**Press release**

**Special Olympics Norfolk ski competition**

Thirteen skiers from Norfolk were joined by over 40 from other parts of the country in a regional ski competition organised by Special Olympics Norfolk today (Sunday)

The event at the Norfolk Snowsport Club at Trowse featured slalom and grand slalom races and among those competing was Karen Oosthuizen from Surrey, a gold and silver medallist at the World Winter Games held recently in Austria.

Special Olympics is a worldwide movement for athletes with learning disabilities and covers both summer and winter sports.

The event was opened by ITV Anglia presenter Becky Jago who said, “Sport plays such an important role in keeping us all happy and healthy. Both my parents were special needs teachers, so I grew up knowing how important it is for everyone to feel equal and valued and to work towards goals.”

Special Olympics Norfolk currently supports around 70 registered athletes in seven sports, Alpine skiing, athletics, artistic gymnastics, boccia, cricket, football and swimming.

Nicola Fish, chair of Special Olympics Norfolk, said: “Being able to hold a winter games competition here in Norfolk is fantastic for our athletes.

“We are continuing to grow the sports on offer in Norfolk and want to help more athletes represent their county and hopefully their country. This summer we will be taking 28 athletes to the National Summer Games in Sheffield.”

At the end of a fiercely competitive afternoon of competition, the Norfolk team won 12 gold, 4 silver and 5 bronze medals, with four skiers - Annabelle Lamb, George Burroughs, Alex Fearne and Becky Ferry - winning gold in both slalom and giant slalom events.

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