

Annual Report 2025



Contents

1. Chairperson's Note

2. 2025 at a Glance

3. General Manager's Review

4. Financial Statements

5. Activities

6. Fundraising & Corporate Partnerships

7. Volunteers

8. Special Olympics

9. Looking ahead to 2026

10. Staff & Directors



Since 1989, Lakers Sports & Social has been providing choice, opportunities, challenging barriers and building community where people with intellectual disabilities can live their fullest lives.

Today, we support c. 350 members and their families through a diverse range of sports, social and creative activities, community events and programmes that promote fun, inclusion and respect.

Our mission is to
enable and
support our
members to live
their fullest lives
regardless of
disability

Our vision is to provide an inspiring and welcoming environment for our members and their families, recognising their courage and capacity, always focused on their desire to learn and develop self-confidence, skills, creativity and independence; through fun, sport, inclusion, friendship and respect



Chairperson's Note



Volunteer John Latchford and Eibhlín McCleary Chairperson at the cinema ad launch in Movies @ Dundrum

Eibhlín McCleary, Chairperson being interviewed by RTÉ Nationwide

Eibhlín McCleary, Chairperson with volunteer and parent Joanne Kelly, member Marion O'Malley and support staff at a fundraising event

It is my pleasure to have taken over as Chair of Lakers Sports and Social at the end of 2025. This is the most vibrant, busy and open environment in which to be involved. My thanks to our General Manager, staff, volunteers and everyone who contributes to the success of this wonderful club. Their dedication and consistent efforts ensure that the Club is continually evolving, developing and growing.

2025 has been a busy year with our Members taking part in an ever-growing choice of classes, events and sporting activities. The junior club has continued to develop with additional activities on offer for younger Members and teens. Our older Members continue to build friendships, participate in sports clubs and enjoy the new facilities in their club-house. It's wonderful to be around when the Club is busy with Members, particularly for activities such as drama, music, drop-in and cookery (to mention just a few) to feel the vibrance and joy that our Members bring with their very presence and enthusiasm.

It was a busy year for the Board as we continued to develop policies, strengthen governance and commit to Phase 3 of our building project. We also contributed to the development of, and subsequently approved, a new 5-year Strategy for the Club which will be implemented by Joe and the team over the coming year. The essence of the Strategy is to provide stability and consistency into the future with an additional focus on support of families.

Chairperson's Note



We said good-bye to some Board members who had reached their term under the rules of the club constitution and some who resigned for health and personal reasons. Thank you all for your very positive contribution over the years. We were then lucky enough to welcome some new members who have started their journey with the Club and are already making strong contributions. My personal thanks to all the Board members for their work and commitment throughout the year.

Thanks too to our wonderful donors both private and corporate – we could not keep the show on the road without you.

2026 promises to be a very positive year as we look forward to Members' participation in the Special Olympics, further development of our activities, some wonderfully fun fund-raising events in which we can all participate and of course the much loved annual show in the Mermaid Theatre.

It remains for me to say thank you to all of you, staff, volunteers, Members, parents and everyone to contributes to making Lakers a joyful place to be.



Eibhlín McCleary
Chair
Lakers Sports and Social

2025 at a Glance



2025 was a year of growth, new opportunities and continued investment in the Lakers community.



Key milestones included the launch of our Saturday afternoon programme, the start of Phase 3 of the Building Project, completion of our new outdoor activity space and adoption of a new Five-Year Strategic Plan



New outdoor space

General Manager's Review



Hannah Fox, Programme Manager, Andrew (BAIN Capital) Luka Copperthwaite, Juniors Instructor and Joe Kelly, General Manager

Eibhlín McCleary, Incoming Chairperson, Fergus Finlay, Outgoing Chairperson and Joe Kelly, General Manager

Fergus Finlay, Outgoing Chairperson, Member Ben Kelly, Member Jamie Cordial, Member Niamh Hackett, TD Mary-Lou McDonald, Member Mandy Finlay, Joe Kelly, General Manager and TD John Brady

As I reflect on 2025, I can say with great pride that it has been the busiest, most ambitious and, in many ways, the most successful year in the history of Lakers Sports & Social.

Every year we strive to create more opportunities for our members to participate, develop friendships and enjoy meaningful experiences. In 2025, we achieved this by expanding our already extensive programme of activities to a record 70 activities every week, with average weekly participation reaching an all-time high of 639 member sign-ups. It is wonderful to see so many members and families making Lakers such an important part of their weekly lives.

