



# Special Olympics Luxembourg

## National Director's welcome

Welcome to the second edition of the newsletter. Despite the disappointment of the cancellation of the Kazan winter games, we have a rich array of positive news, experiences and achievements, which I hope you will enjoy.

We were all delighted that in February, our winter colony could take place in Austria. Read our special about it below.



It is good to note that Special Olympics Luxembourg has enjoyed some media attention of late. Read more about these welcome publicity measures by RTL television and 100,7 radio below and click on the links to enjoy the broadcasts for yourselves.

I am proud of the fact that our organisation not only receives donations, but also works to give back to help others too. It is with some pride that I can announce that our athletes and supporters have raised almost €900 for Fondation Cancer, by participating in this year's Relais pour la Vie.

Last but definitely not least, I am pleased to say that our [website](#) has been given a facelift. Please take a moment to check it out. There you will find much more information about us as well as many more photos from our events. Thanks to all who collaborated to help us come up to date.

Yours sportingly

Lieven Decroos

## Your donations

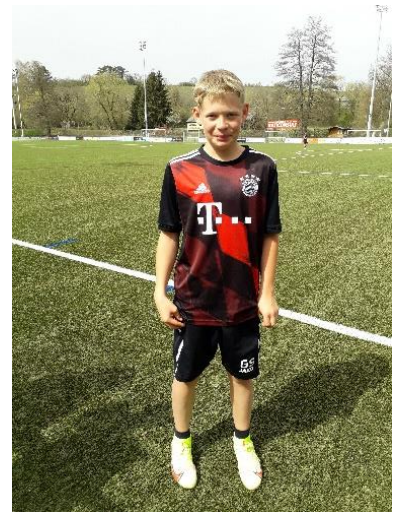
As well as donations [from our corporate sponsors](#), we are lucky enough to receive other contributions from individuals or from clubs. Here are some of our those who have helped Special Olympics Luxembourg over the recent weeks and to whom we say a big "merci villmols":





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- [Käschtenfrenn Deifferdeng](#) who worked tirelessly raising money at their Christmas market.
- Glenn Schumacher, aged 12, has not only created his first wine but is also generously donating part of the sales proceeds to Special Olympics. Football-mad Glenn heard of the [2021 24h basketball dribble team](#) on the Marie-Astrid. Encouraged by his mother who used to work with the disabled in Betzdorf, Glenn decided to support our organisation and so help others enjoy sport. Read more about this remarkable young man and his school project [here](#). We will be hearing more about Glenn in the future.



## Sports news

### Swimming gala in Ettelbruck

The Dauphin Swimming Club of Ettelbruck hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> spring challenge to which Special Olympics Luxembourg were invited. 16 of our athletes participated many of whom achieved personal best times. Grateful thanks go to the Dauphin club for extending the welcome hand of inclusion and friendship and to Holm Ristok and the other coaches for their work.





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## Athletics

Led by Pierrot Feltgen, Special Olympics athletes took part in this year's Relais pour la vie 2022 to raise money for Luxembourg's Fondation Cancer. 19 runners took part, racking up 434 km between them, over nearly 65 hours. Thanks to their efforts, just under €900 was raised for this worthy cause.

**19 Leefers**  
**64:43 Stonnen**  
**434 Kilometer**  
**285 + 500 + 84€ Dons**



## Special - Winter colony 2022

The following article was kindly provided by Raphael Messineo, on his first trip as a supervisor with Special Olympics.

As the 2021 winter colony had to be cancelled due to corona, the excitement to resume the trip this year was all the greater. For the 5th time, the group of 32 athletes and 15 supervisors headed off to the Achensee (Maurach/Pertisau).

The athletes were able to improve their skills in 3 different disciplines: alpine and cross-country skiing as well as snowshoeing. The motivation of both athletes and coaches was palpable. As well as daily training in the 3 disciplines, the athletes were also encouraged to achieve their personal goals, whilst meeting their individual needs.

The emphasis was not only on sports, but also on living together in harmony. Shared moments and conversations, be it at mealtimes or even in between, gave us all the feeling of being safe and understood. This general attentiveness to mutual respect from coaches and athletes alike, influenced everyone's positive feeling of well-being.





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An integral part of the colony experience is that the athletes may give a small closing speech at the end of the trip. Here is just a small insight into their speeches:

Nora: I'm sad, I want to stay here.

Gerard: It was a nice holiday, beautiful.

Luigi: I was looking forward to cross-country skiing. It was a nice ski holiday.

Katia: I want to say thank you to our coaches, without whom we couldn't be here.

Pit: It was a lovely winter holiday for all of us.



