



OUR BIG
30
CELEBRATION IN
2016



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The Bingo Association presents charity cheque for £250,000 to Variety ambassador Angela Rippon in the Houses of Parliament

Variety supporter Angela Rippon OBE joined Miles Baron, Chief Executive of The Bingo Association' at a parliamentary reception to receive a £250,000 donation from bingo players and clubs nationwide. This brings the total raised by bingo players and clubs to over £500,000

National Bingo Game winners, MPs, Variety beneficiaries and club operators, all attended the Houses of Parliament event to celebrate a successful year of fundraising in aid of Variety and 30 years of the National Bingo Game.

Angela Rippon said: "I'm very proud to represent Variety today and to take this opportunity to thank bingo players and staff at clubs nationwide for their incredible support. It is only with this funding and support that Variety can continue to help young people so that they may reach their full potential."

Angela Rippon has been a familiar face and voice in British broadcasting for over 40 years winning multiple awards for her work on both television and radio. She remains committed to Variety, the Children's Charity which she has supported since the 1970s.

Pamela Sinclair, Chief Barker said: "We have been overwhelmed by the generosity and enthusiasm shown by club staff and customers in their fundraising efforts, enabling Variety to continue its vital work improving the lives of sick, disabled and disadvantaged children and young people across the UK. It is a real honour for me to be receiving this cheque on behalf of the Charity and I would like to thank everyone from the bottom of my heart."

In addition to the cheque handover and speeches by the Chair of the APPG on Bingo, Anna Turley and The Bingo Association's Chief Executive Miles Baron, the evening involved a charity bingo game, which saw an additional £200 being donated to Variety.

Chief Executive of the Bingo Association Miles Baron, said: "For the second year in a row bingo clubs have raised over £250,000 for Variety, the children's charity.

“The bingo industry is a social activity rooted in the heart of local communities. What makes Variety such a great partner for bingo in that money raised by customers goes back to the communities from where it was come and therefore I am delighted to announce that we are extending our relationship with Variety for a third year.”

Anna Turley MP said “I have been delighted to represent the interests of the bingo industry in parliament as Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Bingo. Today’s reception is all about celebrating the role that bingo players and clubs play in our local communities. The funds raised for Variety are just a small example of their great work and one which truly helps a wonderful cause.”

The Bingo Association and its members have been raising funds for charity partner Variety, the children’s charity since 2015. Bingo clubs across the country have taken part in a wide range of fundraising activities over this time including hosting football tournaments, cake sales, sky dives, runs, and special £1 games and prize draws. Since September last year the industry has raised over £500,000 which has enabled Variety amongst other things to purchase two Sunshine Coaches for special education needs schools.

- Ends -

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Notes to Editors

The Bingo Association and Variety

- Variety, the children’s charity, became The Bingo Association’s charity partner in 2015
- Bingo clubs up and down the country have helped with fundraising schemes including football tournaments, Sunshine Day parties, cake sales, special £1 games and prize draws

• Funding from the bingo industry has enabled Variety to provide coaches, wheelchairs and specialist equipment to improve the lives of hundreds of disadvantaged and disabled children all over the UK, including:

- Sunshine Coaches for special educational needs schools
- A wheelchair in Glasgow
- A range of grants for individuals across the UK including in Buckinghamshire, Yorkshire and Hants
- A range of school grants including in Devon, Clwyd, Lincolnshire, East Sussex, Middlesex, Hampshire, West Glamorgan, Maidstone, Norwich, Dorking, Rochester, Maidstone, Gravesend, St Neots, Epping, Blackpool and Greater London
- A range of days out for up to 50 children and up to 100 families including in Milton Keynes, Silverstone and London
- Funding youth clubs in Norwich, Dorking, Rochester, Maidstone, Gravesend and London

About The Bingo Association

- The Bingo Association is the trade association of the licensed bingo industry in Great Britain, representing the proprietors licensed under The Gambling Act 2005. www.bingo-association.co.uk.
- The Bingo Association represents 90% of all licenced bingo premises and 99% of all retail bingo clubs
- Membership profile ranges from the large operators, including Gala (130 clubs) and Mecca (86 clubs), to smaller operators like Carlton Leisure (13 clubs) and many single unit businesses
- According to Gambling Commission figures, the bingo sector directly employed over 13,000 people in the UK in 2015
- Approximately 3 million customers made 39m visits to bingo clubs last year

About Variety, the Children's Charity:

- Variety, the Children's Charity, believes that neither disability nor disadvantage should prevent a child from realising their full potential. Since setting up its UK division in 1949, the charity has raised over £200 million and supported over 800,000 children affected by ill health, disadvantage and disability.
- With a focus on helping children make the most of their childhood, Variety the Children's Charity, provides support through four core programmes:
 - **Mobility** - providing specialist equipment including customised electric wheelchairs and bespoke Sunshine Coaches for schools ensuring children develop a greater sense of freedom and adventure
 - **Health** - equipping children's hospitals with the latest medical technology and life changing aids
 - **Education** - equipping Youth Clubs and young people's organisations – facilitating new skills and developing greater self-worth
 - **Variety At Work** - providing new experiences through educational programmes and exciting outings
- Variety, the Children's Charity, launched in the United States in 1928 and is the oldest international children's charity. It has divisions across 13 countries (United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Jersey, Republic of Ireland, France, Israel, Japan, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Australia, Barbados and Eastern Caribbean) helping children at the local community level.



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- Variety is a registered charity in England and Wales (209259) and Scotland (SC038505)
- For more information or to donate to Variety, please visit www.variety.org.uk
- Follow Variety, the Children's Charity on twitter @VarietyGB or www.facebook.com/VarietyGB

About the National Bingo Game

- The National Bingo Game is celebrating 30 years of winners in 2016!
- The National Bingo Game is the UK's second largest computer controlled game in the UK, the national lottery being the largest.
- The National Bingo Game offers players at participating clubs the chance to win one or more of three cash prizes including the Jackpot Prize, National Prize and House Prize.
- Over £1.1 BILLION in National Prizes and over £700million in club prizes have been paid out in 30 years!
- There have been over 125,000 winners of National Bingo Game prizes, including the National, Regional, Zone, Jackpot and Instant Prizes.
- The biggest bingo win ever was on 23 March 2008, when Soraya Lowell from Motherwell, North Lanarkshire scooped GBP £1,167,795, while playing The National Game at Club 3000 in Coatbridge.
- Between 120 - 200 clubs link together to play the National Game twice a day, every day, except Christmas day.
- Over three million people play bingo regularly in the UK (at least twice a week).
- A night out at the bingo can cost as little as £15-25 each, including game books, duty, food and drink.
- The most common reasons for playing bingo are because it's fun, it offers companionship and the chance to socialise, as well as the chance to win..
- Celebrities love bingo! Catherine Zeta Jones can thank bingo for her career after her dad won enough to afford to send her to theatre school; other celebrity fans include: Denise Van Outen, Scott Mills and President Barrack Obama's step-mother!
- A number of celebrities also started their careers in bingo calling including Simon from boy band Blue, EastEnder's Shane Richie, Russell Crowe and Kian from West Life.
- For updates on the National Bingo Game Jackpot and 30th anniversary games, follow **Twitter @NationalBingo** and visit www.nationalbingo.co.uk.
- To stay up to date on bingo news, winners, fun and games join our Facebook page **Facebook/nationalbingo-game**.