One of the highlights of the year was the introduction of our Saturday afternoon programme, which has provided additional opportunities for our junior and teenage members to participate, socialise and develop new skills. The positive response from members and families has reinforced the importance of continuing to grow our services in line with their needs.

A significant milestone was reached in July with the commencement of our Phase 3 Building Project. Scheduled for completion in March 2026, this exciting development will provide a new sports hall, a dedicated multisensory room and a purpose-built art and pottery studio. These new facilities will transform what Lakers can offer by easing current capacity constraints and allowing us to introduce even more activities in the years ahead.

I am also delighted that we completed our new outdoor activity space behind the crèche during the year. This area will provide a fantastic additional resource for our junior members, particularly during Saturday programmes and holiday camps.

Looking beyond our facilities, one of the Board's most important achievements during 2025 was the adoption of our new Five-Year Strategic Plan. This strategy provides a clear roadmap for the future of Lakers and reflects our ambition to continue growing while remaining true to our mission of providing inclusive, high-quality opportunities for people with intellectual disabilities.

General Manager's Review continued

Like every successful organisation, Lakers is powered by people. During the year we welcomed a number of new staff members to our team while also saying goodbye to colleagues who moved on to new opportunities. I would like to sincerely thank every member of our staff for their professionalism, commitment and passion. Their dedication to our members is evident every day and is the driving force behind everything we achieve.

As we look ahead to 2026, there is every reason to be excited. The completion of our new building will enable us to significantly expand our programme of activities and further enhance the experience of our members. We also plan to develop a dedicated Family Space, creating a welcoming environment where parents, guardians and siblings can meet, connect and support one another while their family members participate in activities.

The year ahead will also see us begin delivering many of the commitments contained within our Five-Year Strategic Plan. These include expanding our weekend programme, increasing social opportunities for adult members, working to eliminate waiting lists and making significant investments in instructor training so that we can continue to provide the highest quality programmes possible.

While buildings, programmes and strategic plans are important, they are only possible because of the people behind them. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to our Board of Directors for their guidance and leadership throughout the year, to our dedicated staff for their exceptional commitment, and to our incredible volunteers who generously give their time, energy and talents to Lakers. Your contribution has a profound impact on the lives of our members and their families, and it is deeply appreciated.

Finally, I would like to thank our members and their families for the trust they place in Lakers. It is a privilege to be part of your journey, and we remain committed to ensuring that Lakers continues to grow, innovate and provide opportunities that enrich lives for many years to come.

On behalf of everyone at Lakers Sports & Social, thank you for your continued support. I look forward to another exciting year as we continue building an even stronger future together.



Joe Kelly
General Manager
Lakers Sports & Social

Financial Statements


LAKERS
SPORTS & SOCIAL

Lakers Social & Recreation Club Limited

(A company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital)

		Unrestricted Funds 2025 Note €	Restricted Funds 2025 €	Total Funds 2025 €	Unrestricted Funds 2024 €	Restricted Funds 2024 €	Total Funds 2024 €
Income							
Investment & other income	4	11,829	-	11,829	5,954	-	5,954
Charitable activities							
Pobal	-	-	120,299	120,299	-	114,750	114,750
HSE	-	-	221,209	221,209	-	215,369	215,369
AIB	-	-	6,000	6,000	-	-	-
National Lottery	-	-	5,000	5,000	-	-	-
RTE	-	-	18,000	18,000	-	-	-
BTH Giving Fund	-	-	37,472	37,472	-	18,915	18,915
Wicklow Co. Co. SEG	-	-	2,295	2,295	-	-	-
Donations for jun. sports	-	-	75,000	75,000	-	25,000	25,000
Respite donation	-	-	10,500	10,500	-	-	-
Grow with Lakers	-	-	-	-	-	3,529	3,529
ESB grant	-	-	15,000	15,000	-	1,627	1,627
HSF	-	-	1,000	1,000	-	22,037	22,037
Donated fixed assets	-	-	-	-	-	170,000	170,000
Club membership	-	6,220	-	6,220	6,600	-	6,600
Club activity income	-	192,020	-	192,020	207,149	-	207,149
Fundraising & donations	-	226,751	-	226,751	229,978	-	229,978
Total income		436,820	511,775	948,595	449,681	571,227	1,020,908
Expenditure							
Raising funds	6	36,003	-	36,003	30,051	-	30,051
Charitable activities	5	403,321	489,748	893,069	426,114	384,451	810,565
Total Expenditure		439,324	489,748	929,072	456,165	384,451	840,616
Net income/(expenditure)		(2,504)	22,027	19,523	(6,484)	186,776	180,292
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds for the financial year		(2,504)	22,027	19,523	(6,484)	186,776	180,292
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds start of year		429,042	1,234,839	1,663,881	435,526	1,048,063	1,483,589
Total funds at end of the year	15	426,538	1,256,866	1,683,404	429,042	1,234,839	1,663,881