I accompanied the group as a substitute supervisor. I didn't know any of the athletes or coaches beforehand. So, I was lucky enough to share my observations with the others as an outsider. From start to finish, I felt part of this group: no one was excluded, no one made to feel second-best. I had the impression that Special Olympics Luxembourg is more than just a 'sports club'. It is a unique family that welcomes everyone. The supervisors/coaches not only see the athlete, but the whole person and their needs. For me, it was one of the most unexpectedly beautiful experiences. I would like to thank the coaches and, above all, thank the athletes who made this week a very special one.

To get an even better impression of this terrific trip, take a look at the photos on our [website](#) and watch the [video here](#).





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## Special Olympics in the media

### Marco Rock, a big man with a big heart

Standing at 2.04 m, Marco "Rocky" Rock, Special Olympics Luxembourg's basketball coach, cuts an impressive figure. In February 2022 he was interviewed on RTL for their broadcast, [Menschen a Geschichten](#).

Amongst other nuggets of information, we learned that this former Luxembourg national team player and Los Angeles Lakers aficionado has an extensive collection of basketball paraphernalia including the sports kit of Magic Johnson and the late Kobe Bryant.



Rocky gives back his love of basketball not only through coaching the Special Olympics team, but also through his work for the "[Mani giving back foundation](#)", which runs basketball training facilities in Nigeria. Basketball is a unified team sport meaning that Special Olympics athletes train together with regular basketballers. Interested in knowing more? See contact details below.

### RTL Live! Planet People with Alex Teixeira Badois

In March, Alex was interviewed for one of his favourite television shows - RTL Live! Planet People.

Alex is a well-known figure in Luxembourg's basketball community. He has been playing for Special Olympics since 2003, representing the country at both the Los Angeles World Games of 2015 as well as Abu Dhabi in 2019.



As well as amassing a stash of medals, Alex has also gathered accolades from his team mates and coach for his motivation, his team-player and





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leadership qualities and his obvious enjoyment in meeting the challenges of this demanding sport. Listen and watch [Alex's interview here](#).

## S.O: a world of winners

Radio 110,7 interviewed Lieven Decroos and Pascale Schmoetten as well as some table tennis athletes and trainers. The [first part](#) of this wide-ranging interview covered some of the issues involved in improving the visibility of Special Olympics and its work to encourage inclusion through sport.



The [second edition](#) focused on impressions by athletes and trainers from Special Olympics table tennis section. Trainers Monique Lexis and Markus Mattes gave an overview of the athletes and explained how table tennis is a unified sport, training together with those with no intellectual disabilities.

Taking time off from the weekly training session at the Coque, Danièle Jankowoy explained that she has carried on the table tennis tradition of her parents, playing since a young age.



As well as training with a local club, she represented Luxembourg at the Special Olympic World Games in Abu Dhabi in 2019, coming third in the singles and, together with Corinne Bremer, first in the unified doubles. Danièle is looking forward to the summer Games in Berlin 2023.

## Useful links

### What is Special Olympics?

Special Olympics aims to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

[Special Olympics global organisation](#)

[Special Olympics Europe Eurasia](#)

[Special Olympics Luxembourg](#)

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## Donate

Make a tax-deductible donation to Special Olympics Luxembourg through:

ING : LU21 0141 1400 7100 0000

BIL: LU13 0020 1121 9340 0000

BGL: LU44 0030 1653 8433 0000

BCEE: LU44 0019 1000 2503 7000

[Paypal](#)

## Volunteer

Are you interested in volunteering for Special Olympics? If so, contact us on [info@specialolympics.lu](mailto:info@specialolympics.lu) or complete the form [here](#).

## Become a S.O athlete

Are you interested in becoming a Special Olympics athlete? If you think you have what it takes, contact us on [info@specialolympics.lu](mailto:info@specialolympics.lu) or complete the form [here](#).

## Become a unified partner

Unified partners (individuals without intellectual disabilities) train and compete as a teammate alongside Special Olympics athletes on a Unified Sports Team (either on a school or community team). Unified partners can be of any age. If you are a member of a sports club that would like to link up with us to take part in inclusive sports, please contact us on [info@specialolympics.lu](mailto:info@specialolympics.lu) or complete the form [here](#).

## Become a corporate donor

Join our corporate sponsors who are making a difference. Please contact [info@specialolympics.lu](mailto:info@specialolympics.lu) to find out how you can help.

## Support

Become an honorary member by sending 25€ (or more) to one of the above accounts, mentioning your name. Or why not indulge in a little retail therapy? Take a look at what [our shop](#) has to offer.

## Contact us

[info@specialolympics.lu](mailto:info@specialolympics.lu)

