

FEDERATION OF INLINE SPEED SKATING

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 5TH NOVEMBER 2017

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Firstly, and most importantly, it is with sadness that I have to mention the death of Leo Eason who was a very prominent figure in the world of speed skating. For those who did not know Leo, he became World Champion in 1963 and went on to dedicate his life to his beloved sport. Although he has not been seen around skating events so much in recent years due to ill health, he will be sadly missed and our condolences go out to his wife Pat and to their extended family.

As my term of office as Chairman comes to an end at this year's AGM, I think this report should reflect the achievements of the FISS committee over the last 3 years and not just over a 12 month period.

How do we measure the progress made over the last 3 years?

- On the subject of finance, we were fortunate to inherit from the previous committee a sound financial base. Over our term in office the Federation's finances have improved and we have invested in race day equipment such as the chip timing system and a FISS branded gazebo.
- FISS also made financial commitments to the National Team to assist with the cost of travel and accommodation to European Championships and team apparel. These were costs that had previously been met by team members, coaches and managers themselves.
- The Federation renewed its link to the National Governing Body (BRSF) enabling three FISS committee members to become qualified Clubmark assessors.
- Due to the success of the FISS coaching courses we now have 17 new accredited coaches resulting in better coaching techniques and producing technically better skaters.
- A phenomenal 95 new British Records were set across all age groups showing that skaters are continuing to improve.
- Membership has increased on average by 20%.
- The FISS National Management Team encouraged more skaters to compete at European Cup and International events, which has not only taken standards within the UK to a higher level but also enabled skaters to achieve qualifying times for inclusion into the National Squad and better prepare them before representing GB at European Championships.
- Over the last 3 years there has been a significant increase in entries into the British Championships giving rise to some of the most exciting racing seen for some time.

There is, however, one area of the sport that FISS has not been able to improve, despite many attempts to address the problem, and that is the lack of race officials. On numerous occasions FISS have tried to organise officials' courses but due to lack of response these had to be cancelled. We all know only too well that without officials races cannot be run, this being apparent when an event this year, for the first time, unfortunately had to be cancelled due to lack of officials. This is an issue that can only be resolved by the help of those within the sport who are willing to give a little of their time at some race meetings to allow events to take place. With many of the existing race officials now retiring, I sincerely hope that clubs will encourage their members to take a more active role, otherwise I fear we will see more events cancelled.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the outgoing FISS committee for their support and hard work over the past 3 years and for helping to make the Federation stronger, and through its coaching programme produce better coaches and technically better skaters.

Looking at the list of members going forward onto the committee for the next 3 year term, I feel very positive about the future and wish them every success in taking our sport forward, both at home in the UK and on the World and European circuits.

John Fry
Chairman