

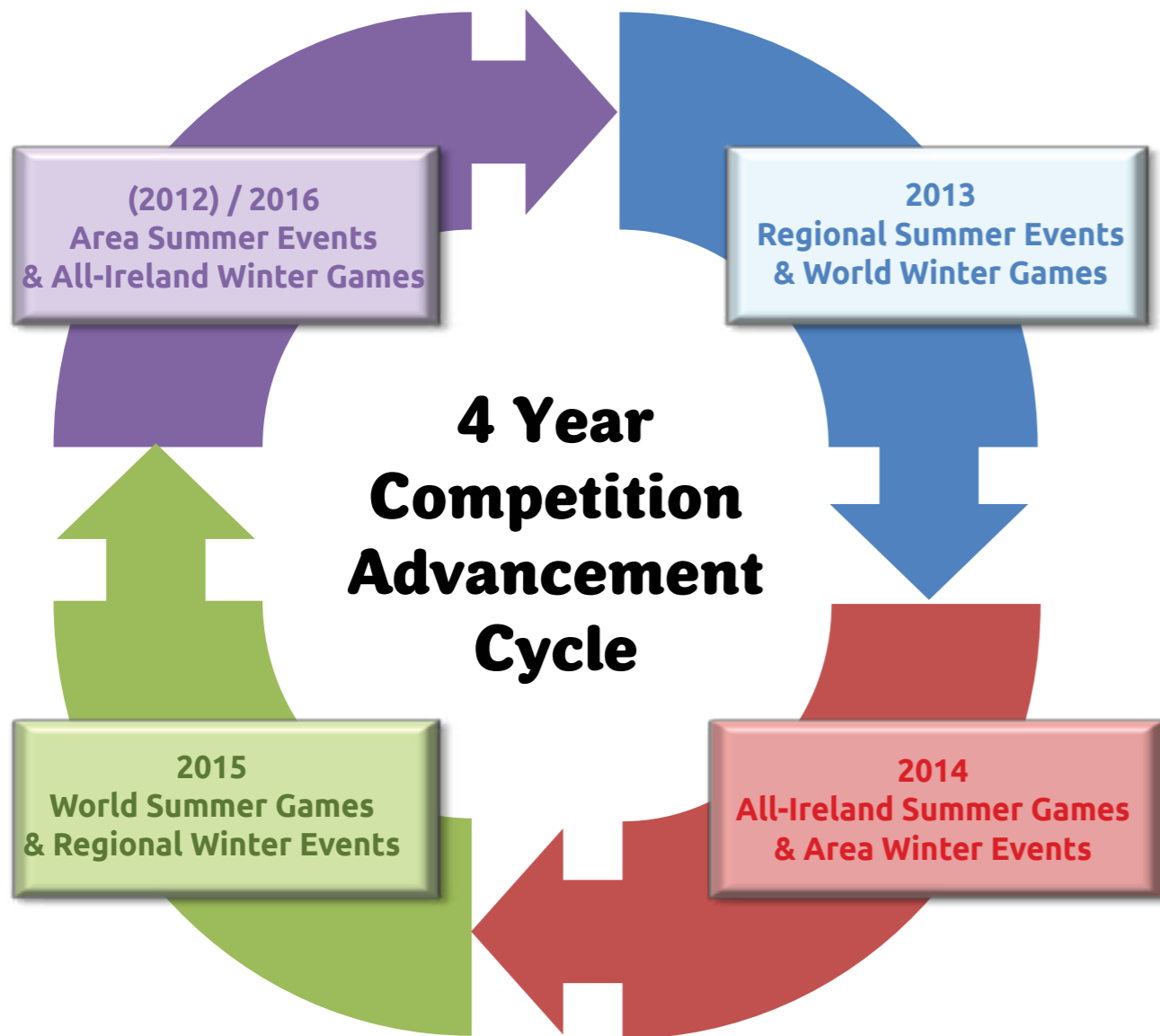


**Special
Olympics**
Ireland



ANNUAL REPORT

2012



Sarah Hyland from Munster pictured at the 2012 Triple Crown Golf event

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Pictured on the front cover is a delighted TJ McShane from Eagles Special Olympics Club, Coalisland, Co. Tyrone, who took part in the 2012 Ulster West area athletics event held in September 2012.

Area events, such as the one TJ participated in, are the first step in the Special Olympics four year Summer Games cycle that will lead to Regional Summer Events in 2013, All-Ireland Summer Games in 2014, and finishing with World Summer Games in 2015.



Chairpersons Statement

I am delighted to reflect on 2012 as a year of many highlights and a year of much success and development. In spite of external pressures and strains as a direct consequence of a country in a difficult financial and economic time, which I will return to later, the Special Olympics programme made many new strides and overcame many barriers during the past year.

2012 saw an increased level of competition events held across the country where athletes had the opportunity to take part in Area Advancement Competition events, the first stage in our four-year competition cycle. I would like to commend and acknowledge the dedication and support that exudes from our volunteers in the clubs and from those who volunteer at our events. In 2012, there was over one thousand new registered volunteers, of which almost half of them were under 21 years of age, a welcome development to help sustain our programme into the future. Particularly in these most challenging economic times, we are even more reliant and dependent on our army of volunteers to help us to maintain the programme and ensure the delivery of service. I applaud and thank each and every volunteer who is a part of our movement.

The need for our continued focus on development and expansion is exemplified by the continued flow of new athletes into the Special Olympics Programme and 2012 was no exception with 985 new athletes joining the programme. A further 17 new clubs were established, emphasising the demand that still exists for opportunities for people with an intellectual disability to take part in sports training and competition.

The dedication and long-term commitment amongst coaches and volunteers to provide quality training is reflected in the increased uptake in the area of coach education and training, all of which is reflected in the performances on the sports field.

We continue to try to enhance what we offer and provide and 2012 saw new offerings for athletes in the sport of Floorball, Open Water Swimming and Tennis. For our volunteers, who give of their most valuable time, developments in areas such as the pilot online annual affiliation project, online induction training, online event management training and the online facility to express availability for an event all strive to make information more accessible and engagement at all levels more effective for everyone.

I welcome all of these new developments but it is only proper that I also reflect on the huge strain the organisation has faced over the last year, and will continue to face, where a huge amount of our effort and focus had to be channelled into generating funds through as many and as varied avenues as possible. We continue to work with the Irish Government and the Northern Ireland Executive, through their respective Sports Councils, in relation to grant funding. However, due to the continued reduction in public grant funding in the republic of Ireland and challenging conditions for voluntary fundraising, we have made a deficit of €940,251 this year.

Other sources of funding are fewer and yield less than before, placing greater demand on our time and effort. Fundraising activities with the general public continue to be a major factor in generating required funds. This generosity, coupled with the efforts of our corporate partners and volunteers, have contributed enormously much-needed funds for the organisation during 2012.

As I look forward with hope and excitement to 2013, where we will celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the hosting of the 2003 Special Olympics World Games in Ireland, an event that inspired the nation, we plan to re-engage with volunteers and supporters and with the general public in such a way that will let them see the difference that being part of Special Olympics makes to a person with an intellectual disability. I look forward to sharing the legacy and garnering support as we move into the future.

