



Bingo Association donates Variety Sunshine Coach to pupils of Lisburne School in Stockport

Friday 2nd February: Lisburne School, Stockport: Bingo Association Chief Executive, Miles Baron, today presented a Variety Sunshine Coach to pupils at a school dedicated to children who have severe and complex learning difficulties.

Lisburne School in Stockport, Cheshire, is a primary school which caters for nearly one hundred children with a range of complex learning needs. Many of the children have been diagnosed with autism, as well as a number of complex and additional needs. The donation of a Sunshine Coach will allow the children to partake in a variety of educational visits enhancing their curriculum and improving their independence, including trips to the theatre and museums.

Today's donation is the tenth Sunshine Coach donated by the Bingo Association. A number of Bingo representatives joined the celebrations at the donation ceremony, including Kevin Feeley (General Manager, Gala Stockport), Keith Lee (General Manager at Cosmo Bingo) and Dave Barker (General Manager at Mecca Bingo).

Thanks to the fundraising efforts by the bingo industry, their staff and customers, the Bingo Association has raised more than £750,000 in support of Variety, the Children's Charity by the end of this year, and are well on their way to reaching their target of £1 million by October 2018.

Head teacher at Lisburne School, Samantha Benson, said: "This is a wonderful opportunity to enable all pupils to access the wider community, learn valuable life skills and develop independent skills. We are so grateful for all the support and fundraising that has gone on over the last two years from the Bingo Association, the Variety Club of Great Britain and all our parents. Our pupils have had great fun deciding the name 'Billy the Bingo Bus'."

Lyn Staunton, Northwest Development Director at Variety, the Children's Charity, said: "We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of the Bingo Association, its members and customers. Variety Sunshine Coaches enable children and young people with special needs to get the most out of school life by accessing learning and recreational facilities outside of the school environment."

Miles Baron, Chief Executive of the Bingo Association, said:

"More than 350 bingo clubs across Great Britain made this very worthy donation of a Sunshine Coach possible and so I must thank the staff and bingo players for their support. We're very excited to continue our fundraising throughout 2018 and hope to reach our target of £1 million by October of this year to help more children get the most out of their childhood and reach their unique potential."

- Ends -

For further information on Variety, the Children's Charity, please contact:

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Notes to editors:

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 in the UK 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

Great Days Out – creating memorable experiences through educational programmes and exciting outings

Variety, the Children's Charity, launched in the United States in 1928. It has charities across more than 10 countries (United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Jersey, Republic of Ireland, Israel, Hong Kong, Sri Lanka, New Zealand, Australia, Barbados and Eastern Caribbean) helping children at the local community level.

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 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.bingoassociation.co.uk.

There are 51 proprietors in membership. Membership profile ranges from the large operators, including Gala (138 clubs) and Mecca (97 clubs), to smaller operators like Carlton Leisure (14 clubs) and many single unit businesses.

The bingo sector directly employs over 13,000 people in the UK. Over 3 million customers made over 48m visits to bingo clubs last year.