



ANNUAL REPORT

INCLUSIVE SKATING SCIO

ELEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR TO 30TH SEPTEMBER 2022



Foreword by Margarita Sweeney-Baird, Charity Trustee and Chair

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

The eleventh year of Inclusive Skating has been of green shoots of recovery. Virtual activities have continued to prevail, and skaters are returning to activities within their training environments. Volunteers are engaging in training in greater numbers and the Register of Safety Advisors has now been joined by a Register of Leaders.

Throughout this year of regrowth, 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 benefit from even more opportunities. The volunteers, and this now includes Torvill and Dean! have given generously of their time and professional skills. Our community is grateful for their continued support.

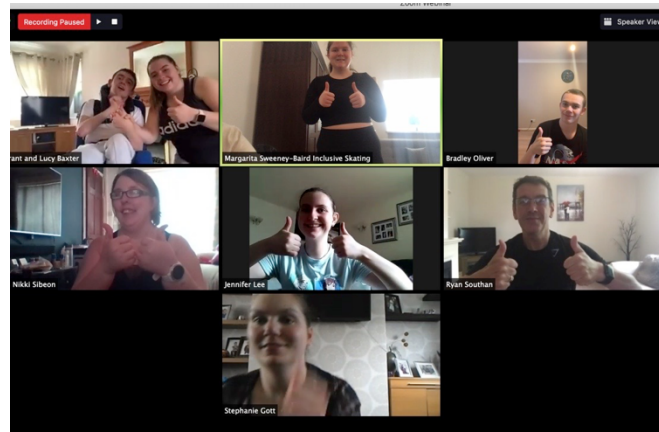
Thank you one and all.

Events

The virtual rules and new free element and off ice events developed for lockdown have proved popular and have been incorporated into the updated Technical Handbook 2022 and the Classification Handbook 2021. So, the lessons learned and experiences from lockdown are proving valuable. The Virtual World championships 2021 were especially popular with continued global participation.

Virtual Programme and a Growing on-line community

The various activities, provided as a result of the funding and community support, have an overwhelming thumbs up from the community! Importantly, the zoom sessions are becoming more important for skill development for the Coaching and Duke of Edinburgh Award Programme.



Behind the Scenes

Trustees

Our young trustee Courtney O'Connor stepped down from her role during the year and was warmly thanked for her hard work and years of commitment.

Achievements

Significant achievements for the charity behind the scenes are:

- Provision of off ice activities and continuing with coaching courses
- Participation in Evaluation Support Scotland training funded by the National Lottery.
- Recognition as an Approved Activity partner with the duke of Edinburgh Scheme and relationship with DofE Direct.

- Inclusive Skating Coaches seminar online
- Virtual World Championships 2021 held successfully in 11th and 12th December 2021
- CIMSPA recognition as a CIMSPA Employer and Training Partner and successful QAA review
- Adjustment of Technical Handbook to virtual environment and New Events
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- Recognition and continued 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 including the All-party group on Sport and Physical Recreation
- Parasport Come and Try
- Visual Impairment Seminar at Uttoxeter Ice Rink
- Learn to skate at Parkhill School for additional support needs, 2 visits to Parkhill School and 2 sessions at the rink.
- Training of new Inclusive skating coaches, assistant coaches and leaders
- Developing relationship with the Ice Rink Managers Association
- Burgeoning relationship with Australian based skaters and many other national and international organisations
- Website resources are growing in depth and scale, including Register of Safety Advisors, Register of Leaders, Equipment advice etc.
- Social media – there are now nearly 1,500 videos on the Inclusive Skating Youtube channel and over 5,000 members of the Inclusive Skating community across all social media channels.
- Membership of the SCVO, The Alliance and GCVS
- Shared Administrative Support from the Scottish Sports Association

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:

- Volunteer Support Fund managed on behalf of the Scottish Government by impact Funding Partners provided kit for Volunteers, development of DofE program and funding for SQA and courses £10,500.
- Virgin Virtual Marathon run by Gordon Struthers £635.25
- Walter Stewart funeral memorial
- Arnold Clark community Fund £1,000
- Local giving Magic little Grants £500
- Jubilee fund NLC £1,317.12
- 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! The contributions will appear in the 12th Annual Report.

- Facebook fundraisers totalled £369.90 throughout the year for Birthday fundraisers! A huge thank you one and all!!!
- CAF processed donations of £9.64 from Margarita Sweeney-Baird BEM
- The Kiltwalk raised considerable funds from 2 Kiltwalks £4345.14 and £1194.26 totalling £5,539.40
- 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 Margarita Sweeney-Baird, Mary Ferrie, Christopher Martin-Davis and Jennifer Gibson for their Kiltwalk and fundraising
- 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 further course development on the 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.

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

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.

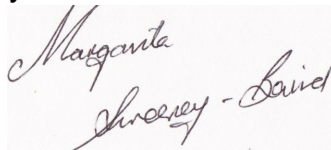
We particularly look forward to the first Location Event after Covid (now successfully held at the time of writing) at Hamilton Ice rink from 3rd to 7th April 2023 and the third Virtual World Inclusive Skating Championships in 2023. The Virtual Championships are now planned to be a permanent feature of Inclusive Skating and will compliment future Venue based events with a hybrid structure and will continue to be part of the World Ice Skating Day activities.

Challenges are that with growing interest in Inclusive Skating activities we must train up more volunteers to deliver events and coaching activities.

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 in Scotland

Whatever the challenges the next year will bring the charity has a sound financial foundation for 2022 to 2023 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 cursive script that reads "Margarita Sweeney-Baird". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Margarita Sweeney-Baird
Founder and Chair of Inclusive Skating