Mary Davis
Chairperson
Special Olympics Ireland



Kevin Flaherty, Connaught SO Club, in action against Andrew Coyne, Limerick City SO Club at the 2012 National Basketball Cup Finals

2012 in review

2012 Highlights

- 985 new athletes
- 17 new clubs registered
- 1,107 new volunteers registered
- 1,440 new family members registered
- 117 competition events held across the regions
- 146 Club Support and Engagement Visits
- Team Ireland's success at the 2013 World Winter Games in PyeongChang, South Korea in January 2013
- Expansion of the Winter Sports Programme to include the sport of Floorball
- Open Water Swimming Pilot Programme launched
- New sport opportunity offered in Tennis through two 'Taster Days'
- 36 athletes awarded international caps by the Football Association of Ireland
- All new volunteers registered in 2012 received photographic membership cards
- Over 80% of new volunteers completed Volunteer Induction training online
- New online facility introduced whereby volunteers able to express their interest in volunteering for specific regional events across an entire competition
- Introduction of 20 training videos to support volunteers involved in organising events
- Triple Crown Golf Event hosted in September in Hollystown Golf Club. Teams from each Special Olympics Ireland Region, along with teams from England and Scotland, competed in the event
- Final report on four-year Health Promotion Pilot Project launched by Minister Kathleen Lynch in June
- 133,465 visits made to www.specialolympics.ie by 81,364 unique visitors
- 24,780 Facebook fans
- 4,800 Twitter followers
- 28,000 visits to the website fundraising pages, peaking during the Paris2Nice cycle campaign in September

2012 Special Olympics Programme Report

Sport

- 985 new athletes
- 758 athletes attended development training
- 36 athletes awarded international caps by the Football Association of Ireland
- 1,079 coaches attended coach training
- 82 coach education and training opportunities offered
- 17 development sessions for coaches and athletes completed
- Expansion of the Winter Sports Programme with the hosting of the first Special Olympics Ireland event in Floorball

As 2012 was the first level of advancement competition in our 4-year cycle there were numerous competitions held across the programme, giving athletes the opportunity to compete and to advance to Regional Level competition in 2013. Despite the high-level of activity associated with preparation and participation in these competitions, there was also a high uptake in coach education courses, with numbers greater than in 2011.

To support the on-going education and upskilling of our coaches, which is critical to ensuring our athletes receive a quality coaching experience, different coach education materials were developed during the year. These materials addressed targets set under the Coaching Excellence Pillar in our Strategy 2012 -2015 and included the following:

- **Readiness for Competition:** This coach support tool helps coaches to decide if their athletes are ready to enter competition and provides them with some tips on how to prepare their athletes.
- **Sport Regulations:** These regulations replace a series of separate pre-existing policies and procedures in sport that are now all captured in one booklet. These Sports Regulations were circulated to all clubs as part of the materials in the new revised Club

Handbook. Opportunities to promote the Sports Regulations have been taken at coach forums and workshops around the regions and very favourable responses were received on this resource.

- **Inter Club Activity Guide** was revised.
- **A Guide to Physical Activity for Older Athletes:**

In order to provide for our aging athletes, some of whom are perhaps no longer able to participate in an official sport, this guide was developed to give coaches some hints and tips as to where they may access additional opportunities for their athletes.



In line with our current Strategy, our target of providing additional coach education input to technical events was addressed in 2012 with the delivery of workshops in conjunction with Athletics Ireland and Athletics Northern Ireland.

To support the sport of bocce, training was delivered to up-skill tutors for officiating in the sport.



Ladies 5-a-side Football Team from the Special Olympics World Summer Games, Athens 2011, pictured with former Irish international, Ray Houghton, receiving their international caps. L-R: Sheila Sheehan, Christine Kelly, Emma Finneran, Samantha Battams, Ray Houghton, Marguerite Donegan, Veronica Donnelly, Clodagh Kilcullen

30 volunteers were trained on how to use the Games Management System (GMS), a system used to help manage competition entries and results, and these volunteers are all actively involved working at all events across the 5 regions.

36 athletes were awarded International Caps by the Football Association of Ireland in recognition of their participation in the 2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games. Since 2005, 114 Special Olympics athletes have received International Caps representing ten different international teams. Significantly, there are 13 players who have been capped twice, which is an amazing achievement.

In advance of the 2013 World Winter Games to be held in PyeongChang, South Korea in January 2013, a Head of Delegation Conference took place in South Korea on March 19th - 22nd and Ireland was represented at this event. Back home in Ireland much excitement was experienced with the expansion of the Special Olympics Ireland Winter Programme in 2012 to include a new team sport, Floorball, alongside Alpine Skiing, resulting in two Advancement Competitions being held at Ireland level. The Special Olympics Ireland Alpine Ski event was

hosted in Kiltarnan on 20th and 21st April and the Floorball competition was hosted in the University of Limerick on 19th May.

Following these competitions, the selection process took place to select athletes to represent Ireland at the 2013 World Winter Games in PyeongChang, South Korea. A team of six athletes in alpine skiing and a team of 8 in floorball were selected to represent Ireland.

Prior to the acceptance of athletes on the squad, a meeting took place with all family and club representatives to ensure there was a full understanding of the implications of accepting a place on the team at this level of competition. In addition to the athletes, a team of volunteers were appointed as the Management Team, making up a total of 22 on Team Ireland.

A training plan was developed for the team and training got underway in June, which included attendance at a Winter Ski Camp hosted in Austria in December 2012.



Michéal O Muircheartaigh presents the Men's National Basketball Plate to Limerick City SO Club captain Brian O'Neill

In July, Special Olympics Ireland successfully applied for a grant for sports equipment through the Department of Transport, Sport and Tourism Capital Grants Scheme. Funds of €26,000 were granted towards investments in sports equipment for table-tennis, athletics and bocce. In addition, some tennis equipment was purchased to support the pilot tennis programme operating in the Eastern region. A floorball rink was also secured to help further the development of Floorball in the future.

The Triple Crown Golf Event took place on 10th and 11th September in Hollystown Golf Club. Seven teams of six athletes from each Special Olympics Ireland Region, along with teams from England and Scotland, competed in the event.

Despite some very testing conditions on the first day, the standard of golf was excellent. In addition to the traditional Special Olympics competition, using the standard divisioning process, a combined team result was also a competitive element of the event. Team Ulster emerged as the winning team.

The Special Olympics Men's and Women's National Basketball Cup and Plate took place on 24th November 2012 in Gormanston College, Co. Meath, with 15 teams participating. The basketball matches were very competitive and the teams displayed impressive basketball skills, unquestionable dedication and fantastic sportsmanship.

Special Olympics Ireland Patron, Micheál O Muircheartaigh, and Louise O'Loughlin, Basketball Ireland, were guests on the day. The Men's Cup was won by Palmerstown Wildcats Special Olympics Club and the Men's Plate was won by Limerick City Special Olympics Club. The Women's Cup was won by Blue Dolphins Special Olympics Club while the Connaught team were victorious in the Plate competition.

The 2012 Special Olympics Ireland National Football Cup and Plate finals, sponsored by UniCredit, took place in St. Joseph's Boys FC, Sallynoggin, Co. Dublin on Saturday 12th May. In the Men's National Cup event, Donegal Special Olympics Club took the honours against Cheeverstown House to claim the title. In the Women's competition, Foyle Ladies Special Olympics Club overcame a strong challenge from Special Olympics Eastern Region Team 1 to take victory. In the Men's National Plate event, Bray Lakers took the title following a closely matched final against Waterford Special Olympics Club, while in the Women's National Plate Final, Galway Special Olympics Club claimed the accolades over Special Olympics Eastern Region 2 team.