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the financial year. All income and expenditure relate to continuing activities.

Approved by the Directors on 8/10/26 and signed on its behalf by

Director Kevin Tansley

Director Eibhlin McCleary

Financial Statements



LAKERS
SPORTS & SOCIAL

Lakers Social & Recreation Club Limited

(A company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital)

BALANCE SHEET

as at 31 December 2025

	Notes	2025 €	2024 €
Fixed Assets			
Tangible assets	8	<u>1,621,334</u>	<u>1,040,397</u>
Current Assets			
Stocks	9	961	5,121
Debtors & prepayments	10	11,571	12,823
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>271,659</u>	<u>785,938</u>
		<u>284,191</u>	<u>803,882</u>
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	11	<u>(222,121)</u>	<u>(180,398)</u>
Net Current Assets		<u>62,070</u>	<u>623,484</u>
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		1,683,404	1,663,881
Creditors			
Amounts falling due after more than one year	12	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net Assets		<u>1,683,404</u>	<u>1,663,881</u>
Funds			
General fund (unrestricted)		1,369,834	717,674
Unrealised income fund		156,400	163,200
Restricted funds		138,103	116,076
Designated funds		<u>19,067</u>	<u>666,931</u>
Total funds	15	<u>1,683,404</u>	<u>1,663,881</u>

Activities

With 360 members and 639 weekly activity sign-ups, 2025 was another year of growth and opportunity at Lakers Sports & Social. Our programme continued to offer a wide range of social, recreational and sporting opportunities, giving our members the chance to stay active, develop new skills, build friendships and, most importantly, have fun.

Easter Camp

Our much-loved Easter Camp returned in April for one week, with 39 of our under-18 members taking part across four morning activities. From sensory play and arts and crafts to bingo and karaoke, there was something for everyone to enjoy. The camp was a great opportunity for our younger members to spend time with friends, get creative and enjoy plenty of Easter fun at Lakers.

Summer Programme

As summer arrived, we got ready for another jam-packed couple of weeks. We offered 23 activities for our adult members and 14 for our junior members, with 224 weekly adult sign-ups and 111 weekly junior sign-ups across July and August.

Alongside our centre-based activities, members enjoyed plenty of opportunities to get out and about. Our junior members headed off on trips to Dublin Zoo, the cinema, Greenan Maze and KidsZone Soft Play, as well as enjoying bowling and visits to local playgrounds. Our adult members had their own busy programme of outings, with highlights including Pirates Cove, a boat trip to Howth and a visit to the Guinness Storehouse.

Sailing & Outdoor Learning

Our long-standing partnership with Bray Sailing Club also continued, with eight weeks of evening sailing sessions running alongside our regular summer timetable. This included two weeks of Try Sailing, giving members who had never sailed before the opportunity to experience being out on the water. In total, 25 members took part over the summer. Sailing continues to be a firm favourite, offering our members the chance to build confidence, develop their skills and enjoy a unique experience together on the water.



Activities



Member Graeme O'Neil in Boxercise

Member Dessie Fitzgerald celebrating a big birthday with his friends

Member Lucy Burton enjoying an ice cream in Saturday Afternoon Club

Knocksink Woods

2025 also brought an exciting new collaboration with Wendy and the team at Knocksink Wood Education Centre, NPWS. Members had the opportunity to explore the beautiful surroundings of Knocksink Woodlands and get closer to nature through hands-on activities including tree rubbing and insect finding. It was a fantastic opportunity to discover and learn about the natural environment in a fun and interactive way, and the beginning of a wonderful new partnership for Lakers.

Back to the Weekly Programme

Following a busy summer, our regular timetable kicked off again in September with over 70 weekly activities. From Book Club, Taekwondo and Playball to Music, Fun Drum and Drama, bringing our members back together for another busy term at Lakers.



