

ANNUAL REPORT

IMPAIRED SKATING SCIO

SECOND ANNUAL REPORT – YEAR TO 30TH SEPTEMBER 2013





Statement by Margarita Sweeney-Baird (Charity Trustee and Chair of IS)

This is the second Annual Report of the Impaired Skating Charity (IS), which is registered as an SCIO in Scotland and regulated by the OSCR.

This second year of operation has been marked by notable success for IS with the second international club event for skaters with impairment taking place in Dumfries on May 11th and 12th. The inclusive skating system of competition for the inclusion of skaters with any form of disability has therefore moved from pilot status to an established event.

Inclusive Skating marked the inclusion of Inclusive Skating within the National Ice Skating Association official activities with a change of name to Inclusive Skating with effect from after the Dumfries May 2013 event.

The IS Classification system is developing well and further improvements made as a result of the Conference of Classifiers were usefully applied. These included physician reporting forms for the medical teams to provide the relevant classification information.

35 skaters from 6 countries (Canada, Iceland, Finland, United States of America, Britain and Ireland) participated. The Russian Speed skating team who participated last year sent representatives but were unable to participate this year because their skaters lost training ice for several months following the meteorite damaging their ice rink in Chelyabinsk earlier in the year.

The Dumfries event was a great success at a technical and emotional level and once again many spectators were overwhelmed to see the joy of achievement by these skaters. The skaters were fantastic and the spirit of participation and support for fellow competitors was a joy to behold.

The Dumfries 2013 event was permitted by NISA and Special Olympics GB and incorporated the first Special Olympics GB National Speed Skating Competitions and the second Special Olympics GB National Figure Skating Competition. The unique Special Olympic ethos was evident throughout. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Special Olympics GB for their support for the event and we look forward to the further development of Special Olympics in 2014 where we will be expanding participation and seeking to increase the regional event and development structure in the UK.

A significant development in 2013 has been the establishment of a permanent Inclusive Skating Club at the Time Capsule in Coatbridge in May 2013. This session is designed to provide an entry method for participation in ice skating for skaters with any form of disability and follows the pilot at Auchenhavrie in the summer of 2012. The session uses a family based model. This is the model that most closely fits the needs and wishes of skater's with a disability as it allows the skater to skate in the supportive environment of their close family and carers. The session is proving to be a great success already and at the time of writing this report now has a full membership, an established club constitution and officials and a very strong volunteer base.

Inclusive Skating has been recognized as a Legacy 2014 project for the Commonwealth Games and the session and club development structure developed at Time Capsule is the legacy that Inclusive Skating wishes to develop further. Funding for the development of this model across the UK is now needed.

Inclusive Skating would like to thank the officials and volunteers who have contributed their expertise to developing and implementing the Inclusive skating activities. They have given generously of their time and professional skills and have not often not even claimed expenses. Thank you one and all.

Inclusive Skating once again owes a huge debt of gratitude to the Classifiers, who developed the Classification system, applied it at the Dumfries Event and then worked on it throughout the summer and during the Classifiers Conference in July 2012. As a result of this work the second edition of the Classifiers Handbook was used during the May 2013 Dumfries Event. The classification team includes leading medical

personnel in Canada and the UK and they have given their valuable time and expertise freely and generously. May I take this opportunity to thank the classifiers on behalf of all the skaters at Dumfries in 2013 and for the future skaters who will now be able to benefit from the IS classification system. Through their innovative thinking they have created a system of classification that will allow skaters to be included in ice skating events at all levels and even where there are few IS competitors and this system therefore marks a huge step forward for inclusion of skaters with impairment in the sports of figure skating and speed skating. It also creates a system that could be used in other sports too.

This Annual Report fulfils one of the legal requirements of the Charity to report on the activities of the Charity. It will also be sent to the National Ice Skating Association of the UK (NISA) as the Impaired Skating SCIO is an affiliated association of NISA and has benefited once again from a donation of £10,000 from the NISA Charitable Trust.

This second donation has contributed greatly to the fulfillment of many of the activities that have been undertaken by the IS Charity in its second year of operation and we would like to note our thanks and appreciation to NISA and the NISA Charitable Trust for their valued support.

Looking forward to next year. We are hoping to welcome many more skaters to Dumfries in 2014 for the international club competition, which will again be held under International Ice Skating Union (ISU) rules and are seeking participation from as many countries as possible. The event is to be permitted by NISA and Special Olympics GB and will again incorporate the Special Olympics GB National competitions. This follows the third International IS Event that at the time of writing successfully took place in Iceland in May 2013 and will be covered in the Annual Report for the year to September 2014.