Sports Highlights from around the Regions:

Connaught

- 22 competition events held, 14 Area Advancement Events and 8 Regional Events
- 7 Leagues Competitions across the sports of Bocce, Bowling and Football
- First ever Kayaking event was held at Lough Lannagh in Castlebar
- Considerable growth in numbers in Badminton, Equestrian & Table Tennis
- First ever Regional Sports Forum took place on 18th February in National University of Ireland, Galway, with 53 coaches in attendance
- 2 Introduction to Coaching Practices courses were held during the year, with 34 volunteers trained

Eastern region

- 22 Area Advancement Events across 13 Sports with 1,775 athletes competing
- 6 League Competitions saw 1,013 Athletes entered this season in the sports of Aquatics, Basketball, Bowling and Football
- 1 Non-Advancement event held in Kayaking
- Coach Education Courses across 7 sports
- Open Water Swimming Pilot Programme launched
- New sport opportunity offered in Tennis whereby two taster days were held, with 43 athletes participating
- Hosting of first ever Event Management Forum on 15th November, attended by competition managers and event managers for each sport in upcoming competition events

Leinster

- 9 Area Advancement Competitions held
- 5 League Competitions held in Football, Basketball and Bocce with 12, 14 and 21 teams respectively competing
- 2 Non-Advancement competitions event held in Table Tennis and Badminton
- 2 Development Days held in the sports of Basketball and Football
- 113 volunteers availed of Coach Education opportunities
- 243 athletes attended Sports Development training

Munster

- 22 competition events held; 18 Area Events and 4 Regional events
- 4 League Competitions held in Football and Basketball
- First ever Regional competition in the new winter sport of Floorball, with 11 teams taking part

- 27 coaches completed National Governing Body accredited training
- 36 Bocce officials were trained

Ulster

- 8 competition events held; 7 Area events and 1 Regional event
- 5 League Competition events held in Basketball, Bocce and Bowling, with over 250 athletes taking part in this first series of leagues to be held in the Region
- 2 Development Days held in the sports of Basketball and Golf
- Successful participation in the Golf Triple Crown, with Ulster winning the overall team event
- Coach Forum held in October, with 84 coaches attending



Rachel McCloskey, Foyle Special Olympics Club in action against Nikita Brennan, right, Eastern Region team 1 during the final of the Women's National Football Cup.

Club Development

	New 2012	Total as at 31st December 2012
Athletes	985	10,834
Clubs	17	398

Participant numbers continued to grow steadily in 2012 with 985 new athletes joining the programme and 17 new clubs established. While again in 2012, there were a number of clubs that disaffiliated during the year, every effort was made to ensure that all athletes from the clubs that disaffiliated were offered the opportunity to join another club.

With the establishment of Raiser's Edge as the participant database, the process for 2012 Annual Affiliation was reviewed and, for the first time, Raiser's Edge was used to generate reports for issue to clubs and for updating and tracking the annual returns from clubs. The piloting of a soft-copy Annual Affiliation process was tested by a number of clubs and feedback from this pilot will be used to further refine the process, a key aim of which is to minimise the paperwork for clubs. To reduce the large volume of paperwork that was held in both regional and central office in relation to clubs, a scanning process was initiated to put all documentation into soft copy format on a shared server.



The Club Handbook was revised and updated to a more user-friendly format. Club Membership Officer training was developed and piloted in two regions.

A General Special Olympics information leaflet which was previously distributed in Early Intervention Centres and some General Practitioners' surgeries was updated for use in the programme.

Club Programme Highlights from around the Regions:

Connaught

- 170 new athletes registered
- 7 new clubs affiliated
- 39 Club Support and Engagement visits completed
- Athlete Recruitment re-launched in Mayo, with new athletes joining existing clubs in the county
- 28 athletes completed the Athlete Code of Ethics course
- 12 clubs participating in the Health Promotion Programme

Eastern Region

- 228 new athletes registered
- 1 new club affiliated
- 4 newly established clubs received on-going support.
- 23 Club Support and Engagement visits completed and 3 cluster meetings were held
- Area meetings were held in January, May and September
- 33 athletes completed the Athlete Code of Ethics course
- 8 clubs participating in the Health Promotion Programme

Leinster

- 107 new athletes registered
- 22 Club Support and Engagement visits completed
- Local Area Meetings held in counties Offaly, Kildare, Louth, Kilkenny and Wexford
- Membership Officer Training piloted in the region with 8 volunteers attending
- 5 clubs participating in the Health Promotion Programme

Munster

- 207 new athletes registered
- 4 new clubs affiliated
- 27 Club Support and Engagement visits completed and 3 Cluster meetings were hosted
- Training for Club Membership Officers piloted
- 8 athletes completed the Athlete Code of Ethics course
- 13 clubs participating in the Health Promotion Programme

Ulster

- 273 new athletes registered
- 5 new clubs affiliated
- 35 Club Support and Engagement visits completed
- Club development underway in Antrim, Carrickfergus and Magherafelt
- 2 athletes completed the Athlete Code of Ethics course
- 10 clubs participating in the Health Promotion Programme

Athlete Leadership Programme (ALPs)



A mentor plays a key role in the support of athletes within the Athlete Leadership Programme (ALPs). The role of an ALPs Mentor was reviewed and redefined with the view to clarifying and confirming the role so as to encourage and increase the opportunities for more volunteers to

get involved as a mentor. An ALPs Mentor leaflet, outlining the role and the key aspects of mentoring, was developed to support the programme and distributed to all regions. The training plan was redeveloped and piloted with a small group of potential mentors.

ALPS Programme Highlights from around the Regions:

Connaught

- 3 ALPs training sessions took place throughout the year
- ALPs athletes offered volunteer opportunities at the June Bocce event
- Annual BBQ in Lough Key Forest Park
- Annual Awards presentation took place in December, with 1 Gold and 6 Bronze awards presented, along with certificates for mentors and trainers

Eastern region

- 2 ALPs workshops and an Information Day were held during the year
- ALPs Awards night took place in December, with 6 Gold, 4 Silver and 4 Bronze awards presented to athletes by representatives from State Street, sponsor of the Alps Programme over the past few years
- Support of State Street was secured for a further two years

Leinster

- ALPs Workshop held in Knightsbrook Hotel, Trim, Co. Meath, involving 26 athletes and guest speakers from Price Waterhouse Cooper
- 2 athletes presented with their Gold ALPs Awards

Munster

- ALPs programme reactivated in 4 local groups with 9 new athletes recruited
- ALPs athletes played key roles at a number of high profile events including the launch of the Johnson & Johnson Association

Ulster

- 10 new athletes registered with the ALPs Programme
- 8 ALPs workshops were run in the Region throughout 2012 on the topics including presentation skills, photography, volunteer induction, Introduction to Coaching Practices and money management

Family Programme

An analysis and tidy up of the database of family members was undertaken as there was a significant amount of historical data that was no longer relevant, and all remaining data was transferred to Raiser's Edge. Following the data cleansing project, a Family Registration Form was developed to enable extended family members to register with Special Olympics Ireland.

