

### **Opening Remarks**

2016/7 has been a very tough year for SPICE members and trustees.

With the closure of the Slough ice rink announced in January 2016, all efforts were made to explain to Slough Borough Council the importance of continuity for our members.

As Chair I spent so much time every evening writing emails and communicating with so many people, looking for alternative sites to house a temporary rink and speaking to anyone in the media to promote our situation.

We successfully had a piece on BBC London TV, I was interviewed 5 times on BBC Radio Berkshire and our good friends Tasneem and Andy, BAFTA Award winners, created a video to promote our plight. We attended several council meetings and I spoke directly to the council in one of those meetings.

The final result was that a temporary rink was announced by SBC, however this didn't open for four months after the existing rink had closed for refurbishment, which left us with a tough task to maintain continuity and reduce the rate of member attrition.

### **Windsor On ICE**

Through the generous donation of free ice time, we kept SPICE and SPICE JETS running through mid November, December and 1<sup>st</sup> week of January.

### **Absolutely Leisure**

Christmas party at Richings Sport Park cost around £800 despite getting the venue for free. We ran several sessions on Sundays at the Absolutely Bowling Centre, donated by AL.

### **Jump In**

SPICE paid for two sessions for all our members at Jump In in Slough.

### **SPICE Water Day 2017**

Thanks to the great organisation of Kay and AJ, members and family members enjoyed another fun day at Tony Edge Centre in Wraysbury.

### **SilverBlades Ice Rink**

I met with their management and we negotiated a new contract for ice time. This is nearly double what we were being charged by Absolutely Leisure so regrettably we had to reduce the number of coaches.

A special mention goes to Hannah Gugan who coaches every week for free.

### **Regular SPICE**

We continue to offer small group tuition from basic supported 'learn to skate' right through to advanced skating tuition.

We have increased our membership to in excess of 65 members. With associated siblings and volunteers, there are regularly over 100 people accessing SPICE on a Sunday morning.

### **Ice Hockey**

2 teams of SPICE JETS and a total of 48 parents, members and siblings attended the 2017 Special Hockey tournament that took place in Peterborough, Canada.

We had a really good time and were able to watch the Peterborough Pete's game as well as attend the Opening Ceremony.

The organisation of the trip was first class and I thank both Jo Hodgson and Lucy Edwards for that. I was lucky to book a hotel that was local to all the rinks being used and that worked very well. We won 7 of our 8 games and the hospitality from both SHI and the Canadians at large was first class.

### **Team SPICE**

Our synchronized skating team is going from strength to strength. They performed an exhibition routine at the close of the 2017 British Synchronised Skating championship, held at the National Ice Arena, Nottingham.

In November, Team SPICE opened the Lee Valley regional synchronised skating competition to rapturous applause and a standing ovation! Trainee coach, Annie Hodgson, has put this latest routine together, Beauty and the Beast. Rio and Terry Sully from Lee Valley generously donated the costumes and Shirley Goodgroves from Two Birds, London added some extra sparkle to them.

### **Special Mentions**

Each week, Kay Keep's Tuck Shop sells sweets, cakes and coffee to support SPICE.

Jackie and Michelle have continued to run stalls at several fetes this summer.

We've raised money at various supermarkets with bucket collections and volunteer support.

The Hodgsons, Deena, Norma, Sally, Kay, Helen, John and Sarah all supported the Datchet Village Fete pony rides again and the fete committee gave us a £300 donation.

Karen Salvage did various raffles and an Entertainment evening! (wink wink!)

Thanks to Karin Ingram who continues to run great SPICE quiz nights.

Sally Dawson is our new Friends of SPICE treasurer. Welcome Sally!

### **Funding**

Thanks to Lucy Edwards, we have moved to a direct debit system for member subscriptions.

Jo arranged donations of £3000 from the Paul Ellis family and Donal Wade Foundation.

Jo has been in communication with Gillingham ice skating club who have folded due to lack of ice time. They donated £3000 to SPICE and we thank them for their fantastic support.

Other donations include Cardiff Ice Skating Club and Gosport Synchro teams.

A special mention to Carol Payne who raised in excess of £1800 from Easyfundraising as well as numerous other donations including a company Swear Box!!

### **Next 12 months goals**

1. To continue our core activities of teaching ice-skating and ice hockey to our members and siblings.
2. To move back to our refurbished home and negotiate a good slot on Sunday mornings with the new management company.
3. To start fundraising activities for SHI 2019 – their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
4. To implement correct procedures for GDPR by May 2018

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, despite all the anguish and fear that we felt during the closure of the rink, SPICE has managed to have another fantastic year.

Back in 2008, Andrew Parr stepped into the shoes of a previous treasurer, who frankly was overwhelmed at the role and had left it very disorganized.

Andrew has supported SPICE for all these years and helped us to grow to where we are today so we would like to offer a very special thanks to Andrew for all his support.

I'd like to thank all our volunteers and parent helpers who turn up every Sunday to support our members and siblings.

Finally, special thanks to my fellow officers for all their hard work in the running of SPICE and looking forward to working with our new SPICE treasurer, Carol Payne.

Ricci Hodgson