

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**INCLUSIVE SKATING SCIO**  
**NINTH ANNUAL REPORT**  
**YEAR TO 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020**





Forward by Margarita Sweeney-Baird, Charity Trustee and Chair

Welcome to the Ninth Annual Report of Inclusive Skating (IS) which is a charity registered in Scotland as a SCIO with the regulatory body OSCR.

The ninth year of Inclusive Skating has been bitter sweet for all of us. The first few months from the autumn of 2019 into 2020 saw wonderful achievements through recognition by all four home nation sporting associations, the implementation of the Inclusive skating registration platform, safety course roll out, additional resources and a flurry of events. This was followed by lockdown and a dramatic shift to Virtual activity and the implementation of a Covid Safety Policy before a limited return to skating commenced.

Although, this has been a year like no other so has been the response. As we all moved into the pandemic lockdown we saw ice rinks starting to be restricted in what they could do, or in many cases, closed altogether. Whilst this was a massive blow to us all, the way our skaters, volunteers and community rose to the subsequent challenges has been extraordinary, resulting in a new strength across our community and the growth of a whole new world of digitally based activities and competitions.

Therefore, throughout this buzz of activity, Inclusive Skating once again owes a huge debt of gratitude to the volunteers, who have assisted in the development of Inclusive Skating. May I take this opportunity to thank the volunteers on behalf of all the skaters who will have been able to benefit from even more opportunities. The volunteers, and this now includes Torvill and Dean!, have given generously of their time and professional skills and have not even claimed expenses.

Thank you one and all.

## EVENTS

The English Championships 2020 was held at the beginning of January 2020. This event included the Special Olympics Qualification event for the World Winter Games. Inclusive Skating has hosted Special Olympics events as part of the Inclusive Skating Event structure since 2012. The event was completely funded by Inclusive Skating and Special Olympics made no contribution to the cost of the event. The Inclusive Skating Championships event was nonetheless very successful and was great fun. Scottish Inclusive Skaters were only able to compete through Virtual entry because there was insufficient ice time for everyone to participate and priority was given to Inclusive Skaters based in England and to the Special Olympics athletes to assist in their qualification for the WWG. Little did we know that this blended event with both Virtual and Venue participation was going to be the model for the future and that the Virtual Event structure would be an integral part of the lockdown activities.

Once Lockdown closed all the rinks, the Scottish Championships in April became a fully Virtual event. Skaters had been asked to prepare a video of their performances just in case and the English skaters were expected to use the Virtual entry system under the rules so fortunately many had a record of their performances. This event was extremely successful and the skaters particularly enjoyed the presentation party. A short video was shown of each skater including their highlights to the theme music of, "We Are the Champions", then amidst much cheering from the virtual audience, the medals which had been posted out in advance were awarded.



The British was originally scheduled for September but was delayed to December 2020 to give skaters greater opportunity to prepare for the Championships. New events and activities were introduced for the British Championships. There was a concern that skaters would not manage a full programme and would risk injury due to lack of training. So, without compromising a full report on that event in the Annual Report 2021 we are delighted to note that the event was a great success and we were delighted to welcome our Inclusive Skating Ambassadors, Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean to the event. There were gasps of joy when they were introduced as the surprise guests and presented the medals to every single competitor! A huge thank you to Jayne and Chris.

The virtual rules and element and off ice events developed for lockdown have proved popular and have been incorporated into the updated Technical Handbook 2021 and

the Classification Handbook 2021. So, the lessons learned and experiences from lockdown are proving valuable.

Margarita Sweeney-Baird, as Head of Delegation, took Jonathan Higgins, Jennifer Gibson, Meg MacFarlane and Jonnathan Clutterbuck to the Sweden Special Olympics Invitation Games with Head Coach Paul Crocker in January 2020. Well done everyone.