Following recommendations from the 2011 World Summer Games Athens report, and in advance of the 2013 World Winter Games, Information Sessions were held to assist parents/carers and clubs to have a better understanding of the implications of accepting a place on a team for World Games. These sessions were very well received, particularly for those families who were totally new to this level of competition.

Family Programme Highlights from around the Regions:

Connaught

- 248 new family members registered
- Family Hospitality area provided at Basketball, Bocce, Equestrian and Table Tennis competition events
- The Annual Families Event (The Harvest Hop) was held on October 21st in Athlone, with guest appearance by Sandy Kelly who sang to a delighted audience

Eastern region

- 272 new family members registered

- Family area in place at each Area Event and information about becoming a registered family member was made available
- A Family development team were set up during the year to assist the region to encourage family members to attend and support their athlete participating at events

Leinster

- 277 new family members registered
- 57% of Leinster Athletes now have a Registered Family Member on Raiser's Edge

Munster

- 251 new family members registered
- Successful Family Day held in Fota Resort, Cork, with 130 family members attending
- 2 new members recruited for Regional Family Development Team

Ulster

- 113 new family members were registered
- First ever Regional Family Event held in October in Omagh, with 150 families attending
- Family Areas provided at 3 athletics events

Volunteer Services

	New 2012	Total as at 31st December 2012
Volunteers	1,107	24,350

The number of volunteers supporting Special Olympics Ireland continued to rise in 2012, with 1,107 new volunteers completing the registration process. It is inspiring to see that 463 of these new volunteers are youth volunteers under the age of 25. Their assistance was much appreciated, not only in clubs but in the many area competitions and other events held throughout the year. All new volunteers registered in 2012 received photographic membership cards.

The membership cards are proving very popular as they are used by volunteers when attending and checking in at events. Since the beginning of 2012, all new volunteers are obliged to undertake mandatory induction training.

December saw legislation passed to introduce the National Vetting Bureau Act which will oversee the mandatory vetting of volunteers working with children or vulnerable adults. The legislation obliges Special Olympics Ireland to ensure that all volunteers successfully complete the vetting process before they volunteer at a club or at an event.

An online facility was introduced in 2012 that gave volunteers an opportunity to express their interest in volunteering for specific regional events across the entire competition calendar. Over 4,000 new job assignments were recorded for volunteers across clubs, events and committees during the year. This has been a very popular resource for all regions and has greatly assisted in the recruitment of volunteers for all regional events.

Volunteers were kept up-to-date and informed about developments in Special Olympics with 3 editions of the 'CONNECT' newsletter issued in the year.



Shelagh and Colm Leech who were awarded the Disability Sports Volunteer Award at the 2012 National Awards to Volunteers in Irish Sports. Shelagh and Colm have been volunteers with Special Olympics for over 15 years during which time they have taken on a variety of different roles working at national, regional and local club levels.

Training

More and more volunteers are becoming familiar with the online training option on the Special Olympics Ireland website. Over 80% of volunteers are completing their induction training course online, with 18% attending tutor-led sessions and the remainder opting to complete a hard copy of the module.

The online training is not just for new volunteers. 2012 saw the introduction of 20 training videos to support volunteers involved in organising events. The videos provide a good reminder and recap to volunteers who have attended a traditional event training session and the training videos may be accessed anytime on the Special Olympics website. Development also began this year on an online 'refresher' training module for the more experienced volunteer and will be rolled out in 2013.

Once again Dublin City University have offered support and technical advice during the year on developing the online training modules, using the most up-to-date and user-friendly software applications.

Health Services

Delivery of the Intellectual Disability Education modules are proving to be an excellent resource to clubs, with very positive feedback on the content. The modules were reviewed with the support of the Intellectual Disability Nursing Discipline, School of Nursing and Midwifery, Faculty of Health Sciences, Trinity College Dublin to ensure they are up-to-date with current best practice and information. A new group of volunteer tutors was trained this year and will be delivering the modules around the country throughout 2013.

Education and training on the Special Olympics Ireland Code of Ethics and Good Practice remains to the forefront for the organisation and in 2012 the Regional Directors were appointed as the Regional Athlete Protection Officer in their respective region. A dedicated telephone number has been publicised to ensure all members of Special Olympics Ireland know who to contact in the event of a Code of Ethics issue or concern.

In order to ensure up-to-date information and guidance is available to all, an addendum to the Special Olympics Ireland Code of Ethics and Good Practice handbook was developed on Bullying and disseminated to clubs. The development of guidelines on social media and texting was commenced and these documents will assist clubs to put in place guidelines to deal with issues in these areas.

The uptake on training for athletes, delivered through Athlete Code of Ethics and Good Practice workshops, continues to grow and clubs are seeing the benefits of informing athletes of their roles and responsibilities within their club. A number of new tutors were trained to support the growing number of requests for these workshops. It is now mandatory that any team travelling overseas complete the 3-hour workshop with their athletes prior to travel. Medical materials, to support Team Ireland Medical Coordinators in the preparation of their teams prior to travelling to competitions abroad, were also updated.

Health Promotion



Athlete Lynn Conroy, Minister Kathleen Lynch and athlete Carol Nairn pictured at the launch of the final report on the Health Promotion Pilot Project.

The four-year Health Promotion Pilot Project was completed in 2012 and the final report launched by Minister Kathleen Lynch on June 13th. This pilot project has been a major piece of work undertaken by the organisation and the positive results from it show how critical it is to ensure every athlete has access to the materials and training. Clubs have a key role to play in ensuring athletes continue to maintain a positive healthy lifestyle.

Health initiatives throughout the year included a Healthy Athlete event held at the Ulster East Bocce event, covering Health Promotion and Fit Feet, to which there was an excellent response from athletes, family members and coaches. On April 21st, a demonstration of the Opening Eyes screening was held at the European Council of Optics and Optometry Conference in Croke Park. 17 volunteers were involved and athletes from the Eastern Region attended the screening and received prescription glasses and sunglasses. A 'Healthy Eating on a Budget' workshop was run at an ALPs workshop held in Leinster and a video on Healthy Eating was recorded with athletes from MIDWAY Services, Navan, for inclusion in the online health training materials on the Special Olympics Ireland website.

Research

In order to develop new and to continue existing programmes with our athletes, as well as to provide robust evidence to underpin our work and attract funds, Special Olympics Ireland has initiated a significant research initiative.

In 2012, with the support of the Iris O'Brien Foundation, the University of Ulster was commissioned to undertake a literature review "Examining the relationship between physical activity and the health and well-being of people with intellectual disabilities". Based on the findings of the review, Special Olympics Ireland commissioned a longitudinal research study into the relative benefits of being involved in Special Olympics programmes. Special Olympics is seeking to determine if this research can establish that, for those individuals with intellectual disabilities who make a choice (or are facilitated in doing so) to participate in its programmes over a sustained period of time, there is a positive and measurable impact on their health and well-being. If such is the case, is it possible to quantify the economic and health benefits for the individual participant, the individual's family, and the State.

With the tender process to carry out the research underway, and with the continued support of the Iris O'Brien Foundation, the next phase of the project will begin in the first half of 2013.



The Paris2Nice Cycle Challenge saw a group of 65 cover the gruelling 700km distance from Paris to Nice in 6 days during September 2012. Special Olympics Ireland as one of the beneficiary charities received €60,000 from the teams fundraising efforts.

