

Speed Skating Report

Season 2009/10 has been another successful season for Scottish Speed Skating at all levels.

Elise Christie once again led the way and showed what is possible. Elise overcame early season injury and illness to take 9th at the World Junior Championship in Taipei followed by an excellent 3rd place at the Senior European Championships in Germany. Elise then went to the Vancouver Olympics with high expectations but found herself overwhelmed by her first Olympics and finished 11th at 500m, 19th at 1000m and 20th in the 1500m. These were credible performances for a junior in her first Olympics but Elise was disappointed and determined to finish the season on a high at the Senior World Championships in Bulgaria. No disappointment this time as she took 8th place, the only European in the top ten, and taking 9 seconds off the British 3000m record in the Super Final where she was 6th. The next four years are going to be very exciting and rewarding for Elise.

The home international was held at Dundee and the Scottish Junior team beat England for the second year in a row with an incredible 151pt – 94pt margin. After so many years without a win this is a remarkable turn round.

The British Championships at Nottingham saw Scottish skaters take 26% of the individual medals, which though down on the previous season was still an excellent return.

Craig Miller continued to dominate Scottish domestic skating taking his 14th senior title, in his last year as a junior, and moving up to joint third in the all time list and only two titles away from second place.

Juniors Kathryn Thomson and Ben McFarland will be training with the British Senior squad at their camp in Dresden in August.

Progress is being made in other areas too with a speed club starting in Aberdeen and the likelihood of another in Dumfries. We have also added four new speed coaches with four more in training.

Archie Marshall