Member Olivia McKeon in Junior Club

Member Katelyn Byrne at Music Class

Santa and his helpers Jamie Murphy Juniors Instructor, Supporter, Barry McCleary and Ella Clarke Juniors Instructor on Lakers Santa Day

October-December 2025 Timetables

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Pottery with June + Claire J (€56) 10am-12pm	Pottery with June + Claire J (€64) 10am-12pm	Hill Walking with Volunteers (€40) 10am-12pm	Craft for Fun with Volunteers (€40) 9.30am-10.30am	Strollers with Volunteers (€40) 10am-12pm	Badminton with Medi (€30) 11.30am-12.30pm
Golf with Medi (€35) 11am-12pm	Swimming with Clare K + Medi (€48) 10am-10.50am	Bocce with Medi + Luka (€40) 10am-11am/11am-12pm	Men's Friendship Club with Joe (€40) 10am-11am	Music with Claire J + Luka (€40) 11am-12pm/12pm-1pm	Men's + Ladies Basketball with Medi (€30) 12.30pm-1.30pm
Ladies Friendship Circle with Vols (€35) 10am-11am/11am-12pm	Cookery with Volunteers (€64) 10am-12pm	Tennis with Clare K (€40) 11am-12pm	Book Club with Niamh (€40) 10.30am-11.30am	Athletics with Clare K + Medi (€40) 11am-12pm	Sunday Tag Rugby Seagulls Rugby Club Greystones FOC 12pm-1pm
Cookery with Niamh (€56) 12pm-2pm/4pm-6pm	Boxercise with Micael (€40) 10am-11am	Bocce with Medi + Luka (€40) 11am-12pm	Silver Programme with Grainne (€24) 10.30am-12.30pm	Light and Tasty Cookery with Cliona (€48) 11am-12:30pm	Over 18's Sept-Dec Schedule 2025
Music + Movement with Clare K (€35) 1pm-2pm	Gym with Clare K + Medi (€48) 11am-12pm	Cookery with Niamh (€64) 12pm-2pm	Tennis (Enniskerry) with Luka + Vols (€40) 11am-12pm	Cookery with Cliona (€64) 2pm-4pm	Payment in instalments available
Fun Bowl with Medi (€42) 2pm-3pm	Yoga + Relaxation with Claire J (€40) 12.30pm-1.30pm	Table Tennis with Clare K (€40) 2pm-3pm	Cookery with Niamh (GF) (€64) 12pm-2pm	Swimming with Clare K, Luka + Medi (€48) 4pm-5pm	Billing period 28th Oct-19th Dec (8 Weeks)
Open Art Studio with Christine (€21) 2pm-3pm	Computers with Clare K (€40) 1.30pm-2.30pm	Art with Christine (€64) 3pm-4pm	Dance with Luka (€40) 1pm-2pm		
Fun Drum with Clare K (€35) 2.30pm-3.30pm	Art with Christine (€64) 2pm-3pm/4pm-5pm	Drop in with Clare K €8 per day 3.30pm-5.30pm	Keep Fit with Virgilio (€40) 3pm-4pm		
Art with Christine (€56) 4pm-5pm/5.30pm-6.30pm	Bingo with Luka (€40) 3pm-4pm	GAA -Éire Óg Greystones (FOC) 5pm-6pm	Young Adult Cookery with Cliona (€64) 3.30pm-5pm		
Singing with Nadia (€35) 5pm-6pm	O16 Taekwondo with Volunteers (€40) 5.30pm-6.30pm	Drama with Nadia (€40) 6pm-7pm	O16 Taekwondo with Volunteers (€40) 5.30pm-6.30pm		
Football with Volunteers (€35) 6pm-7pm	Bowling with Volunteers €6 per/play 6pm-8pm	Drama with Nadia (€40) 7pm-8pm			



