

ANNUAL REPORT

INCLUSIVE SKATING SCIO

EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT – YEAR TO 30TH SEPTEMBER 2019

SUPPLEMENT TO THE OSCR REPORT





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

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

This eighth year of operation has again been marked by notable success for Inclusive Skating. The highlight of the year was undoubtedly the visit of His Royal Highness the Earl of Forfar, Duke of Wessex and the Chair of the Sport and Recreation Alliance to Inclusive Skating. The visit took place at the inaugural Scottish Inclusive Skating International Championships in July 2020 at Murrayfield Ice Rink in Edinburgh.

Inclusive Skating once again owes a huge debt of gratitude to the many volunteers, who have assisted in this development. They have given generously of their time and professional skills and have often not even claimed expenses. Thank you one and all.

Inclusive Skating Glasgow 2019 British Inclusive Skating Championships 2019 Braehead Curling Rink, Glasgow

The Glasgow 2019 event, skaters was once again a great success at a technical and emotional level and 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 consensus judging system was used again. This saved a huge amount of money in officials' expenses. The system has now been computerized and updated to ensure that any mathematical errors are avoided and to speed up the results system.

New events at this year's competition included the Inclusive Paralympic classes. These form the basis of future Paralympic participation and are a significant step forward in the classification system.

The Paralympic results were combined with the British Inclusive Skating championships results, which is based on their overall ranking within each age group. This was another separate result.

The inclusive skating system of competition for the inclusion of skaters with any form of disability has therefore moved to an established event and system that is capable of sustaining the development of the event from an international level event to eventually a World Championship event.

Scottish Inclusive Skating Championships 2019 and the visit of HRH The Earl of Forfar (Prince Edward and the Duke of Wessex)

We were thrilled when HRH the Earl of Forfar chose to visit Inclusive Skating. The visit took place at the inaugural Scottish Inclusive Skating International Championships on 4th July 2020 at Murrayfield Ice Rink in Edinburgh. The skaters performed compulsory figures, free skating routines and a demonstration of an activity session. Lots of the skaters got the opportunity to speak

to HRH too. There were groups on the ice and groups off the ice. There was even a video demonstration of Australian skaters taking part in the event over digital video platforms. The visit was a great success and we would like to mark our appreciation to HRH The Earl of Forfar for this honour. The skaters had a brilliant time and have talked about it for many months since. After the visit we held an afternoon tea and the skaters celebrated both the success of their participation in the Championships and the Royal Visit. It was truly a magic moment!

**Inclusive Skating for Genes Championships
2019
September 2019
Lammas, Nottingham, England**

In September, 2019 Inclusive Skating held the second independent Inclusive skating for Genes Event at Lammas, Nottingham, England. This was a great success and the dates were in the diary for 2020 until the Coronavirus outbreak put an end to this form of forward planning. Tim Smethurst took lots of photos that have been used in the new Inclusive Skating website and membership platform. The Everyone Active team were absolutely tremendous and did a huge amount of work to make the day a huge success. Thank you everyone!

**Inclusive Skating Event
September 2019
Vail, Colorado, USA**

In September, 2019, during the World Figure Championships, an Inclusive Skating competition took place once again in the USA. Several skaters from the UK and the USA took part in Figure events once again. There was once again a wonderful celebration of 'old school' figures but this time there was a difference. Figures were included in the competition section for Inclusive Skaters. The system for judging Inclusive Skaters participating in compulsory figures in competition was successfully piloted. Following this success future events now include Figures and have been expanded to include all compulsory figures.

Judges for the Inclusive Skating Events were truly inspirational. We had the honour of having the great Dorothy Hamill, the 1976 Olympic Champion and Barbara Wagner, Canada (Olympic Champions) judge the event alongside some truly great skating personalities: Barbara Claire Shultz, Carol Troyer and Bibi Zollmer Moritz from Germany.

Inclusive Skating World Recognition

In July 2018, Inclusive Skating and the innovative format was recognized by the ISU. Inclusive Skating events featured regularly on the ISU World Calendar of Skating events and the Inclusive Skating Rules apply to our events. ISU Rules do not apply to Inclusive Skating events. Importantly eligible skaters and officials participate in Inclusive Skating events. This recognition marks a significant milestone in the development of Inclusive Skating and is a significant achievement.

2019 World Rankings

During the 2019 season, the IS World Rankings were released once again by popular demand. The skaters really look forward to them. These were based on the individual competition categories. Skaters were ranked according to a time corrected highest mark. All the highest marks were reviewed for all skaters. So, the rankings include results in all Inclusive Skating events since 2012. Importantly the data in the rankings also provides the whole person impairment percentage for the calculation of results and provides valuable information on classification for marking at events.

Fundraising

Fundraising is an increasing focus of Inclusive Skating activities. This was a huge success this year as Inclusive Skating won the Peoples vote to obtain £50,000 of funding. This huge amount of funding is dedicated to the “Skate for All Project” and the development of the Inclusive Skating learning platform, safety course and the development of volunteers to create opportunities for new inclusive skaters across the UK. The ground work for this was put in place in the months to the 30th September 2019 and at

the time of writing this report in May 2020 there are now nearly 40 Inclusive Skating Accredited safety advisors across the UK. Covid 19 may delay the implementation of the Peoples Project but the project will be completed when the “new normal” allows us to proceed.

Additional Achievements

Inclusive Skating became a member of a number of organisations, including, the Scottish Sports Association and the Welsh Sports Association. Inclusive Skating was nominated and a finalist in the Demonstrating Digital Category at the SCVO awards.

Additional Activities

As if that wasn't enough Inclusive Skating representatives also attended a range of webinars on club welfare, safeguarding training, First Aid, GDPR and governance. The Technical Handbook was updated once again and more events added too.

The Inclusive Skating logos are protected by copyright as registered Trademarks and this became official.

The new website and membership and event platform became operational in December 2018 and was used to great effect throughout the year. The Sport 80 platform significantly increased the capacity of Inclusive Skating to hold additional events and provides a register of all our dedicated participants.

Conclusion

We look forward to the further development of Inclusive Skating independently and in collaboration with our partner organisations.

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. During the Coronavirus pandemic many of these events will take place digitally. Given the significant investment made by the charity in our digital activities we are well placed to move activities onto a digital platform and support our community through virtual activities.

We have been really busy and the skaters have achieved so much. It is at times like this when writing an Annual Report you reflect on how much has been done in so little time. We can only stand back in wonder and awe!

From a small charity founded in 2011 to world recognition in 2018 and sustained development even in a pandemic in 2020 as we write! Well done everyone!



*Margaret
Shreeve - Laird*