

Opening Ceremony Script

Ladies & gentlemen, welcome to Lammas and the opening ceremony for the British Inclusive Skating for Genes International Championships 2018.

Would you please welcome onto the ice our skaters, facilitators, coaches and carers.

Ladies & Gentlemen, please welcome our Opening Ceremony Official Party.

Once in position:

Ladies & gentlemen, please be upstanding for the National Anthem of Great Britain

Ladies & gentlemen, I would now like to invite Margarita Sweeney-Baird, Founder and Chair of Inclusive Skating to say a few words of welcome.

“Inclusive Skating held the first pilot event in 2012 and in the space of just 7 years this event has now grown into a British Championship with many new events. With many more skaters across the world. Inclusive Skating is spreading across the continents and is an unstoppable force. We have regular events in North America. The spirit of inclusion is spreading. This is a change that you the skaters, the parents and carers have created. We thank you.

To the Charity Trustees, past and present, and the volunteers who make this event happen we are simply in your debt. By your efforts and hard work you have taken the time to make this all possible. We simply could not hold this event without you. Thank you so much.

To the Lammas rink and staff, we are so grateful that you give us this ice and have welcomed the Inclusive Skating community to your hearts. This allows us to develop more opportunities for Inclusive Skaters. Thank you for the ice, your supportive staff and the wonderful welcome.

We are also grateful to our funders and supporters. This year we have once again also been awarded funding by Genetic Disorders UK. Thank you.

We have also been given fundraising support from a wide variety of donors and fundraising efforts. Walter Stewart, his family and myself did the kiltwalk, As a result of these efforts we have now been able to establish a new website and registration license platform. This is now being developed and will we hope become operational for you to access. Every skater, volunteer, family member and association or club will be able to register and access the Inclusive Skating format and the new features that are under development.

We recognise that many of you are rather isolated in your home rinks. So please join the online platform and take part in our zoom platform webinars and events. We will be developing more online training and support for our community too.

Can I also thank our Ambassadors. Of course you may think that this means Torvill and Dean and our newest ambassador, the one and only Phil Harris, the reigning British Mens Champion and world competitor. It certainly does so thank you to them. However, our best Ambassadors are you, the Inclusive Skating community. Thank you once again for everything that you do. From your “telling your friends all about what you do” to your

“online social platforms”. They really do make a difference and we are really grateful. Each one of you is a credit to your families and the Inclusive Skating community. Thank you.

Now as we trace our roots to my inspiration in Special Olympics and my time at Harvard as a Kennedy Scholar, can we now ask our representatives to come forward to say the oaths on behalf of the Inclusive Skating community. Good luck and good skating!”

Ladies & gentlemen, I would now like to invite Stuart Bell, The Senior Technical Judge on the Official Panel to give the oath on behalf of the Officials.

“In the name of all judges and officials, I promise that we shall officiate in these Inclusive Skating Championships and International Event with complete impartiality, respecting and abiding by the rules which govern them, in the spirit of sportsmanship.”

Ladies & gentlemen, I would now like to invite Jamie Geere, to give the oath on behalf of the Coaches.

Coaches’ Oath

“In the name of all coaches and in the spirit of sportsmanship, I promise that we will act professionally, respect others, and ensure a positive experience for all. I promise to provide quality sports and training opportunities in a safe environment for all athletes.”

Ladies & gentlemen, I would now like to invite Meg MacFarlane with her family to give the oath on behalf of all the athletes.

Athletes’ Oath

“Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt. Let me try to do my best.”

End:

Ladies & gentlemen, I would now like to invite Walter Stewart, Charity Trustee of Inclusive Skating to declare the British Inclusive Skating for Genes Championships 2018 open.

Walter to Open

“I now declare the British Inclusive Skating for Genes International Championships 2018 officially open.”

Could I now ask the music to play once again, while the Skaters, coaches, facilitators and carers to leave the ice. Finally, ladies and gentlemen, could I ask you to put your hands together for our skaters, facilitators and carers as they leave the ice. We will now have a resurface and competition will commence at 14.00