along the way. Every cyclist that completed the challenge received a commemorative T-shirt and attended a post-cycle buffet in Dundalk Race Course.

Speaking about the event Sarah Joyce, Event Manager from SOI said “This has been a fantastic event and our sincere thanks goes to everyone who supported it. Although there was a strong wind on the day the sun shone which allowed the cyclists to enjoy some of the most scenic landscapes in Ireland”.

European TR Conference 14 – 16th September 2012:

Belfast was the venue for the 2012 LETR Europe/Eurasia Torch Run conference, when police officers and Special Olympics representatives came together for a three day conference 14th – 16th September 2012. Delegates gave updates on their respective programmes; discussed initiatives on introducing new LETR programmes as well as planning the Torch Run for the next Special Olympics Europe/Eurasia (SOEE) Summer Games that are taking place in Belgium in September 2014.

Delegates travelled to Belfast for the conference from Turkey, Gibraltar, Netherlands, Portugal, Latvia, Cyprus, Belgium, Estonia, Great Britain along with local representatives from Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland.

The conference organiser was Police Service of Northern Ireland officer and European Torch Run Coordinator, Jeremy Adams, who has been involved

with the LETR since 1996, along with his Europe/Eurasia counterpart, Regional Coordinator, Jacek Hachulski.

During their stay the delegates along with representatives from Special Olympics Ireland and Ulster, attended a reception at Hillsborough Castle hosted by PSNI Torch Run Director Assistant Chief Constable Will Kerr and the Police Federation for Northern Ireland, as well as visiting the iconic Titanic Visitors Centre along with the three Special Olympics Ulster athletes, Ryan Hill, Rosalind Connolly and Lucy Best, who will represent Team Ireland at the Special Olympics World Winter games in South Korea in January 2013.



Jeremy added, 'I am delighted to represent my LETR Europe/Eurasia colleagues and that we had the opportunity to have this type of conference in Northern Ireland. For many of the delegates it was their first visit here. We had a productive conference and thank my colleagues in Special Olympics Europe/Eurasia for their support for LETR.

Jeremy and Jacek were delighted with the progress made at the conference and to able to share best practices and importantly work towards the European Games in 2014.



Both Jacek and Jeremy, along with their Advisory & Legacy Council Co-chair Claire Kennedy will travel this November to the SOEE Directors Conference in Istanbul, Turkey and make a Torch Run presentation to the delegates, in an attempt to increase LETR involvement across Europe/Eurasia.

Golf Day – Edenmore Golf Club

This was a new event to the calendar, coordinated by Noel Mullan. The main sponsor was Hoy Dorman Company and a special guest in TV personality Gerry Kelly. 82 participants took part in the day events. The weather provided a mixed bag (as did the standard of the golf). Gerry Kelly has indicated a willingness to support a similar event next year. It was recognised that this was a new event and it would be hoped that the numbers would increase next year. A significant amount of effort was put in by all involved and in particular, Ronan McCay, SOU. A final total will be forwarded.

Noel Mullan also arranged a raffle within his department for LETR and raised £106.

Fundraising Dinner – Ramada Hotel

Tim Craig coordinated this event assisted by Rab Grdiner on half of the LETR in conjunction with SO Ulster. On Saturday 13th October 2012 the LETR and Special Olympics Ulster hosted a fundraising dinner to raise money for the athletes and coach from SO Ulster who are part of the Team Ireland who will compete in the 2013 World Winter Games in Korea. The evening was entitled “Celebrating Sporting Heroes” and was hosted by Gerry Kelly. The night started with a drinks reception with music provided by a string quartet from Our Lady and St Patricks College. Following the meal a series of interviews took place involving a number of local sporting heroes who supported the event, namely, Dame Mary Peters, Michael Conlon, Benny Coulter, Danny Hughes, Rory Best and Rob Kearney.

ACC Kerr then led the three SO Ulster athletes and the SO Ulster coach who are travelling to Korea into the hall. They were greeted with a standing ovation. Gerry Kelly then interviewed ACC Kerr, the athletes and coach. An auction and ballot followed and the night was brought to a conclusion with music from the “House-martins”. It was a very successful night and it expected to raise in the region of £20,000.00. Thank you to those who supported the event.

This is not necessarily an exhaustive complete list of all the events that have been undertaken during the last year. If there are any events that I have not included, please accept my apologies.

On a final note, please remember there are some big events coming up in 2013 which offer opportunities to raise the profile of Special Olympics, such as the World Police and Fire Games, Derry City of Culture and Fleadh.

2012 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, 000.

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.

May 2012 Letter of Support - Knockevin Special School, Downpatrick

ACC Kerr penned a letter of support to Ms Ann Cooper (Principle), staff and pupils of Knockevin Special School. This was following the 'horrendous' damage caused to school property (buses, medial room and classrooms) and was in stark contrast to the warmth, friendship and hospitality afforded to the Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) on our memorable visit to your school on Friday 25th May 07.

May 2012 Letter of thanks - Jennifer Foster

ACC Kerr penned a letter to thanks to Fujitsu for the very kind donation of £500 to cover the cost of our hosting athletes after Belfast Marathon 2012.

May 2012 Letter to Sergeant Ewan Ballantine – Final Leg Representative

ACC Kerr wrote to Sergeant Ballantine informing him of his selection to represent the service as part of the 'Final Leg' Torch Run. This prestigious international event will see the officer joining fellow law enforcement officers runners in Korea for approximately 10 days, from 21 January 2013 returning home on 31 January 2013.

September 12 Letter of thanks - Cathy Harman, Newtownards

ACC Kerr was delighted to hear of the offer of assistance from Tesco for the 'Celebrating Sporting Heroes' event due to take place on Saturday 13th October 2012. The aim of this event is to raise funds for Team Ireland who will be taking part in the 2013 Korean Special Olympics World Winter Games.

October 12 – Qatar Police Senior Officers

During a visit to the PSNI by senior officers from the Qatar Police, ACC Kerr was asked to present the officers with various certificates in recognition of the work they had done in 'Community Policing'. ACC Kerr took the opportunity to discuss the LETR its aims and objective and how the LETR had helped build confidence and trust in our communities. Documentation was also provided which with the assistance of an interpreter will be translated from English.