LAKERS

SPORTS & SOCIAL

Empowering People with Intellectual Disabilities

Under 18's

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Young Adult Drama and Games with Nadia (€35) 4pm-5pm	Young Adult Music with Clare K (€40) 4pm-4.50pm	U18 Athletics with Luka + Medi (€40) 4pm-5pm	Young Adult Cookery with Cliona (€64) 3.30pm-5pm	Fun Swim with Clare K, Luka + Medi (€48) 3pm-4pm	Junior Club with Hannah + Luka (€30) 9.30am-10.30am	Tag Rugby Seagulls Rugby Club Greystones ages 8-15 FOC 12pm-1pm
	Teen Cookery with Luka (€64) 4.30pm-6pm	GAA Éire Óg Greystones (FOC) 5pm-6pm	U18's Playball with Luka (€40) 4.15pm-5.15pm (Starting 18th Sept)		Junior Club with Hannah + Luka(€30) 10.45am-11.45am	
	Teen Bowling with Clare K (€48) 5pm-6pm		O16 Taekwondo with Volunteers (€40) 5.30pm-6.30pm		Teen Club with Hannah + Luka (€30) 11.45am-12.45pm	Sept-Dec Schedule 2025
	O16 Taekwondo with Volunteers (€40) 5.30pm-6.30pm			Monthly Youth Club with Hannah + Luka (€8 per month) 6:30pm-8pm	Young Adult Club with Hannah + Luka (€30) 12.45pm-1.45pm	Payment in instalments available
					Afternoon Club with Hannah + Luka	Billing period 28th Oct-19th Dec (8 Weeks)

Fundraising and Corporate Partnerships



Volunteers at Killruddery Easter Egg Hunt



Member Ciara Fagan presents Beatriz from BAIN Capital with a thank you gift from Lakers



Bray Bowl present a cheque to Lakers members and staff

Fundraising

2025 was another exceptional year for fundraising at Lakers Sports & Social. Thanks to the incredible generosity of our members, families, volunteers, local businesses and corporate partners, we continued to grow our fundraising programme while reaching more people than ever before.

This year was not simply about raising funds—it was about building relationships, increasing awareness of Lakers throughout Wicklow and beyond, and creating opportunities that will benefit our members for years to come.

From community events and corporate partnerships to grant funding, media exposure and supporter-led fundraising, every euro raised helps us continue providing life-changing opportunities for children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

€397,018 raised in 2025 helped us to:

- Continue subsidising over 70 weekly activities across sport, social and life skills.
- Purchase equipment to enhance member programmes.
- Support summer camps and seasonal activities.
- Hire new instructors to facilitate more classes.
- Invest in new fundraising initiatives that will secure the future of Lakers.

Building Our Corporate Community

One of the biggest achievements of 2025 was the continued growth of our corporate partnerships. Businesses increasingly recognised the impact Lakers has within our community, choosing to support us through sponsorships, fundraising events, volunteering and in-kind donations.

We were delighted to partner with organisations including Bain Capital, Island Capital (Denis O'Brien), The BTH Fund (The Lyons Family) Business Network International (BNI) and Catalyst Coffee, alongside a large number of local businesses throughout Bray, Greystones and Wicklow. These partnerships extended far beyond financial support, with many organisations volunteering their time, promoting Lakers within their workplaces and helping introduce us to new supporters.

Corporate fundraising has become a growing area for Lakers and will continue to play an important role in our future.

Fundraising and Corporate Partnerships

Community Fundraising

Our local community continues to amaze us with its generosity. Throughout the year, individuals, schools, clubs and businesses organised their own fundraising events in support of Lakers. These included school fundraisers, community collections and events, sporting challenges such as marathons, and personal celebrations and memorial fundraisers.

Every event, regardless of size, helped make a difference.

Raise the Roof for Lakers



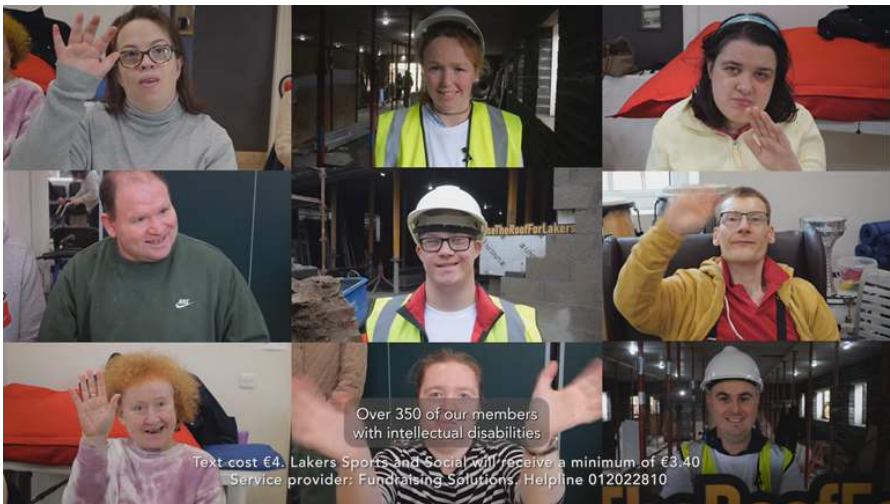
Raise the Roof for Lakers Campaign launch in October

In October 2025, we launched our Raise the Roof for Lakers campaign to help fund our new sports hall, sensory room and art room. The campaign was designed not only to raise vital funds, but also to introduce more people to Lakers and show our wider community what these new facilities will mean for our members.

