

St George's Hospital celebrates 'gift of life' at the largest ever British Transplant Games



Debbie Chudy competes in the 100m freestyle

St George's Hospital's Transplant Sports team has celebrated taking home nine medals at the "largest ever" [British Transplant Games](#) this summer.

From 31st July to 3rd August, the St George's team attended the Westfield Health British Transplant Games in Oxfordshire, which saw a "record-breaking" 2,640 participants between the ages of two and 89 – consisting of over 1,000 transplant recipients, as well as live donors, families and supporters – come together for several days of sporting events and celebrations.

With 5,500 competitive medals won over 26 sporting events, this year's British Transplant Games was reportedly the largest gathering of transplant recipients since the annual event began in 1978.

St George's sent a team of five athletes, plus their family supporters, to the Games this year, where between them they won three gold medals, five silver medals, and one bronze medal.



Liz Hosford at the volleyball event

Karen Barrett attended her 5th British Transplant Games alongside her husband Roger Barrett, who donated his kidney to her. Karen took home the gold medal in ten-pin bowling, while Roger joined the archery competition for the first time.

“We always enjoy the experience of taking part in the games and visiting different locations,” Roger explained, adding that one of this year’s locations, Blenheim Palace, was “amazing”.

“I enjoyed taking part in the archery as a donor. It was great meeting other competitors from previous games,” he said.

Karen added that it was “wonderful winning a gold medal again at ten-pin bowling with lots of support from follow bowlers”.



Debbie Chudy receives a silver medal

“Blenheim Palace was an amazing location for the opening ceremony and the Donor Run,” she said.

Others on the St George’s team included Martin Bexley, who took home a silver in the volleyball alongside teammate Liz Hosford, as well as participating in football and javelin. Liz, who has attended every British Transplant Games since 1991 after her transplant in 1990, won gold medals in the javelin and badminton, a silver in volleyball, and bronze in the shot put.

It was Robert Bushey’s first time attending the Games, where he took part in the golf.

Debbie Chudy, St George’s team captain, celebrated her twelfth Games since her kidney transplant in 2009 with three silver medals across three events in swimming. Describing the annual Games as a “celebration of the gift of life”, Debbie encouraged anyone with experience of organ donation to take part.

“Participating in the Games is a way to thank my donor by showing how his generosity has enabled me to have a healthy and active life,” she explained.

“The Games are a fun and exciting event and I look forward to them every year. It is great meeting up with friends from previous Games, some of whom I’ve known for many years now.

“I have participated in different events over the years - there is always something everyone can do, no matter how sporty or not you are and that makes it friendly and inclusive and fun for all.”

She added that there are a wide range of sports and activities to participate in, and that the Games are a great way to meet new friends and “have a go and join in”.

This year’s British Transplant Games also saw 2,300 people take part in its annual Donor Run 5km event, which organisers say “is designed to thank donors and donor families for giving the ultimate gift of life”. The event, open to everyone at the Games, saw participants run, jog, and walk in the leafy setting of Blenheim Palace,



The St George’s Team and supporters at the opening ceremony

with some attendees even sporting fancy dress for the occasion.

Alongside transplant recipients, donors, and supporters, there were also a few famous faces at this year’s Games, with Countdown’s Susie Dent hosting the opening ceremony, former Premier League referee Dermot Gallagher officiating the six-a-side football match at the Oxford City FC stadium, and comedian Joe Brand performing at the closing ceremony. TikTok jacket potato influencer [Spudman](#) (Ben Newman), who has opened up about his experience undergoing several kidney transplants, provided food at the donor run.

As well as celebrating sporting achievement, organisers ensured the Games raised awareness of organ donation, and of the estimated 8,000 people [currently on the transplant waiting list](#), distributing “thousands” of custom [organ donor cards](#) at the

Games' venues across Oxfordshire. The Games' organisers underlined that while changes to organ donation law in England in May 2020 means that all adults are organ donors unless they "opt out", it is "more important than ever for people to have the conversation about organ donation with their loved ones and confirm their decision".

Dr Paul Harden, chair of both Transplant Active and the 2025 British Transplant Games, said: "The Games are getting bigger each year and we at the British Transplant Games are delighted to see the growing impact and the strength of the transplant community.

"We're deeply grateful to all our supporters, without whom, the Games wouldn't be possible. One important aim of the Westfield Health British Transplant Games is to raise awareness and begin the conversation around organ donation.

"It is so important that people speak to their family about their decision for organ donation."

The next British Transplant Games will be held in Sheffield in 2026. For more information, including how you can get involved, visit the [British Transplant Games website](#).

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Word Count: 874