



9 March 2015

News release

Kris Hopkins MP supports local Special Olympics athletes' dream

Kris Hopkins MP has shown his support for local powerlifters James Crossley and Chris Woodhead and is encouraging Keighley residents and local businesses to back their fundraising campaign to support their participation at the [Special Olympics 2015 World Summer Games](#) in Los Angeles from 25 July until 2 August.

Last week, Hopkins visited Workouts Shipley training gym to wish James and Chris good luck and see them in action while they prepare to compete at the World Summer Games.

Special Olympics presents a unique opportunity for people with intellectual disabilities every four years to represent their country at an international competition. The Special Olympics World Summer Games is the largest disability sporting event anywhere in the world in 2015. In the region of 7,000 athletes from 177 countries - along with 3,000 coaches, 30,000 volunteers and an anticipated 500,000 spectators – will take part in the Games.

The three-strong team from the Bradford Disability Sport and Leisure Club (BSDL) includes Assistant Coach Kelly Moore and GB powerlifters, James Crossley and Chris Woodhead. They are part of the 170-strong GB team from across England, Scotland and Wales hoping to attend the Games to represent Great Britain this summer.

The team need to raise funds to help cover the cost of each of their nominated athlete/coaches travel, kit and training costs. The BSDL club has been busy raising funds and is appealing to local residents to show their support with a donation to their team members via their Just Giving page www.justgiving.com/bradfordsports.

To provide a donation towards the 170-strong GB Team please go to:
<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charity-web/charity/finalCharityHomepage.action?charityId=1000506>

Or text GBLA15 + £YourAmount TO 70070

Kris Hopkins MP for Keighley said: "Special Olympics GB offers a fantastic opportunity for our local athletes to show off their skills on the world stage. I am sure everyone will join me in getting behind Chris, James and Kelly in their training and fundraising efforts for this years' Games."

Dean Carroll, Development Manager for BDSL said "The two lads have trained hard over the past three years for this moment, they are a real credit to Keighley and the Bradford District as a whole"

Karen Wallin, Chief Executive of Special Olympics GB said: "Our voluntary local Special Olympics clubs do an amazing job organizing training and competition for their athletes all year-round. The Special Olympics programme helps athletes with intellectual disabilities develop their fitness, make friends and increase their confidence. I hope the local community will help their local GB team members by donating whatever they can to the fundraising campaign and get behind them as they make their final preparations to compete at this once in a lifetime event."



ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS

Kris Hopkins MP is supporting local powerlifters Chris Woodhead and James Crossley and their coach Kelly Moore, to help raise awareness of their fundraising campaign for the World Summer Games in LA this July to help cover the costs of travel, kit and training.

About Special Olympics and Special Olympics GB

- Special Olympics GB is the largest registered charity providing year round sports training and competition opportunities for people with intellectual (learning) disabilities in England, Scotland and Wales. Almost 1.5 million people in the UK (2% of the population) have an intellectual disability.
- It currently serves over 8,000 athletes with intellectual disabilities at 150 volunteer led accredited local clubs in 19 regions across the country.
- Special Olympics is a global organisation that provides year-round sports training and athletic competition to nearly 4 million children and adults with intellectual (learning) disabilities in almost 200 countries.
- Founded in 1968 by Eunice Kennedy Shriver, sister of the late President John F Kennedy, Special Olympics provides people with intellectual disabilities opportunities to realise their potential, develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage and experience friendship.
- Special Olympics is recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) as the third member of the Olympic family. It is the only sports organisation authorised by the IOC to use the word 'Olympics' in its title.
- The BDSL Powerlifting Club is just one of the 14 Sports Activities BDSL provide. The Powerlifting Club meets every Thursday at Workouts Gym, Shipley at 7pm.

For further information, please contact:

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