The campaign enabled us to engage with local radio stations, newspapers and the wider community. We also launched our commercial in Dundrum Cinema, helping us reach a much wider audience.

Our target was €500,000 and, by Christmas 2025, we had already reached €100,000. The generosity of the community, the conversations being had and the relationships being made were central to this result.

We are continuing to fundraise towards our €500,000 target, building on this incredible momentum and the generosity of our community to help make these new facilities a reality for our members.



Screenshot from the Lakers Cinema advertisement

Volunteers

Lakers Sports & Social is a club that supports over 350 members, ranging in age from 5 to 82 years. Our members participate in a wide variety of classes and activities, and to ensure they receive the best possible experience, we rely on the dedication and support of our volunteers.

In 2025 Lakers benefited from the commitment of approximately 70 regular volunteers, along with a further 40 volunteers who generously stepped in to assist at events and during busy periods when additional support was needed.

Our volunteers come from all walks of life, including Transition Year students, college students, working professionals and retirees. Each person brings their own unique skills, experiences and enthusiasm, enriching everything we do at Lakers.

Volunteers are the heart of our organisation and play a vital role in helping Lakers deliver a first-class service to our members.

How volunteers supported Lakers in 2025

- Assisting instructors in delivering high-quality classes.
- Leading activities such as Taekwondo, Friendship Club, Badminton and Basketball.
- Driving members to competitions and off-site activities.
- Helping at social events and fundraising initiatives.
- Serving on our Board of Directors.
- Welcoming members at reception and assisting with queries.
- And much more.

We are incredibly fortunate to have such a dedicated team of volunteers. Their generosity, reliability and willingness to help make a lasting difference to our members and the wider Lakers community.



Volunteer Spotlight

Joanne Kelly

Sometimes life can be very predictable and mundane and busy. Same day, same routine, tick off your to-do lists. Another day goes by – same old, same old. You can question yourself: what's it all about?

Well, that was me before I started volunteering at Lakers – but not now!

I have the privilege of working with so many wonderful members on a weekly basis. Individuals who face all sorts of personal challenges but still manage to turn up for their activity all excited to meet and greet their friends, have a chat, make themselves a cuppa and bring something special to our day – be it the biggest smile you have ever seen, a massive greeting as if they haven't seen you in years, a question about how you are or how your kids are doing, a high five, a big hug or even a shy smile to let you know they are happy to be there.

You get to drop all your worries at the door, step outside of yourself and experience so many magical moments while volunteering at Lakers.

It's a place where everyone can be themselves. No judgement. A place filled with love and laughter. It's such an honour to be part of something so special. No two days are the same.

No matter how little or much time you volunteer, you are guaranteed to add some sparkle to your day. It's addictive!

Volunteers

Martha Cordial

My son Jamie started adult services in Bray in 2023. To ensure he felt a part of the community, I enrolled him in some classes in Lakers. He was warmly welcomed and continues to enjoy the camaraderie and sense of belonging. I offered to help out with the cookery classes – first with Niamh and now with Cliona.

For me, it's a privilege to be with such a great group of people. Members who are eager to learn and great fun to be with. Niamh and now Cliona always go above and beyond to make all the classes both educational and enjoyable.

As I have said before, volunteering in Lakers embodies a sense of CALM – Collaboration, Appreciation, Listening and Motivation.



Robert Thompson



I was introduced to Lakers through a friend, a former employee of Lakers. When I heard there was a Drama class I wanted to get involved. For eight years I lived in Carlow and for most of those years I volunteered with a drama group for people with special needs and intellectual disabilities; that group sadly had to close. I also enjoyed amateur acting for several years.

When Lakers fully reopened following the pandemic, I started volunteering and instantly fell in love with Lakers. Amongst the friendliness of the staff, volunteers and the all-round positive environment, I knew the volunteer opportunity was for me.