Marketing, Communications and Fundraising

Public Relations and media

Special Olympics Ireland was very much in the news throughout 2012 with local and national media continuing to show a great interest in our activities. The value of the media coverage achieved amounts to an advertising equivalent of more than €6 million.

eMarketing

- 133,465 visits made to www.specialolympics.ie by 81,364 unique visitors
- 24,780 Facebook fans
- 4,800 Twitter followers.
- 28,000 visits to Fundraising Pages, peaking during the Paris2Nice cycle campaign in September

In 2012, there were 133,465 visits to www.specialolympics.ie by 81,364 unique visitors. Traffic peaked around the 2012 Special Olympics Ireland Collection Day at the end of April, and outside of this, retained a relatively consistent level throughout the rest of the year. 61% of traffic came from new visitors to the website while 39% were returning visitors.

61,000 visits to www.specialolympics.ie came via Google, while Facebook generated 10,000 visits. The homepage was the most popular page on the website followed by the Volunteer page and the Job Opportunities page. The Munster sub-section of the website was the most popular of the regional sections on the website.

In support of Special Olympics Ireland's participation in the Electric Ireland Powering Kindness Campaign in November 2012, videos were created featuring Special Olympics Ireland Ambassadors encouraging people to support Special Olympics Ireland in this campaign, and these videos were promoted extensively across all online channels.

Fundraising/ Sponsorship/Donations

The year proved to be a busy one with fundraising events and activities taking place both regionally and on an all-island level. A grand total of almost €1.8 million was achieved in fundraising and sponsorship activities throughout the year.

Our annual Collection Day, held on Friday April 27th 2012, provided us with an opportunity to engage with new companies through volunteering and fundraising events. Once again, *eircom* sponsored this year's campaign and were hugely involved in supporting the logistics operation of the event. *eircom* drivers helped deliver buckets and materials all over the county and also helped with the post-event tidy up. As a result of a nationwide volunteer recruitment campaign, 4,000 volunteers took to the streets of Ireland to help raise funds for the organisation. This was a fantastic response and represented a significant increase in terms of volunteer support on the day. The effort from our corporate partners, club volunteers and new volunteers was absolutely incredible and, coupled with the generosity of the general public, resulted in a tremendous €588,727 being raised on the day.

Regional Fundraising in 2012 saw the continuation of some of the more successful fundraising events throughout Ireland. We raised considerable amounts through initiatives such as the Polar Plunge and Cops and Donut Shops. 60 people participated in our first Dundalk to Scarva Cycle. Gerry Kelly and a host of Sporting Heroes entertained in Northern Ireland. We even saw Connaught volunteers, and staff, put on their wedding dress and join a host of women in a Bridal Race at the Galway Races!

Other key fundraising events held in 2012 include:

Paris2Nice

In September, a group of cycling enthusiasts left Dublin for Paris to raise funds for a number of charities including Special Olympics Ireland. The Paris2Nice Cycle Challenge saw the group of 65 cover the gruelling 700km distance from Paris to Nice in 6 days. Special Olympics was delighted to receive a donation €60,000 towards supporting clubs throughout the Eastern region and delivering the annual Special Olympics programmes throughout Ireland.



Athlete Laura Jane Dunne with actor Charlenne McKenna and presenter Dermot Whelan at the launch of Special Olympics Ireland's involvement in the Electric Ireland Powering Kindness Campaign

Powering Kindness

Special Olympics Ireland was delighted to be part of Electric Ireland's Powering Kindness Campaign during November. This campaign of goodwill encouraged people to do a good deed and bank it in favour of one of three charities. Over the course of the one-week campaign, thousands of kind acts were carried out and Special Olympics Ireland was delighted and honoured to hear that the greatest number of good deeds had been carried out in our name which resulted in Electric Ireland presenting us with the top prize of €50,000



American Chamber of Commerce

The American Chamber of Commerce selected Special Olympics Ireland as their charity partner for 2012. Throughout the year the American Chamber of Commerce helped us communicate to their members and garner their support for our activities, particularly around our annual Collection Day. Such partnerships are hugely valuable to us and we are extremely grateful to all at the American Chamber of Commerce for helping us to reach out to their members and forge a number of great relationships.

Corporate Relationships

Our 27-year partnership with our sponsor, **eircom**, continues to be a significant partnership that has generated tremendous benefits for both organisations.

Special Olympics Munster has continued a strong relationship with their sponsor, **Johnson and Johnson** and, the Eastern Region was successful in securing substantial funding from **State Street** to enable development of the Athlete Leadership Programme over a two year period and **RSA** continue to give their support to the region.

Relationships have been developed with foundations that generously donate to the organisation, such as, the **Iris O'Brien Foundation** who are supporting our Research Project, and the **JP McManus Pro Am Foundation** who are donating €250,000 per annum, to the Munster region, for 6 years up to 2017.



Caoilinn de Bairead passes the finish line in a unique fundraising event held by Special Olympics Connaught during the 2012 Galway races. Ladies were invited to raise sponsorship to wear a wedding dress and run a furlong on the racetrack.

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:

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Email: info@specialolympics.ie

Support Functions

Administration

The successful sourcing of a new Ulster Regional Office was undertaken during 2012 and, following final fit-out, the relocation date is planned for March 2013. With two other office contracts due to expire in April 2013, the search for alternative accommodation for the Leinster Regional office and the renegotiations on the east wing of the Central office commenced in early 2012 and continued to be a work-in-progress throughout the year.

Information Technology

The IT focus was on leveraging value from the investments made in 2011 in data management solutions. Over the course of the year, more and more standalone databases have been imported into our Constituent Relationship Management (CRM) System. By consolidating the organisation's data in one place, we have greatly improved the availability and accuracy of key stakeholder information (athletes, clubs, volunteers, family members, donors, etc.) which has resulted in a level of reporting that provides management and supporting bodies such as the Irish Sports Council and Sports Northern Ireland with key statistical information.

Other IT projects of note from 2012 include the implementation of an offsite backup solution for central and regional servers and the rollout of new Microsoft software to all PCs and laptops. A new website and direct debit management system was developed to support the Friends of Special Olympics Ireland entity.

Human Resources

Following on from the successful Health Promotion Pilot Programme, funding was secured from the Department of Health to support the appointment of a Health and Education Officer role to continue and extend the work initiated in the area.

The organisation continued to receive resource support from the Department of Social Protection through the Community Employment Scheme and links with various third-level colleges and institutes throughout the island provided opportunities for engagement with third

level students on work placements across the organisation.

The HR and Remuneration Subcommittee of the Board met six times during 2012 to review key policies and for the monitoring and reporting of HR related matters.

Opportunities for staff training were greatly enhanced across the organisation in 2012 thanks to the extensive and varied schedule of 'Learning & Development' opportunities offered by the Irish Sports Council to all National Governing Bodies of Sport. Special Olympics maximised the opportunities offered and all training was much appreciated.

Another initiative introduced by the Irish Sports Council also provided terrific engagement and team building for staff members, board members and volunteers alike. The 'Sports Council Challenge' encouraged staff members of NGBs to engage in physical activity for the month of May and the true sportsmanship and competitive natures of Special Olympics staff, board and some volunteers shone through to great effect.



Volunteer track timekeepers at an athletics event held in Munster in May 2012.



