

# Lions Club International

MD 105 British Isles & Ireland **We Serve**



**English Federation  
of Disability Sport**



English Federation of Disability Sport

I would like to appeal to you to support the English Federation of Disability Sport (EFDS), but first I wish to dispel a myth. I have to admit to being one of the very many Lions who thought that activities of EFDS (or Disability Sport England as they are known to many) were purely and simply MD105BN affairs. I attended the national finals in Blackpool and more lately in Preston and although I was immensely impressed at what I saw, I did still think this was a BN event.

Now I know different. There are EFDS events in every District, including major events so far this year in Sheffield (five times) London, Stoke Manderville, Leigh in Lancashire, Grantham and several others.

MD105 has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with EFDS that is just as far reaching as that signed with Special Olympics Great Britain. I am asking all Lions Clubs to consider supporting both.

At the beginning of the year I issued an appeal to all Clubs to consider donating £200 to the SOGB. As a result of that appeal we were able to donate £25,000 to support the 157 athletes that went to Athens. Next year I will ask again.

Right now I am asking you to consider the same kind of donation to the EFDS. Again, this will be an annual request for as long as the agreements between our organisations exist.

There are 11 million people living in the UK with a registered disability. Between the SOGB/EFDS and an organisation called Kids Run Free a mere 9,000 young people are engaged in regular supported sporting activities. Many more would like to be but many cannot find a place at 'normal' sports clubs and training grounds. Many are intimidated and lots are bullied. There is an overall lack of understanding as to what these young people need and desire and in many places at best they are treated as 'different'.

We can change that. We can help thousands of special people with very special needs. Please give real consideration to supporting the EFDS by sending a cheque to your District Treasurer. Please do this and know that I and many thousands will be extremely grateful, and please don't flinch when I come back again next year,

Please let me know if you make a contribution at [john@johnmay.org.uk](mailto:john@johnmay.org.uk) and if you require further information or even a visit to explain, please let me know.

Yours in Lionism

*John May*