

ANNUAL REPORT

INCLUSIVE SKATING SCIO

FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT – YEAR TO 30TH SEPTEMBER 2015





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

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

This fourth year of operation has been marked by notable success for IS with the fourth international club event for skaters with impairment taking place in Braehead, Glasgow in April 2015. The inclusive skating system of competition for the inclusion of skaters with any form of disability has therefore moved to an established event and has a suitable venue that is capable of sustaining the development of the event from an international level event to a World Championship event.

Inclusive Skating once again owes a huge debt of gratitude to the Classifiers and volunteers, who have assisted in the development of the Classification system and the Glasgow 2015 event. May I take this opportunity to thank the classifiers and volunteers on behalf of all the skaters who will now be able to benefit from the IS classification system and the IS events. They have given generously of their time and professional skills and have not often not even claimed expenses. Thank you one and all.

At the Glasgow 2015 event skaters from Canada, Iceland, Ireland, Finland and Britain participated and the 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.

A significant development has been the continuing success of a permanent Inclusive Skating Club at the Time Capsule in Coatbridge in Scotland. This club commenced operation 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 Auchenhavie 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 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 and has also been awarded £10,000 of National Lottery funding. An additional new inclusive skating club has also opened this year at Peterborough with the assistance of Inspire Peterborough and funding from comic relief. Inclusive Skating will continue to support this club.

The Inclusive Skating club development structure developed at Time Capsule is the concept that Inclusive Skating wishes to develop further. It meets the needs of disabled ice skaters and achieves the wider aims of inclusion for those with disability within their families and the wider community. Funding for the development of this model across the UK and globally is now needed.

No funding support has been provided by NISA to Inclusive Skating for any activities in 2014 (or 2015). Disabled ice skaters are required to be members of NISA (under ISU and NISA eligibility rules) to take part in ice skating competitions. Inclusive Skating is not a membership organization because doing so would be in breach of the eligibility rule and Inclusive Skating is therefore not able to rely upon membership fees for its operation. Membership fees are paid by the disabled ice skaters to NISA. So, disabled ice skaters and Inclusive Skating have been providing monies to NISA.

Margarita Sweeney-Baird provided regular reports on Inclusive Skating activities and provided many proposals to the NISA Board requesting funding and support for the development of disability programmes; including, the implementation of badge and club development programmes. NISA provided no funding and no badge programme for disabled ice skaters was implemented by NISA during this time. Disabled ice skaters are providing more money to NISA than they are receiving in benefits.

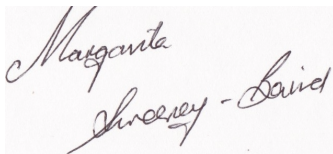
Future development within Great Britain of ice skating for disabled ice skaters by NISA in 2015 was dependant on improvement in the governance of NISA. The ISU eligibility rule and its application to ice skating activities in Britain by NISA was unduly constraining the operation and development of Inclusive Skating in 2015.

As the Glasgow 2015 Event was funded primarily by the National Lottery Sport for All Scotland fund grant of £10,000 and Margarita Sweeney-Baird self-funded all her activities Inclusive Skating has made significant progress despite the lack of funds and support by NISA.

At the time of writing in June 2016 the ISU changed the eligibility rule. This is a consequence of the EC investigation into the operation of the eligibility rule. Development of a membership structure for inclusive skating is now a possibility and the market in the provision of events and activities for disabled ice skaters has opened up. The future will be a time for change for ice skating and Inclusive Skating is well placed to take advantage of these new opportunities. Inclusive Skating has a well developed classification system, event structure and club development model upon which to develop.

We look forward to the further development of Inclusive Skating and its partnership with Special Olympics and British Blind Sport where we will be expanding participation and seeking to increase the regional event and development structure in the UK without the constraints of the eligibility rule.

More future events are under active development regionally, nationally and internationally and ice skaters should consult the inclusive Skating website for further information on future events.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Margarita Sweeney-Baird". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.