Reports and Financial Statements

District Governor Rotary International in Ireland, Jack Cunningham, athletes Jonathon Griffin and Alan Keady, and Declan Tynner Bishopstown Rotary Club pictured at the launch of the 2012 Rotary / Special Olympics Ireland "Let's make Cents" fundraising campaign.

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

Reports and Financial Statements

For the year ended
 31 December 2012

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

REPORTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2012

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

DIRECTORS AND OTHER INFORMATION

DIRECTORS:	Mary Davis (Chairperson) (Re-appointed 25/02/2012) Teresa McCabe (Resigned 26/05/2012) Brian Osborne (Resigned 26/05/2012) Peter Fitzgerald Dervila O'Mahony Ann Bourke Nicole Redmond Ronan King (Interim Chairperson) Fiona Donaghy Maurice Redmond Liam Collins John Spillane Laura Murphy John McKernan Máire Allen (Appointed 26/05/2012) Nerissa Dowling (Appointed 26/05/2012) David Wallace (Appointed 20/10/2012)
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:	Deloitte & Touche Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm Deloitte & Touche House Earlsfort Terrace Dublin 2
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

The Directors present their Annual Report together with the audited financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2012.

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.

Results

As anticipated, due to the continued reduction in public grant funding in the republic of Ireland and challenging conditions for voluntary fundraising, operating results for the year before accounting for the movement on restricted reserves reflect a deficit of €881,392 (2011 – surplus of €135,973). As a result, the charity recorded a net reduction in cash of €1,109,298 (2011 – increase of €235,251).

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 an intellectual disability. We are now one of Ireland's largest sporting and voluntary organisations, with 398 clubs with 10,834 registered athletes across the island at the end of December 2012. The Special Olympics Programme is supported by a strong volunteer pool of 24,334 vetted volunteers, with 7,233 volunteers actively involved during 2012.

Participant numbers continued to grow steadily in 2012 with 985 new athletes joining the programme and 17 new Special Olympics clubs established. While again in 2012, there were a number of clubs that disaffiliated during the year, every effort was made to ensure that all athletes from the clubs that disaffiliated were offered the opportunity to join another club.

In terms of our Sports Programme, the first level of advancement competition in our 4-year cycle took place in 2012 with 224 competition opportunities offered, mostly at local Area Level in the programme, giving athletes the opportunity to compete and to advance to Regional Level competition in 2013. Despite the high-level of activity associated with preparation and participation in these competitions, there was also a very high uptake on coach education courses, with 1,079 coaches attending coach training.

Major highlights across the programme during 2012 include:

- 985 new athletes and 1,104 new volunteers registered.
- 17 new Special Olympics clubs affiliated.
- 224 competition events held across the island.
- 36 athletes awarded International Caps by the Football Association of Ireland in recognition of their participation in the 2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Athens.
- Expansion of the Special Olympics Ireland Winter Programme to include a new team sport, Floorball, alongside Alpine Skiing.
- Open Water Swimming Pilot Programme launched.

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

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

- 4,800 Twitter followers.
- New sport opportunity offered in Tennis through two 'Taster Days'.
- Triple Crown Golf Event hosted in September in Hollystown Golf Club. Teams from each Special Olympics Ireland Region, along with teams from England and Scotland, competed in the event.
- All new volunteers registered in 2012 received photographic membership cards.
- Development of an online facility to give volunteers an opportunity to express their interest in volunteering for specific regional events was introduced in 2012.
- Over 80% of volunteers who have completed Volunteer Induction have done so online.
- Final report on four-year Health Promotion Pilot Project launched by Minister Kathleen Lynch in June.
- 133,465 visits made to www.specialolympics.ie by 81,364 unique visitors.
- 24,780 Facebook fans.
- 28,000 visits to Fundraising Pages, peaking during the Paris2Nice cycle campaign in September.

A key aspect of the work of the organisation is the support and development of clubs involved in the year-round sports programme. Significant work has been achieved at regional level through the continued support and engagement programme with clubs.

Our partnerships with funders are much valued and continue to be strategically important in generating tremendous benefits for both organisations. 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 island.

Following on from the successful completion of the four-year Health Promotion Pilot Project in July 2012, grant funding was secured from the Department of Health and Children to support the wider roll-out of the programme to clubs. 48 clubs were actively engaged in the Health Promotion Programme during 2012.

Our 27-year partnership with our sponsor, eircom, continues to be a significant partnership that has generated tremendous benefits for both organisations. Special Olympics Munster has continued a strong relationship with their sponsor, Johnson and Johnson and in the Eastern Region, State Street and RSA continued to be significant partners.

Fundraising activities with the general public continue to be a major factor in both generating required funds and maintaining a high level of awareness of the Special Olympics programme. This generosity, coupled with the efforts of our corporate partners and volunteers, maintained an inflow of much needed funds into the organisation during 2012.

In order to develop new and to continue existing programmes with our athletes, as well as provide robust evidence to underpin our work and attract funds, Special Olympics Ireland have initiated a significant research initiative kindly funded by the Iris O'Brien Foundation.

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

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

Results

The operating deficit for the year before accounting for the movement on restricted reserves amounted to €881,392 (2011 – surplus of €135,973).

Post Balance Sheet Events

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

Directors of the Company and their Interests

The Directors of the Company are set out on page 2 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, liaising with the company's auditors and, where necessary, 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 wellbeing 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 an intellectual disability, 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 an intellectual disability 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.

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

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 fully committed to the implementation of the Code of Governance for the Community, Voluntary and Charitable sector, which was launched at the end of February 2012.

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 the standards it sets out are being met.

Commitment to the Governance Code for the Community, Voluntary and Charitable Sector

Special Olympics Ireland is fully committed to implementing the codes contained within the Governance Code for the Community, Voluntary and Charitable Sector. The Directors have considered the code and believe the standards it sets out are being met.

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. The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) has 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 2012 the Board comprised of fifteen non-executive-directors. 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, with the exception of two Board members who are elected annually from the floor at the AGM in line with our constitution.

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

Governance (continued)

The Board met seven times in 2012. The Board has formed the following subcommittees, chaired by a member of the board and with agreed terms of reference:-

- **Audit Subcommittee and 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 auditors.

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.

- **Distinguished Service Award Subcommittee**

Acting Chairperson: Peter Fitzgerald

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.

- **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.

- **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.

- **Investment Subcommittee**

Chairperson: Ronan King

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

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

Internal Controls

The Board acknowledges 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 mis-statement or loss.

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

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.

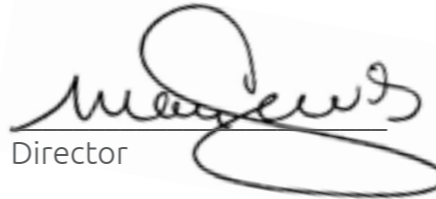
The Special Olympics programme is offered as an All-Ireland programme which is managed centrally across 5 departments, under the direction of the CEO.

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.

Auditors

The auditors, Deloitte, 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

18th April 2013

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

STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

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 Financial Reporting Council 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 2012.

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.

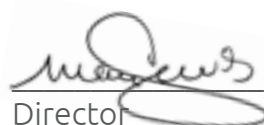
Where financial statements are to be published on the web, the directors are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the company's website.

In so far as the directors are aware:

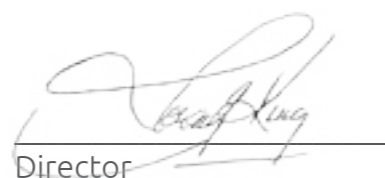
- there is no relevant audit information (information needed by the company's auditors in connection with preparing their report) of which the company's auditors are unaware, and
- the directors have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information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

Deloitte.