Inclusive Skating also participated in the Santa Claus competition in Finland in November 2019 with a team of Inclusive Skaters from Great Britain. Much fun was had, medals won and friendships gained. Thank you to Matti Puttila and the team in Tampere, Sweden for the warm welcome. We are very grateful and had a wonderful time. The photos say it all!

So despite Lockdown Inclusive Skating managed to hold and participate in many events safely throughout the year. Unbelievable!





Anyone for some off skates practice!



## Virtual Programme and a Growing on-line community

Huge successes has been the popularity of the virtual training and the uploading of the videos on YouTube. The Programme of virtual activities has now become a permanent part of future inclusive Skating activities. See the example below for March 2021. These activities have been fully funded and are available at no cost to the community. The virtual training activities during lockdown have also been uploaded onto YouTube and can be accessed at no cost. Skater feedback on this featured in an Evaluation Support Scotland case study. ESS were intrigued that the skaters found it valuable to be able to press the pause button when necessary and choose their own time to participate in the activities.

Through these opportunities, Inclusive skaters have been able to access coaching for their in-line skating. Many of the Scottish Inclusive skaters have also benefited from having the off ice skates funded by the NET. In-line coaching has been scarce so the on-line resources are helpful for everyone.

The feedback from participants has been overwhelmingly positive. There were 3,158 views on the Youtube channel in May 2020. The global on-line community across website, Youtube, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter is now estimated to be 5,000 globally.

# Virtual Activity Calendar



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28th February	1st March	2nd March	3rd March	4th March	5th March	6th March
Take part in our Virtual Video YouTube Activities	Choreography with Katie at 4pm & Pilates, Jessica 7pm	Off Ice skills with Danielle Starkie at 3.30	Choreography with Ryan Southan, 1pm On Board, 5pm	Off Ice Activities with Paul Crocker, 6pm	Off Ice HIT Suzanne, 2.30pm & Musical Interpretation 4pm	Take part in our Virtual Video YouTube Activities
7th March	8th March	9th March	10th March	11th March	12th March	13th March
Take part in our Virtual Video YouTube Activities	Choreography with Katie at 4pm & Pilates, Jessica 7pm	Off Ice skills with Danielle Starkie at 3.30	Choreography with Ryan Southan, 1pm On Board, 5pm	Off Ice Activities with Paul Crocker, 6pm	Off Ice HIT Suzanne, 2.30pm & Musical Interpretation 4pm	Take part in our Virtual Video YouTube Activities
14th March	15th March	16th March	17th March	18th March	19th March	20th March
Take part in our Virtual Video YouTube Activities	Choreography with Katie at 4pm & Pilates, Jessica 7pm	Off Ice skills with Danielle Starkie at 3.30	Choreography with Ryan Southan, 1pm On Board, 5pm	Off Ice Activities with Paul Crocker, 6pm	Off Ice HIT Suzanne, 2.30pm & Musical Interpretation 4pm	Take part in our Virtual Video YouTube Activities
21st March	22nd March	23rd March	24th March	25th March	26th March	27th March
Take part in our Virtual Video YouTube Activities	Choreography with Katie at 4pm & Pilates, Jessica 7pm	Off Ice skills with Danielle Starkie at 3.30	Choreography with Ryan Southan, 1pm On Board, 5pm	Off Ice Activities with Paul Crocker, 6pm	Off Ice HIT Suzanne, 2.30pm & Musical Interpretation 4pm	Take part in our Virtual Video YouTube Activities
28th March	29th March	30th March	31st March	1st April	2nd April	3rd April
Take part in our Virtual Video YouTube Activities	Choreography with Katie at 4pm & Pilates, Jessica 7pm	Off Ice skills with Danielle Starkie at 3.30	Choreography with Ryan Southan, 1pm On Board, 5pm	Take part in our Virtual Video YouTube Activities	Take part in our Virtual Video YouTube Activities	Take part in our Virtual Video YouTube Activities
Easter Break begins on 1st April and you can still take part in our Virtual Video YouTube Activities	Next event Thursday April 22nd 6pm- Off Ice Activities Paul Crocker, 6pm					

The Badge and Test programme has also been developed this year. The programme provides an off ice programme and a protocol for the safe introduction of skating for every Inclusive Skater. The Tier system provides a development pathway for every skater with an additional need. Activities, and certificates, are available for ice, in-line/ roller and off ice activities. The badge programme is free to download on the website and is also available on the learning platform.



