



NISA BOARD CHAIR, PRESIDENT & FINANCE

ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16

Dear Members: This report is compiled by Ken Pendrey and Hilary Selby who shared the Board Chair and Presidents position during this period. The report also includes financial detail compiled by Ken Pendrey and Chris Buchanan who shared the Finance Directors duties for this reporting period. This was due to the resignation in July 2015 of the CEO Nick Sellwood. Following the resignation, the Directors at the July 2015 Board meeting, appointed Ken Pendrey as the Interim CEO which required him to resign his elected position of Finance Director and his appointed positions of Board Chair and President. Following KP's resignation, the Board appointed Hilary Selby as the Interim Board Chair and President and Chris Buchanan as the interim Finance Director.

At the 2015 AGM, some concerns were raised in respect of Board and Membership communication, and whilst there is reason to believe some progress has been made to improve this situation, it is recognised that there is still work to do. In this respect, the Members present at the AGM, agreed to the formation of an independent Governance Working Group. Following the appointment of the group, several initiatives have been reported to the Board that the group felt was necessary to improve the communication lines together with some restructuring of the NISA Articles. In this regard Nick Russell, the Chair of the Group, will be reporting at the May AGM on the work carried out by the Group during the past 12 months.

You will note that the Board itself have proposed changes to the Articles that are viewed as a start to ensure best practice is embedded in the Articles and Rules of the Association. This is of course paramount in the requirements of our Funding Partner UK Sport, and is seen as the first phase in the Governance restructuring of the Association. The Board sincerely hope that the Membership will support these proposals in order that the Association can begin to move forward in achieving its short and long term governance objectives.

NISA Board:

Whilst it has been a very busy year for the Board, unfortunately it has not been without controversy. Disciplinary action, internal investigations and SAR requests resulted in time-consuming demands on Directors and staff, it has also been necessary to involve solicitors which, although regrettable, is an unavoidable expense against the NISA accounts. The Members can be assured that the Directors do take their responsibilities very seriously and they have all worked tirelessly throughout the year, not only in carrying out their Directorship responsibilities, but also delivering their operational objectives.

NISA Staff:

You will know that Nick Sellwood has now left the Association and after an rigorous recruitment campaign, NISA have appointed Jackie Sheldon as the new CEO. The Board are confident that she comes with the necessary experience and knowledge to take the Association forward in delivering what is required in both strategic and operational planning. Four new members of staff have joined the Association over recent months and NISA are fortunate to have a staff of very professional and dedicated people who work extremely hard in carrying out their administration duties as well as supporting the Directors on the admin side of their Portfolios. The new database is still causing some issues within the office in terms of assisting office workload, however, the staff do appreciate the patience of the Membership when seeking technical information or making general enquiries.

World Class Programmes - Short Track;

You will be aware that Stuart Horsepool, the Performance Director for the STWCP, has left the Association with the administration of the programme now being under the control of the English Institute of Sport (EIS). UK Sport found this necessary because of the uncertainty of NISA's governance structure and the adverse publicity surrounding comments made on social media sites regarding the management and staff of the Association. The Board, together with the appointed Governance Working Group are confident that these issues can be resolved thus enabling the return of the STWCP to the Association. This seasons ISU Competition results for UK Sport World Class Programme funded Elise Christie have been outstanding, crowned European Champion 2016 and after winning two individual distance medals, 1000m & 1500m, was ranked overall 3rd in the World at the 2016 World Championships. Jack Whelbourne, our other WCP funded skater, finished 5th in the 500m and 6th in the 1500m and was ranked overall 9th in the World, this was an excellent result considering Jack has only recently returned from injury.

World Class Programme - Figure Skating;

Whilst the Figure Skating World Class Programme (FSWCP) remains with NISA, we have to be mindful of our commitment to address our governance issues so that UK Sport are confident that NISA can continue to administer the programme in accordance with an

acceptable level of good practice. It is unfortunate to report that our two programme funded pair couples have broken up and had to be withdrawn from the FSWCP. In the ISU events Nick Buckland and Penny Coomes, our dance couple on the UK Sport World Class Programme, competed at the 2016 European Figure Skating Championship and finished in 6th place. They then competed in the 2016 World Championships and after an excellent performance finished in 7th position, a fantastic result and well deserved by Nick and Penny.

There is a UK Sport Annual Review for both Short Track and Figure Skating due to place in April 2016.

Finance Report:

Development: As in previous years the board are fully committed in providing financial support for the development of our skaters, coaches, judges and officials. To this extent we have provided the necessary funds for training camps, education seminars, financial support for individuals, and support for entries into international competitions and championships. The Board, as long as our financial position allows, intend to continue with this financial support as it is fundamental to what NISA responsibilities are as the governing body for ice skating in the UK. To this end our young figure and speed skaters have shown excellent improvement at both national and international level.

Accounts: You will see that the balance sheet for the year ending 30th September 2015 show cash reserves of £512,290, you will also see from the accounts that the operating deficit for this financial year amounts to £46,408 as opposed to the previous year's deficit £83,640. The Board are well aware of the concerns of some of the Members regarding year on year deficits, however, set against this particular financial years deficit is a net spend on the Associations development programmes of £64,226. Based on these figures, and the fact that we are a not for profit organisation, the Boards intention is to continue to invest in development programmes until our reserve level suggests otherwise. For Member's further information, the level of financial support for The Associations development programmes over the previous four financial years amounts to £333,256. With the current level of cash reserves at £512,290 (4 -6 months operational costs) the Board are comfortable, at this point in time, to continue with financially supporting development initiatives across the Association.

In closing, thanks are extended to the Finance Committee and Board Directors for their help and support in managing and delivering the Associations operational activities and financial affairs throughout the year.

Finally, personal thanks are extended to all NISA officials, staff and volunteers for their outstanding and committed work throughout the year of which NISA are extremely grateful.

April 2016