Deloitte & Touche
Chartered Accountants &
Registered Auditors

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

We have audited the Financial Statements of Special Olympics Ireland Limited for the year ended 31 December 2012 which comprise the Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and the related notes 1 to 22. These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and the Statement of Accounting Policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is Irish law and accounting standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council and promulgated by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland (Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland).

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 auditors' 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 explained more fully in the Statement of Directors' Responsibilities, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements giving a true and fair view. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with Irish law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the financial statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the directors; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Reports and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2012 to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

Opinion on financial statements

In our opinion the financial statements:

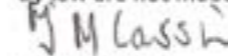
- give a true and fair view, in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland, of the state of the affairs of the company as at 31 December 2012 and of the deficit for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Acts, 1963 to 2012.

Matters on which we are required to report by the Companies Acts, 1963 to 2012

- We have obtained all the information and explanations which 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.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the provisions in the Companies Acts, 1963 to 2012 which require us to report to you if, in our opinion, the disclosures of directors' remuneration and transactions specified by law are not made.



Thomas Cassin
For and on behalf of Deloitte & Touche
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm
Dublin

18 April 2013

Members of
Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu

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

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.

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 2012. Accounting Standards generally accepted in Ireland in preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view are those issued by the Financial Reporting Council and published by the Auditing Practices Board in the UK and Ireland. The financial statements include the financial statements of the central office and five regions, Eastern, Leinster, Ulster, Munster and Connaught.

INCOME

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

Income is recognised as it is received for Fundraising, Sponsorship and Donation Income, Trusts, Other Income. Other income includes Cost Recovery Income, Merchandise Income and Participant Fees. Cost recovery income refers to reimbursement by third parties of expenditure already incurred.

Investment Income is recognised on a receivable basis.

TAXATION

The Company has charitable status and therefore is exempt from corporation tax.

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:

Computer equipment	-	33% Straight Line
Office Equipment	-	25% Straight Line
Fixtures & Fittings	-	25% Straight Line
Motor Vehicles	-	25% Reducing Balance

INVESTMENTS

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

STOCK

Stock consists of merchandising, promotional materials, medals and consumables and is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

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

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

STOCK

Stock consists of merchandising, promotional materials, medals and consumables and is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

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.

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.

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.

Restricted reserves are represented by income received by the company which is restricted to a specific purpose by the donor which is unspent at the year end. Unrestricted reserves are available for the company to use in furtherance of its work and objectives.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS IRELAND LIMITED
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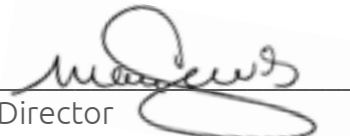
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2012

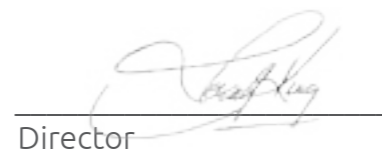
	Notes	2012 €	2011 €
INCOME			
Grants	1	2,366,681	2,751,643
Fundraising, sponsorship and donations	2	1,798,037	2,670,669
Investment income	3	467,431	340,112
Other income	4	119,843	172,032
TOTAL INCOME		4,751,992	5,934,456
EXPENDITURE			
Sports programmes	5	1,863,099	1,695,907
Games and events	6	575,967	806,359
Support programmes	7	1,455,931	1,439,335
Governance	8	464,712	396,045
Advocacy	9	306,538	285,597
Fundraising	10	967,137	1,175,240
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		5,633,384	5,798,483
(DEFICIT)/SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR			
BEFORE RESTRICTED RESERVES EXPENDITURE	11	(881,392)	135,973
Restricted reserve expenditure	20	(58,859)	(16,794)
(DEFICIT)/SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	21	(940,251)	119,179

There are no recognised gains or losses other than those arising from continuing operations disclosed in the Income and Expenditure Account.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Directors on 18th April 2013 and signed on its behalf by:

On behalf of the Board


Director


Director

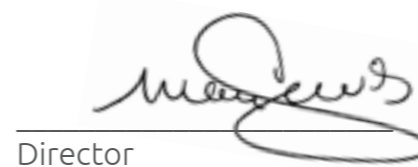
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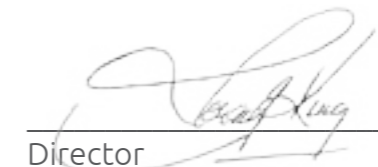
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2012

	Notes	2012 €	2011 €
FIXED ASSETS			
Fixed Assets	15	115,175	62,848
Financial Assets	16	4,118,518	-
		4,223,693	62,848
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stocks	17	85,971	110,732
Bank, cash and short term investments		4,047,594	9,275,410
Debtors and prepayments	18	493,272	165,075
		4,626,837	9,551,217
CREDITORS: (Amounts falling due within one year)	19	(612,896)	(426,180)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		4,013,941	9,125,037
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		8,247,634	9,187,885
RESERVES			
Restricted Reserves	20	1,384,380	1,443,239
Unrestricted Reserves			
Unrestricted funds	21	1,579,513	2,460,905
Designated Funding Reserve 2012 to 2015	21	5,283,741	5,283,741
		6,863,254	7,744,646
MEMBERS' FUNDS	22	8,247,634	9,187,885

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Directors on 18th April 2013 and signed on its behalf by:

On behalf of the Board


Director


Director

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

CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2012

	Notes	2012 €	2011 €
NET CASH OUTFLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	23	(1,470,211)	(323,433)
Returns on investments and servicing of finance			
Interest received		467,431	340,112
Capital expenditure and financial investment			
Payments to acquire tangible assets		(118,531)	(31,428)
Receipt from financial investment		-	250,000
		(118,531)	218,572
Financing			
Capital grant received		12,012	-
(DECREASE)/INCREASE IN CASH IN THE YEAR	24	(1,109,298)	235,251
RECONCILIATION OF NET CASH FLOW TO MOVEMENT IN NET FUNDS (NOTE 26)			
(Decrease)/increase in cash in the year	24	(1,109,298)	235,251
Net funds at 1 January 2012		9,275,410	9,040,159
NET FUNDS AT 31 DECEMBER 2012		8,166,112	9,275,410

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2012

	2012 €	2011 €
1. GRANT INCOME		
Irish Sports Council	1,200,000	1,765,000
Sports Council of Northern Ireland	715,739	404,875
Health Services Executive	120,175	112,518
Irish Aid	37,500	63,750
Other grants	293,267	405,500
	2,366,681	2,751,643
2. FUNDRAISING SPONSORSHIP AND DONATIONS		
	2012	2011
	€	€
Fundraising, Sponsorship and Donations	1,798,037	2,670,669
Included in fundraising sponsorship and donations are funds received from State Street Foundation Community Support Programme for the Athlete Leadership Programme of \$44,500 (€34,105).		
3. INVESTMENT INCOME		
	2012	2011
	€	€
Investment income	467,431	340,112
4. OTHER INCOME		
	2012	2011
	€	€
Participant fees	84,825	77,264
Sundry income	35,018	94,768
	119,843	172,032