The various activities are provided as a result of the funding and community support and have an overwhelming thumbs up from the community!



## Behind the Scenes

### Trustees

Hannah Lee, Walter Stewart and Perry O'Connor stepped down as Trustees during the year and were warmly thanked for their hard work and years of commitment. They were replaced by Nora Rundell and Courtney O'Connor. Between them Nora and Courtney bring a breadth of experience to IS from the world of business, voluntary sector, skating, judging and music. Walter, Hannah and Perry have joined the family of Honorary Trustees who continue to support our work from a different perspective.

### British Empire Medal

Margarita Sweeney-Baird was recognised in the 2020 New Year Honours List for her services to skating and was awarded a British Empire Medal. Congratulations were sent from many members of the Inclusive Skating community. The overwhelming message was that this award is well deserved! Margarita would like to thank everyone for their congratulations and kind wishes. It's very much appreciated.

### Achievements

Significant achievements for the charity behind the scenes are:

- CIMSPA recognition as a CIMSPA Employer and Training Partner
- Covid Safety Policy - recognition by Sport Scotland of the policy by its inclusion in the Return to Sport advice
- Adjustment of Technical Handbook to virtual environment
- Adjustment of Classification Handbook to virtual environment
- Recognition and membership of the Sport and Recreation Alliance, Welsh Sports Association, Northern Ireland Sports Forum and the Scottish Sports Association
- Active participation in many government working groups and home nation sporting associations
- Burgeoning relationship with the Ice Rink Managers Association
- Burgeoning relationship with Australian based skaters and many other national and international organisations
- Cyber Essentials Accreditation and firm establishment of IT policy
- Learning platform development which now features the Safety course, ICoach kids Coaching course and the Badge program
- Website resources are growing in depth and scale, including Register of Safety Advisors, Equipment advice etc.
- Social media – there are now nearly 1,000 videos on the Inclusive Skating Youtube channel and over 5,000 members of the Inclusive Skating community across all social media channels.
- Development of the ReActivate Inclusive Skating platform for the Sport England Covid Safety course
- Recognition as a Kickstart employer (with support from the SCVO)
- Membership of the SCVO, The Alliance and GCVS
- Shared Administrative Support from the Scottish Sports Association
- Accountancy Support from Aggrandiseva
- Continued support from Independent Examiner, Ken MacTaggart CA. Thank you!



## Funding and Donors Support

We are delighted to have been successful in attracting funding during the year and we would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to the following funders and Donors:

- Recovery and Resilience Fund Foundation Scotland - £5,000 May 2020. Inclusive Skaters based in Scotland benefited from the Foundation Scotland managed NET, Community Response, Recovery and Resilience Fund. This funding for off ice skates allowed our skaters to continue to skate whilst shielding. For many this was a completely new activity and it helped many to be active during shielding. The continuing benefits of this are considerable as many rinks are not reopening and there is still no or little access to ice skating.
- National Lottery for the funding of Core Costs - £10,000 in September 2020
- The Hunter Foundation and the Wellbeing Fund - £10,000 June 2020. We are delighted that the Virtual Events and activities were funded by the Scottish Government Wellbeing Fund (as managed by the Hunter Foundation and Inspiring Scotland).
- Recovery fund for the Return to Activity safely - £5,000 in September 2020 This has made possible the development and dissemination of COVID awareness policies and practices. This has also funded the window masks that facilitate the inclusion of skaters with hearing impairment in Covid safe activities.
- Weir Trust approval for funding of £10,000 for funds received in October 2020 for off ice activities into 2021
- The Big Give – A huge thank you to Hannah Lee for leading on the Big Give. We were championed by the Hospital Saturday Fund and raised nearly £4,000 in the final total. This included £1,972.26 from donations, £957 from the Hospital Saturday Fund and £1,070 from Margarita Sweeney-Baird who Championed the Big Give donations and provided the required match funding according to the Big Give conditions.
- Terracycle £37.76 and 34.84, Hannah Lee continues to improve the environment and our “Green” credentials by recycling crisp packets and making donations to inclusive Skating. A huge thank you!
- Facebook fundraisers totalled throughout the year £780 and provided significant contributions to Inclusive Skating Fundraising efforts. Special mentions to £154.63 Sarah Carter, Margarita Sweeney-Baird £150, Michelle Rose Dunn £136, Cerrie Kane £84, Stephanie Gott £40 and Amanda Ravenall £40 for their Birthday fundraisers! A huge thank you one and all!!!
- CAF processed donations from Sally Hoolin. Sally is a valued Inclusive skating judge and if that wasn't enough she also obtained funding from her City Employer to fund her volunteer hours. This support covered the hours judging at several events and resulted in a contribution of £340 and £240.
- The Kiltwalk raised considerable funds and resulted in a significant contribution to Inclusive Skating funds. £1,816.07 from the September 2019 Kiltwalk, £200 from the first Virtual Kiltwalk and a huge £6,186 from the

Edinburgh Virtual Kiltwalk as a result of Sir Tom Hunter doubling the donations. A huge thank you.

- Special mention to Grant and Lucy Baxter for their many wonderful donations throughout the year and their amazing contributions to the Kiltwalk.
- A special thank you for the monthly donations from Andrew Graham of £10 through his work donation scheme
- The National Lottery Community Fund Peoples Project awarded in Spring 2019 continues to provide long term benefits. It provided the funding for the Inclusive Skating Learning platform and this provided the digital infrastructure for the new badge program. This has also supported the virtual programme of activities, safety videos and course development on the new moodle.

So, much of the funding, even where restricted, has provided wider benefits. Especially important however is the unrestricted funding and the funding of core costs provided by the small donors and the Kiltwalk. To them we say, every little helps and your contributions are very important and we are very grateful to every donor for their contribution.

Zoe loves her new skates.  
They're allowing her to take those tentative steps outside enjoying a sport she loves.  
Thank you so much for helping her buy them 💕



The Inclusive Skating Community would like to say a huge thank you to the Scottish Government, the funders and the Lottery for this support.

Your support means a lot to our skaters!

## Looking Forward

Whilst the current pandemic uncertainty remains events will continue to be digitally co-ordinated and dialogue pursued with individual rinks around safe ice time. There is considerable interest internationally for the development of Inclusive Skating and we will be looking to developing programs that deliver virtual activities and systems for other associations to collaborate with Inclusive Skating.

We particularly look forward to the first Virtual World Inclusive Skating Championships in 2021. This is now planned to be a permanent feature of Inclusive Skating and will compliment future Venue based events.

Challenges are that with growing interest in Inclusive Skating activities we have to train up more volunteers to deliver activities and we need to meet CIMSPA standards and adapt systems to be covid-19 friendly. So, there has been additional work to set up covid-19 and additional training policies to become CIMSPA compliant and new courses and opportunities to introduce new volunteers to Inclusive Skating.

Challenges will be continuing to provide training and coaching support for the virtual activities at no charge to the community because the current funding is only available during lockdown and into 2021.

Whatever the challenges the next year will bring the charity has a sound financial foundation for 2021 and a growing volunteer base to look forward to a bright future that brings more safe and enjoyable opportunities to a happy community.



Stay Safe and Good Skating!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margarita Sweeney-Baird". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Margarita Sweeney-Baird  
Founder and Chair of Inclusive Skating