Working with instructors and volunteers is an amazing experience as we strive to provide a happy, positive and engaging experience for the members.

The annual show in the Mermaid Arts Theatre is of course the highlight of the year for the drama class members. I love seeing their excitement building in the weeks and months coming up to the show. The amazing team of volunteers that work tirelessly behind the scenes in the weeks before and on the nights of the shows work as a team to create a fantastic experience for the members and an enjoyable show for the audience.

Getting to know members over the past few years has been my personal highlight in Lakers. I enjoy hearing their news and updates. I look forward to coming into Lakers each time and I leave feeling invigorated.

It has been very exciting to see how Lakers has developed over my time here with the new building and facilities for the members, and I look forward to being part of the future of Lakers.

Celebrating Our Community



Members enjoying the Lakers Summer BBQ

Alongside our weekly programme and fundraising activities, 2025 was filled with opportunities to celebrate, remember and connect as a Lakers community.

Annual BBQ & People of the Year

Our annual BBQ and Prizegiving was once again a wonderful opportunity to come together as a Lakers Sports & Social community and celebrate the achievements of our members. Each year, the team votes for members who have demonstrated outstanding achievement, participation and contribution throughout the year, with four People of the Year awards presented at the BBQ.

While these awards recognise individual achievements, the day is also about celebrating everyone who makes Lakers such a special place. Every member receives a medal in recognition of their participation, enthusiasm and support throughout the year.

- U18 Female of the Year: Ava Leahy
- U18 Male of the Year: Dylan McGee
- Adult Female of the Year: Grainne Loftus
- Adult Male of the Year: Nigel Phillips

Remembering Our Lakers Family

In October, we held our first Lakers Memorial Service in McCleary Hall, bringing together approximately 50 people to remember Lakers members, families and supporters who have passed away.

It was a beautiful opportunity to reflect, remember and celebrate the lives of those who have been part of the Lakers family. We were particularly grateful to Beating Time, who sang throughout the service. The choir regularly practises at Lakers, making their contribution to the service especially meaningful.

A New Outdoor Space

2025 saw the completion of our new outdoor activity space behind the crèche. The space is already being used and provides an exciting additional resource for our members, particularly our junior members during Saturday programmes and holiday camps. We are grateful to Fisher Outdoors for making this space come to life.

Celebrating Our Community

A Special Trip to the Cinema

We were delighted to give our members the chance to enjoy a special trip to Dundrum Cinema, where Lakers took over one of the screens for a private screening of Home Alone following the official launch of our Raise the Roof cinema advertisement. The experience was donated to Lakers free of charge by Movies@Dundrum.

Despite the bad weather, the mood remained high as members came together to enjoy a classic Christmas film and a memorable day out. We are hugely grateful to the team at Dundrum Cinema for their generosity and for helping us create such a special experience for our members. There were about 145 people between members, parents, siblings, volunteers and staff.

Christmas Carol

Our regular Christmas Carol service brought members and supporters together in the hall for a festive celebration. Around 20 people attended, with our Drama members singing and dancing their way through some much-loved Christmas songs.



Santa Day

Beating Time-
Memorial Service

Dundrum Cinema
Trip

BAIN Capital
Visit

Clockwise from top left 1- Members Donal O'Mahoney, Carl Tighe and Nathan Tyrrell 2 - Beating Time Choir at Lakers Memorial Service 3 - Member Sophie O'Connell, Cathal McKiernan and Volunteer John Latchford 4- Lakers visit BAIN Capital

Partnership in Action

A Growing Partnership with Bain Capital

Our partnership with Bain Capital continued to grow throughout 2025, with support extending beyond fundraising. Earlier in the year, the Bain team visited Lakers to help us improve our outdoor spaces, including painting fences and planting flowers. Later in the year, members had the opportunity to visit the Bain offices, meet the team and experience a different working environment.

We are incredibly grateful to the Bain team for their continued support and for the time they have invested in getting to know our members and our community.



U18 Athletics

Volunteer Driver

Summer Camp

Competitions

Clockwise from top left 1- Member Ethan Adams and Clare Kelly Sports & Social Instructor 2- Mark Henderson, Volunteer Driver, 3- Member Lilly Moore 4- Lakers Football team at an interclub competition

Special Olympics



Lakers Table Tennis athletes at an interclub event Volunteer Clare Tyrrell with members Nathan Tyrrell, Janet Whyte, Carl Tighe and Levi Clarke

Special Olympics continues to be a hugely important part of life at Lakers Sports & Social, giving our members the opportunity to develop their sporting skills, compete, represent their club and experience the pride and enjoyment that comes from taking part in sport.

