



Event Director Report
Sk8scotland Trophy D'Ecosse 2011 incorporating the Scottish Synchronized
Skating Championships
April 15-17 2011 & Synchronized Skating Development Camp April 18-19 2011

Background

The Scottish Championships has for the past few years included all NISA disciplines and was the single largest skating event in the UK.

Due to a number of factors it has been decided by the Sk8scotland Board that this event should be split into separate disciplines and held at various times of the year appropriate to those disciplines.

In order to recognise Scottish Synchronized Skating Teams at their Home Country event it was decided that Dumfries would host a Club International offering all participating teams the opportunity to compete for the Trophy D'Ecosse in each category whilst the top Scottish Teams would receive the Sk8scotland Trophies.

Following consultation with the Scottish Squads this proposal was met favourably and preparations commenced in the Autumn of 2010.

The Draw

The opening of the event, which took place at the draw, welcomed many teams, parents, coaches, team management, event officials and guests, in all exceeding 400 people. It took place in the new Dumfries Ice Bowl Curling Hall with many teams lined up on the ice pad whilst the seating was filled to capacity.

The Chairman of Sk8scotland welcomed all those present and introduced members of the Dumfries & Galloway Constabulary Pipe Band who lead in the Referee Joanne Shaw (from Canada) together with her two Technical Controllers for the event (Philippe Maitrot from France and Sandra Williamson-Leadley from New Zealand).

As a touch of "fun", the team captains were invited to choose a gift wrapped parcel to reveal their team's skating order hidden beneath – the parcels contained mini chocolate Easter Eggs for the teams to share!

The Event

The Trophy D'Ecosse which commenced on Saturday 16th, was privileged to welcome a truly international Panel of Judges and Officials from the UK, Canada,

New Zealand, France, Netherlands, Sweden, Denmark, Italy and Czech Republic, and a new record-breaking number of teams for a synchronized skating event in Great Britain of 43 across 9 categories (in all nearly 700 individual skaters entries).

	No of Teams	Bronze	Silver	Gold
Scotland	11	4	3	3
England	28	4	4	7
Iceland	3		1	
Italy	1		1	

The Presentations included The Trophy D'Ecosse Plate for the winning teams, plus Gold, Silver and Bronze medals, Sk8scotland Scottish Championship Trophies, Certificates of Merit for all teams that did not medal and finally Cups for the Most Entertaining Programme of the Day – presented on Saturday by the Event Director Judy Clinton and Sunday by the Technical Delegate Chris Buchanan (Chair of the ISU Synchronized Technical Committee).

All the judges and officials at the event kindly agreed to join in with the victory ceremonies handing out the certificates.

The Dumfries Ice Bowl

The event ran exactly to time throughout, and the Dumfries Ice Bowl Management and Staff are to be commended for their support throughout. Special thanks must go to the front of house reception staff and to all those who made the event run so smoothly - the ice team was 100% punctual for every resurface! During the event the facility's various seminar rooms, viewing galleries and changing facilities throughout the building were turned over to changing rooms for the event offering comfortable timescales for the teams and their management before and after their official practises and competition. Altogether, 12 separate changing rooms were made available, and there could easily have been 14!

The Catering

Café DG, arranged a large amount of catering for teams and managed to maintain a full service from their café at the same time. Many compliments were paid to this company particularly as they are new to the Dumfries Ice Bowl this year and had not previously catered at a Synchronized event.

The Volunteers

The Solway Skating Club brought a first class group of volunteers, together with a team of young skaters as Ice Stewards, and all aspects of volunteer delivery was professionally and successfully executed.

Trophy D'Ecosse 2012

At the end of the event the Technical Delegate, Chris Buchanan (also Chair of the ISU Synchronized Skating Technical Committee) announced to the Judges and Officials that next year the Trophy D'Ecosse will be held on the first week-end in April, (details to be confirmed shortly), and that it will be included on the ISU calendar as a full ISU International. This will be a great honour for Synchronized Skating in Great Britain and for Dumfries in particular.

The Synchronized Skating Development Camp

The camp was held over two days, and both the main ice arena and the new curling ice pad were used. The availability of both ice pads proved a huge advantage, allowing all teams to access up to 7 hours of actual on-ice sessions over the two days.

The lead moderator Cathy Dalton, (from Canada – Appointed Coaching Member of the ISU Synchronized Skating Technical Committee and ISU Technical Specialist), gave off ice seminars to coaches and on ice seminars to teams and coaches.

Joanne Shaw (from Canada - Referee of the Trophy D'Ecosse and ISU Judge and Technical Controller) gave seminars during the mornings on theory of turns and steps and invaluable one on one feed back to coaches covering detail of their programmes at the competition.

Alice Fell (Level 4 NISA Coach from Murrayfield) took edge work seminars with skaters and coaches.

Thomas Hopman (ISU Technical Specialist from Holland) offered Video Analysis to the teams working through the programme they had skated at the Trophy D'Ecosse.

Chris Buchanan moderated a session for each group on judging aspects of Synchronized Skating. Finally the teams had topic quizzes on nutrition, fitness and synchronized skating in order to promote discussion on these important areas.

In addition to the 8 team squads attending, including two from Iceland, the camp also welcomed 26 coaches from Switzerland, Croatia, Iceland and Great Britain and feed back indicates it was well received.

Work is in motion for further coach education in Dumfries in 2012.

Photos will be added to the website as they become available and can be ordered/ viewed from <http://www.photorelect.com/pr3/thumbpage.aspx?e=7982567>

DVDs may be purchased from Event Films <http://www.eventfilms.org.uk/page9.html>

Judy Clinton

Sk8scotland Director Synchronized Skating

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