

Dear Fellow Lions

Apart from “The Olympics”, “Special Olympics “is the only other organisation that has been granted use of the word Olympics in its title.

Every four years there are staggered International Special Olympics sports celebrations, The Winter, The European and The World.

Our athletes in Great Britain (SOGB) likewise have a four yearly National Games. Many of our champions go on to participate and represent us in the International events.

SO WITH FULL COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS SUPPORT

Please support our Special Olympics Great Britain (SOGB)

During our 60th Anniversary MD Convention in Leeds, May 2010, MD105 entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Special Olympics Great Britain, the aim being to create a working and effective partnership that will benefit the inclusion and increase the participation of people with intellectual disabilities within sport. Lions Clubs International has had a long association with the Special Olympics International movement.

SOGB provides participation opportunities for intellectually disabled people to take part in sport at whatever level they choose. The events are run at both National and Regional levels and aim to ensure an inclusive and positive experience of sport for all people with an intellectual disability.

National Summer Games Sheffield 2017

The event will take place in the city of Sheffield between 7th and 12th August 2017. This will be the country’s largest multi-sports event for athletes with intellectual disabilities to be held in 2017. Around 2,600 athletes with intellectual disabilities of all ages and abilities will come together from across the country. They will be supported over 4 days of competition by 800 coaches, 750 volunteers, 150 officials and over 5,000 family & friends.

The Families Programme

Athletes’ families play an essential and ongoing role in enabling athletes to achieve their potential. SOGB know from experience that the National Summer Games offer families the opportunity to share and celebrate their son or daughter’s abilities. It is expected that around 5,000 family members will travel to Sheffield from all corners of Great Britain to support the athletes. **The Lions Clubs of MD 105 have committed to providing and supporting the Families Programme.** This will be for the second consecutive games, having had a very successful Bath 2013 Games. The Games in 2017 coincide with our centenary celebrations, and Sheffield 2017 is a cornerstone project for our celebrations.

For the Lionistic year 2016/17 I would ask if your club could help in any way to make these Summer Games something both the athletes and their families will remember for a long time.

Rather than just an appeal letter for financial donations, this year I ask your club to consider a number of options.

What Can The Lions Of MD105 Do?

1. **Equipment and Infrastructure.** Through Sheffield City Council, we have been put in contact with a marquee hire company, however we will still need:
 - Lighting & Power
 - Site fencing
 - Toilets
 - Tables & Chairs
 - Cooking equipment
 - Signage

Whilst all of these items can be hired they will incur, potentially high, costs. As Lions do we have contacts for any of these items?

2. **Sponsorship.** Are there any businesses we can approach for assistance?
3. **Money.** All of this package will cost and without donations from Lions Clubs across the Multiple District we will not be able to provide a successful programme. If your club are able to make a financial contribution then this would make a significant difference to the Families Programme at Sheffield 2017. All funds raised by the Lions of MD105 are always used to directly benefit the athletes and their families.
4. **Provide volunteers.** The overall games will require 750 volunteers. To provide the Families Programme we estimate a requirement of approximately 50-75 volunteers. Lions are not restricted to just the families programme and can volunteer for any role. Ask any Lion who was at the Bath 2013 games and they will tell you how rewarding the games were. To volunteer please visit the registration website <http://www.registration-sheffield2017.org.uk/>

If you are able to provide any of the infrastructure items or have possible sponsorship contacts can you please contact Lion Margaret Riley, Sheffield 2017 Lions Coordinator. Her email address is mriley@briley.karoo.co.uk.

Payments should be made to your District Treasurer, endorsed Special Olympics Great Britain on the reverse of the cheque, which in turn will be forwarded to the MD Charities Treasurer. I would also be grateful if you could let me know of any donations made by emailing myself at sogb@lions105ea.com. Please accept my sincere thanks to all clubs who have made donations to this partnership.

Yours in Lionism

Lion Simon Smith

MD105 Physical & Learning Disability Team –SOGB Liaison Officer