Lakers is proudly affiliated with Special Olympics Ireland, and throughout 2025 we continued to offer training in nine Special Olympics sports each week: Golf, Bowling, Football, Swimming, Bocce, Table Tennis, Athletics, Badminton and Basketball.

Our athletes continued to work incredibly hard throughout the year, taking part in regular training sessions and interclub competitions and putting their skills into practice in a competitive environment. These opportunities provide much more than sporting development – they help our members build confidence, friendships, teamwork and a sense of achievement.

2025 was also a particularly important year as our athletes began preparing for the 2026 Special Olympics Ireland Games. The selection process took place during the year, and we were absolutely delighted to see 18 Lakers athletes selected to represent Eastern Region across six sports: Football, Badminton, Athletics, Swimming, Bowling and Table Tennis.

The selection of 18 athletes is a fantastic achievement and a reflection of the commitment and dedication they showed throughout the year. For our athletes, coaches, volunteers and families, it marked the beginning of an exciting journey towards the Games, which took place in Dublin in June 2026.

While competition and selection are important milestones, Special Olympics at Lakers is ultimately about providing opportunities for our members to challenge themselves, discover their abilities and experience the many benefits of sport.

We are incredibly proud of every one of our Special Olympics athletes and grateful to the coaches and volunteers who support them week after week. 2025 was a year of hard work and preparation, and we look forward to celebrating the achievements of our 18 selected athletes as they take to the field, court, pool and lanes at the 2026 Ireland Games.

The Next Chapter

2026 is set to be an exciting year for Lakers Sports & Social as we continue to grow, develop and create new opportunities for our members.

One of the biggest milestones will be the completion of Phase 3 of our Building Project, providing a new sports hall, dedicated multisensory room and purpose-built art and pottery studio. These new facilities will give us the space and flexibility to expand our programme and offer even more opportunities to our members.

Our Five-Year Strategic Plan will also begin to take shape, guiding our priorities and ambitions for the years ahead. We will continue to focus on expanding our weekend programme, increasing social opportunities for adult members, working to eliminate waiting lists and investing in instructor training.

We also hope to develop a dedicated Family Space at Lakers — a welcoming area where parents, guardians and siblings can meet, connect and support one another while their family members take part in activities.

Above all, our focus remains on our members. We want Lakers to continue to be a place where people can participate, build friendships, develop skills, try new things and feel a strong sense of belonging.

The next chapter is already underway, and we are excited to see where it takes us.



Members Ava Leahy, Natalie Kilpatrick and Grace McSharry in Youth Club

Member Dylan McGee at Summer Camp

Member Zoe Hanlon and Amy McAvoy at U18 Athletics

NEW FACILITIES

Phase 3 Building Project

- New sports hall
- Multisensory room
- Art & Pottery studio

OUR COMMUNITY

Supporting members & families

- Family Space
- More social opportunities
- Stronger connections

OUR FUTURE

Delivering our Five-Year Strategic Plan

- More weekend activities
- Reducing waiting lists
- Staff development

Building a bigger, more inclusive and more exciting future for Lakers.

Thank You

Lakers is a community built by people. Every activity, event, fundraising campaign, partnership and new opportunity is made possible by the people who give their time, energy, expertise and support.

To our members and their families, thank you for being at the heart of Lakers Sports & Social. To our volunteers, thank you for the time and care you give so generously. To our staff and Board, thank you for your commitment and leadership. And to our donors, funders, corporate partners, community groups and supporters, thank you for believing in what Lakers can achieve.

Together, we are continuing to build a club where people can participate, develop friendships, discover new opportunities and live their fullest lives regardless of disability.



Staff team

Back row, left to right: Clare Kelly, Robert Thompson, Jamie Murphy, Medi Ssekija, Ciaran Tucker, Malcolm Newitt, Joe Kelly, Nell Berney

Front row, left to right: Jackie Walsh, AnneMarie Connolly, Cathy Kelly, Annisa Mokhtari, Helen Furlong, Hannah Fox, Luka Copperthwaite, Ella Clarke, Rita Walsh

Get in touch today:

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