



## Development Portfolio Annual Board Report 2015

Dear Members,

Please see below my Annual Board Report 2015 for the Development Portfolio, it's been an absolute pleasure to serve the membership this year as a board director and I look forward to serving the membership in the coming year. I thank all the athletes and coaches whom I have had the privilege of working with and to all those who have supported the development of British Skating this past year.

- **Development Squad**

During the Season of 2014 the qualification process of gaining a place on the Development Squad and the Development Programme, had a total change for the international season 2014/2015. The structure went from skaters just gaining the test score to skaters having to get a TES score/ TSS score, NISA test standards and specified elements performed in competition, in order to qualify. The main focus of changing these requirements was to demonstrate a clear and demanding pathway from grass root level through to the performance and elite level of our sport.

The changes made to the programme were welcomed by both skaters and coaches, the information was communicated through small presentations to athletes and coaches, along with a Q and A sessions at the National Coaches Convention.

During the session of 2014/2015 we had a total of 150 skaters inclusive of singles, pairs, ice dance and solo ice dance, with skaters aging from 6 years old up to junior level athletes. It has been a really successful season for all athletes and coaches involved in the programme and I look forward to working with them next season. 2016/2017 will see the inclusion of Synchronised Skating and Inclusive skaters.

- **Development Camps**

Over the past 12 Months we have been very lucky to be able to support our development squad athletes through a series of off-ice training camps. This is the first time in a number of years that our skaters have had access to sports science professionals and gone through physiological testing. This was all done in partnership with the University of Lincoln. All members of the development programme were invited to attend the series of three camps, spread out through the season. During these camps the skaters were tested physically through strength and stamina testing, mentally through lectures on planning, nutrition and psychology, as well as performance and choreography, ballet, flexibility and

Pilates. The camps were open for coaches to attend and this gave us the opportunity to measure and monitor the progress and development of our athletes along their way through the development pathway, this information will also help for athlete profiling in the future. I would like to thank the staff and students at the University of Lincoln for working with NISA and our Athletes.

- Skate UK and Skate UK Star Programme

Skate UK/ NISA now have 38 rinks/clubs running NISA Skate UK 1-8, 9 running 1-10, 11 running their own programmes and 13 planet ice/ Silver blades rinks.

During the past year Rebecca Corne until her departure from NISA, worked incredibly hard to work with rink operators and clubs delivering NISA's learn to skate programmes to build a broken relationships and support them in delivering Skate UK to its best potential. Her role was vital to the association and well received by everyone who worked with her out in the field. She made great progress and we hope to continue her work.

A lot of work has been done around the branding of Skate UK and Skate UK Star, this is already to launch once we have our database up and running, which has proven to be extremely frustrating as this was supposed to be completed nearly 2 years ago. Once this is in place this will allow NISA to offer a FREE Skate UK membership to all Skate UK and Skate UK Star members, this will increase the membership and also allow us to have contact with skaters and parents a lot earlier in their development and it will allow us to show them what NISA has to offer. There will be a re-vamp of the Skate UK section of the website for members to use; this will have all information regarding our approved centres, along with video tutorials and the promotion of events suitable for their level.

There will also be changes made to the approved centre status.

The re-launch of Skate UK and Skate UK Star will also allow us to improve the service we provide, as well as make changes to barriers we come across that limit skaters progression such as the cost of the Skate UK documents.

- Rising Stars Award Scheme

This past summer saw the final of three instalments of £1000 made to the selected athletes chosen in 2013 to be part of the Rising Stars Development Award Scheme. These athletes are Dannielle Harrison, Josh Brown, Mia Jowitt and Peter Beaumont, Luke Digby and Caitlin Gilmore.

This award scheme has seen £15,000 of investment over the past three years in these skaters to help them gain international exposure and help ease the financial pressures placed on skaters wishing to compete internationally. All skaters have been worthy recipients of this award and have progressed further than I had imagined. Dannielle Harrison is British Senior Ladies Champion, Junior Worlds, Youth Olympics and European competitor. Josh's season has seen him compete at Youth Olympics, Junior Worlds and Junior Grand prix events racking up some incredible results. Mia Jowitt and Peter Beaumont have made their leap from Advanced Novice into Junior, achieving new PBs on the international scene and are travelling to the US in preparation for next season. Luke has battled with injury which saw him pull out of the British Championships, but is now back on the ice and landing a full set of triples. Caitlin has made great improvements technically and the award has allowed her to experience international events.

- Partner Search

The Development programme has hosted two partner search events for skaters wishing to have a go at Ice Dance or Pair Skating. These events have been well received with over 50 skaters attending these events. The try-outs have proved to be a success with the formation of several new partnerships. I would like to thank all coaches involved in delivering these events and to the skaters and parents committing their time to attend.

- Adult Development

Over the past two years the development programme has run a very successful development camp aimed at adult skaters including non-NISA members, to encourage and promote adult skating within the UK. Along with this we also ran a competition simulation and feedback session pre-BACs. This opportunity allowed skaters to run through their programmes and get constructive feedback from the technical panels present.

One of the main issues adult skating faces in the UK is the lack of events and competitions adults can enter, as well as a progressive development pathway through the levels in the test structure. Hopefully over the next year we will work towards supporting clubs to run events and developing an achievable and realistic pathway for adults to move through as they progress.

- Short Track

The development of Short Track Speed Skating has made great progress this past year, with the re-introduction of 'Skate of the Year' and the numbers of opportunities speed skaters have had to attend development camps and workshops. We also formed a Short development group made up of members of the speed skating family. I would like to thank Becky Worth (former sub-group member) and Keith Wright for their continued support and I look forwards to working with them in the coming year.

- NISA Staff

This year has seen the departure of two key staff members within the Development portfolio; Rebecca Corne and Alex McKeown. We have made significant strides forwards with development through the hard work and dedication of both Becky and Alex. I would like to thank them for their support and commitment to make changes, each will be missed dearly.

I would like to take the opportunity to welcome Aman Nijjar to the association in her role as Performance and Development Administrator.

Finally I thank all of the NISA Staff who do a fantastic job and deal with some really testing and difficult issues and my fellow Board Directors for their continued support and team work needed to make NISA and British Skating Great again.

David Hartley  
Development Director