

DIRECTORS REPORT:

1/ Dance

a/ Sk8scotland were extremely pleased to record their congratulations to Sinead & John Kerr on being the first British dance couple to qualify for the ISU Grand Prix Final in Japan followed by their impressive 8th placing in the Vancouver Winter Olympic Games and their magnificent 5th place in the 2010 Worlds in Italy this year.

They finished the season in 2nd place in the ISU rankings.

Sinead & John have been awarded the NISA/BOA Olympian Athlete of the Year.

Our other World class Scottish representative Mark Hanretty and his American partner Chrissy Chitwood had some early season success in Internationals only to miss out for the UK's second Olympic spot after placing 3rd in the British. However they were selected for their first World's in Torino where they finished 23rd. Regrettably they recently announced their retirement from International competition.

We wish them well for the future.

b/ **The Scottish Festival of Skating** in October 2009 hit record attendances, with a massive total of 1,140 skaters, coaches and officials registered for the event. In its 9th year at Dumfries, we saw the inclusion for the first time of adult singles events, completing the "full house" of disciplines – singles, pairs, adult singles, adult dance, dance, solo dance, synchro and short track – to make the Scottish the largest and most inclusive gathering on the UK skating calendar.

Midweek brought nearly 100 adults from all parts of the UK to the Festival, contesting events in singles and dance. Feedback from the skaters was very positive.

Following its previous success, around 140 skaters of all ages (from 8 to 74 years) took to the ice Thursday afternoon for an "Ice Dance Social". This was followed by the popular inter-rink team dance competition, modelled on the RIDL (Recreational Ice Dance League) concept, with two skaters competing on the ice at once. Eight teams entered, making it one of the noisiest contests in years with the winners Murrayfield Monarchs taking home the trophy.

Friday saw the main solo dance events with entries slightly up on 2008.

b/ Solo Dance

While the 2009 Scottish had been retrospectively included as a 'qualifier' for the 2010 British Solo Dance Championship the Opens in Aberdeen on 4th June were not afforded the same status, despite being the only event north of Bradford (14th June) which complied with the current generic criteria. Scottish skaters were therefore disadvantaged by having to travel to England where all the qualifying events took place at a time which clashed with Standard Grade exams. The traditional strong Scottish participation in the British Solo Dance Championships in July was, not surprisingly, somewhat curtailed.

Noel Grimshaw
Ice Dance Director