

ANNUAL REPORT

INCLUSIVE SKATING SCIO

FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT – YEAR TO 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2016





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

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

This fifth year of operation has again been marked by notable success for IS with the fifth international club event for skaters with impairment taking place in Braehead, Glasgow in April 2016. 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.

**Inclusive Skating Competition**  
**08/04/2016 - 10/04/2016**  
**Braehead Curling Rink, Glasgow**

At the Glasgow 2016 event, skaters from Canada, Scotland 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.

**Inclusive Skating Event**  
**19/12/2016 - 23/12/2016**  
**North Toronto Memorial Ice Rink**

In December, 2016, during the World Figure Championships, an Inclusive Skating competition will take place for the first time. Several skaters from the UK and Scotland will take part and join in the Inclusive Skating part of an event which will be a wonderful celebration of 'old school' figures.

Judges for Events will include the honour of having Don Jackson and Barbara Wagner, Canada (Olympic Champions)

Inclusive Skating will be represented on the judging panel by Margarita Sweeney-Baird (Chair of Inclusive Skating), Scotland and Ireland) and Stuart Bell, England (Former World Junior Champion Competitor)

Juliana Sweeney-Baird, Cameron Sargent and Callum Titmus are representing IS in a variety of categories including Free Skating, Compulsory Elements and Dance.

## **Inclusive Skaters 2016 Summary**

During 2016, several IS skaters took part in additional events – Special Olympics GB announced that some IS Skaters would be going as part of Team GB to the World Winter Games at Graz in Austria in March 2017.

### **Inclusive Skating International**

Reykjavik Ice Rink, November 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> 2016

In September 2016, Inclusive Skating were invited to take part in The Icecup Competition in Reykjavik. Several skaters are expected to take part and travel to Iceland for the event.

### **Finland, Santa Claus International Competition,**

Varala-timi Club, Tampere, December 5<sup>th</sup> 2015

The Santa Claus competition was held in Tampere and several Inclusive Skaters travelled to the event which was a Special Olympics event. The team was ably led by Margarita Sweeney-Baird and Alison Sargent and Cameron Sargent, Meg Macfarlane, Calum Mills, Juliana Sweeney-Baird were coached by Sarah Carter during the event. They all skated magnificently and each came away with trophies and made a very good account of themselves.

## **2016 Summary General**

In June of 2016, Margarita Sweeney Baird received the information that the ISU have changed the eligibility rule and severely limited its application. This is a direct consequence of the EC investigation at which she gave evidence.

Consequently, Inclusive Skating will not need a NISA permit for future events and the whole system will be much cheaper to run

because of the freedom that we have in relation to the officials and the judging systems. We can train our own judges too. The entire system has been opened up for Inclusive Skating.

This has huge ramifications for the operation of NISA and the ISU and a hugely positive step forward for Inclusive Skating.



Also in June, IS was given a place in the Virgin Money London Marathon 2017. A wonderful way to raise funds for the charity.

Margarita Sweeney-Baird provided regular reports on Inclusive Skating activities and provided many proposals to different fundraising organisations including Jeans for Genes and Virgin Money Giving.





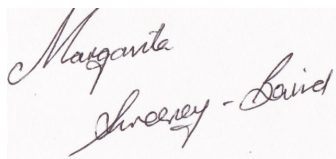
We look forward to the further development of Inclusive Skating and its partnership with Special Olympics and British Blind Sport where we will be expanding participation and seeking to increase the regional event and development structure in the UK without the constraints of the eligibility rule.

Inclusive Skating 2017 will be held from April 11 – 15<sup>th</sup> in Braehead Curling Rink. New events for next year's competition will include free dance, duets, trios and synchro groups and synchro teams.

Next year's event will also incorporate the first Inclusive Skating genetic disorders championships, a separate result utilising the scores from the Inclusive Skating competition to include those skaters with genetic conditions. The event will be partly sponsored by "Genetic Disorders UK" for recognising the importance of inclusive sporting activities for those with genetics conditions. Furthermore all skaters will included in the British Inclusive Skating championships results, which is based on their overall ranking within each age group.

During 2016, the IS World Rankings were released based on the individual competition categories and the highest marks therein over all the Inclusive Skating events since it's inception.

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.



Margarita  
Shreeve-Laird