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2012

5. SPORTS PROGRAMMES	2012	2011
	€	€
Staff costs	1,178,101	1,119,372
Programme costs	571,710	463,026
IT	18,292	21,468
HR and operations	20,114	19,131
Rent, services and general office costs	61,973	56,613
Other project costs	12,909	16,297
	<u>1,863,099</u>	<u>1,695,907</u>
6. GAMES AND EVENTS	2012	2011
	€	€
Staff costs	423,368	409,350
Programme costs	5,262	5,269
Games costs	60,901	311,146
IT	18,292	21,468
HR and operations	6,171	2,512
Rent, services and general office costs	61,973	56,614
	<u>575,967</u>	<u>806,359</u>
7. SUPPORT PROGRAMMES	2012	2011
	€	€
Staff costs	986,953	911,279
Programme costs	329,266	358,919
Volunteer services	19,507	23,310
IT	18,292	21,468
HR and operations	6,171	2,512
Rent, services and general office costs	61,973	56,613
Other projects	33,769	65,234
	<u>1,455,931</u>	<u>1,439,335</u>

SPECIAL OLYMPICS IRELAND LIMITED
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2012

8. GOVERNANCE	2012	2011
	€	€
Staff costs	288,037	234,287
Financial administration	90,239	80,362
IT	18,292	21,468
HR and operations	6,171	3,315
Rent, services and general office costs	61,973	56,613
	<u>464,712</u>	<u>396,045</u>
9. ADVOCACY	2012	2011
	€	€
Staff costs	188,275	190,838
Strategic costs	35,810	33,297
PR, marketing and communications	82,453	61,462
	<u>306,538</u>	<u>285,597</u>
10. FUNDRAISING	2012	2011
	€	€
Staff costs	583,618	556,626
IT	18,292	21,468
HR and operations	6,171	2,512
Rent, services and general office costs	61,973	56,613
Fundraising activities	297,083	538,021
	<u>967,137</u>	<u>1,175,240</u>
11. (DEFICIT)/SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	2012	2011
	€	€
(Deficit)/surplus for the year is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Directors' remuneration	-	-
Depreciation of tangible assets	66,204	33,408
Auditors' remuneration	16,605	17,080
Investment income	(467,431)	(340,112)

Auditors' remuneration is €13,500, exclusive of VAT and outlay. The auditors provided no other services (tax advisory, other assurance and other non-audit) during the year.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2012

12. EMPLOYEES	2012 Number	2011 Number
The average number of employees during the year was	<u>87</u>	<u>86</u>
	2012 €	2011 €
Wages and salaries	3,258,450	3,045,610
Social welfare costs	336,439	321,155
Other pension costs	53,552	50,976
	<u><u>3,648,441</u></u>	<u><u>3,417,741</u></u>

13. TRANSACTIONS WITH DIRECTORS AND RELATED PARTIES

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

14. 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 €53,552 (2011: €50,976).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2012

15. TANGIBLE ASSETS	Computer Equipment €	Office Equipment €	Furniture & Fittings €	Motor Vehicles €	Total €
Cost					
At beginning of year	236,191	29,565	47,888	55,841	369,485
Additions	102,788	15,743	-	-	118,531
Disposals	(1,093)	(6,944)	(6,016)	-	(14,053)
At end of year	<u>337,886</u>	<u>38,364</u>	<u>41,872</u>	<u>55,841</u>	<u>473,963</u>
Depreciation					
At beginning of year	203,118	29,565	37,975	35,979	306,637
Charge for the year	47,202	1,278	5,752	11,972	66,204
Depreciation on disposals	(1,093)	(6,944)	(6,016)	-	(14,053)
At end of year	<u>249,227</u>	<u>23,899</u>	<u>37,711</u>	<u>47,951</u>	<u>358,788</u>
Net book values					
At 31 December 2012	<u>88,659</u>	<u>14,465</u>	<u>4,161</u>	<u>7,890</u>	<u>115,175</u>
At 31 December 2011	<u>33,073</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,913</u>	<u>19,862</u>	<u>62,848</u>

16. FINANCIAL ASSETS

Financial assets are represented by investments in government bonds and amounts held on long-term fixed deposit for greater than one year.

17. STOCKS	2012 €	2011 €
Stocks	85,971	110,732

There are no material differences between the replacement cost of stock and the balance sheet amount.

18. DEBTORS	2012 €	2011 €
Trade debtors	11,477	19,537
Other debtors	45,349	51,472
Accrued income and interest receivable	350,933	62,486
Prepayments	85,513	31,580
	<u><u>493,272</u></u>	<u><u>165,075</u></u>

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2012

19. CREDITORS		2012	2011
		€	€
Amounts falling due within one year:			
Trade creditors		215,373	35,141
PAYE and social welfare		174,086	100,136
Accruals and deferred income		203,141	278,210
Other creditors		20,296	12,693
		<u>612,896</u>	<u>426,180</u>

20. RESTRICTED RESERVES	Regional Office Reserve	Host Town Fund	Paris To Nice Fund	Open Eyes Fund	Total
	€	€	€	€	€
At 1 January 2012	1,306,255	70,618	60,136	6,230	1,443,239
Transferred from unrestricted reserve					
Gain on translation	14,067	-	-	-	14,067
Grants paid out	-	(17,966)	(54,960)	-	(72,926)
At 31 December 2012	<u>1,320,322</u>	<u>52,652</u>	<u>5,176</u>	<u>6,230</u>	<u>1,384,380</u>

21. UNRESTRICTED RESERVES	Designated Funding Reserve	Unrestricted Funds	Total
	€	€	€
At 1 January 2012	5,283,741	2,460,905	7,744,646
Deficit for the year	-	(940,251)	(940,251)
Transfer to restricted reserve	-	58,859	58,859
At 31 December 2012	<u>5,283,741</u>	<u>1,579,513</u>	<u>6,863,254</u>

Designated Funding Reserve:

It is the stated policy of the charity to ensure that there are sufficient reserves available to meet projected expenditure for a period of 12 months ahead due to the volatile nature of its main funding service from public fundraising.

A Designated Funding Reserve is carried to meet planned budgetary requirements estimated at €23m for the four year programme cycle 2012 – 2015.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS IRELAND LIMITED
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2012

22. RECONCILIATION OF MOVEMENTS IN MEMBERS' FUNDS	2012	2011
	€	€
(Deficit)/surplus for the year	(940,251)	119,179
Opening members' funds	9,187,885	9,068,706
Closing members' funds	<u>8,247,634</u>	<u>9,187,885</u>

23. RECONCILIATION OF OPERATING (DEFICIT)/ SURPLUS TO NET CASH OUTFLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Operating deficit	(940,251)	119,179
Investment income	(467,431)	(340,112)
Depreciation and amortisation	65,704	33,408
Increase in debtors	(351,727)	(42,813)
Increase in stock	24,761	5,696
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	198,733	(98,791)
NET CASH OUTFLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	<u>(1,470,211)</u>	<u>(323,433)</u>

24. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS	Opening Balance	Cash Flows	Closing Balance
	€	€	€
Bank, cash and short term investments	9,275,410	(1,109,298)	8,166,112

25. LEASE COMMITMENTS

Operating leases:

At the balance sheet date the company had annual commitments under operating leases as set out below:

	2012	2011
	€	€
Expiring:		
Within one year	24,689	-
Between two and five years	210,229	188,252
More than five years	147,475	91,004



ANNUAL REPORT 2012

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