

SIKATERS

MAGAZINE



Shona
Taunton

Issue 01-2022 \$24.99



ISSN 2371-2666

Mission Statement

Our Mission is to Promote Self-Esteem and Recognition to All Talents with Equal Opportunity and without any Discrimination

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Our Mandate is to treat all Talents of all ages, gender, level of ability and expertise equally

PROMOTING SELF-ESTEEM & RECOGNITION

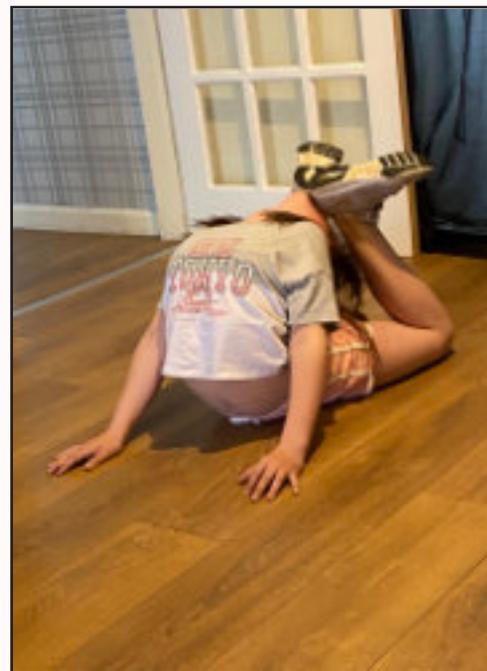
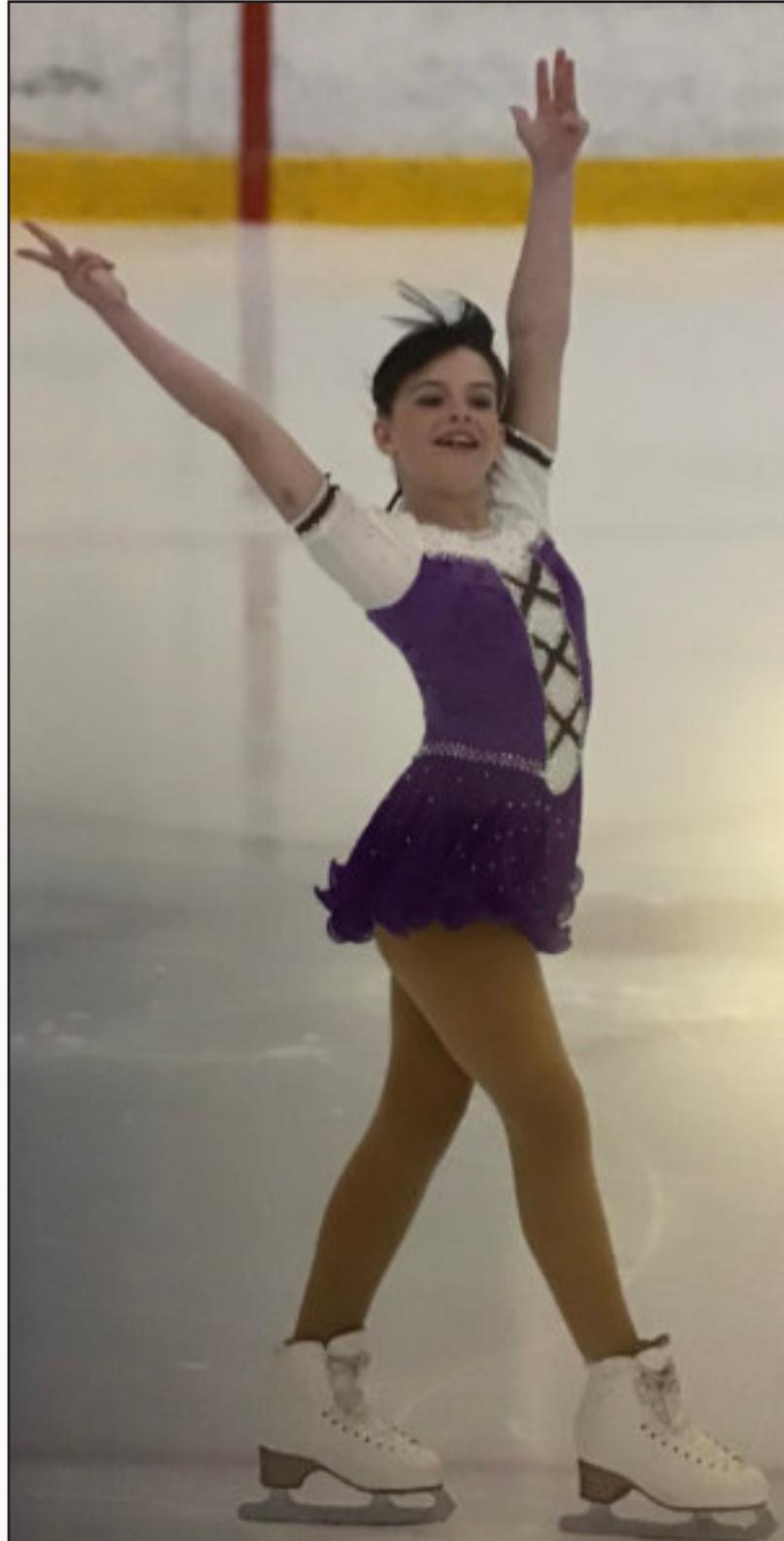


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Amelia Cuff







Hi! I'm Amelia, I am 10 years old and I'm a figure skater.

I started my skating journey when I was 4 years old with Kyle Figure Skating Club in Ayr and I've never looked back.

I competed in my first ever skating competition in 2018, this set off a determination within me to progress and I started working really hard on my programme elements and skating skills whilst still trying some trickier stuff whilst I was practicing too.

Lockdown hit and I was lost! I was so grateful when my coaches Gillan & Suzanne Otterson set up off ice classes which we initially done through zoom and then as restrictions lifted we would meet at a local area and do our classes there (weather dependant, of course). This was great fun and kept me fit and active whilst the ice rinks

were closed.

I have off ice skates which were also great at keeping my fitness levels up.

I attend on and off ice classes with Gain The Edge weekly where I work on my fitness, flexibility, strength and edge work.

Last year I achieved my level 2 score and a new personal best score which I was delighted with.

This year I hope to achieve my level 3 score.

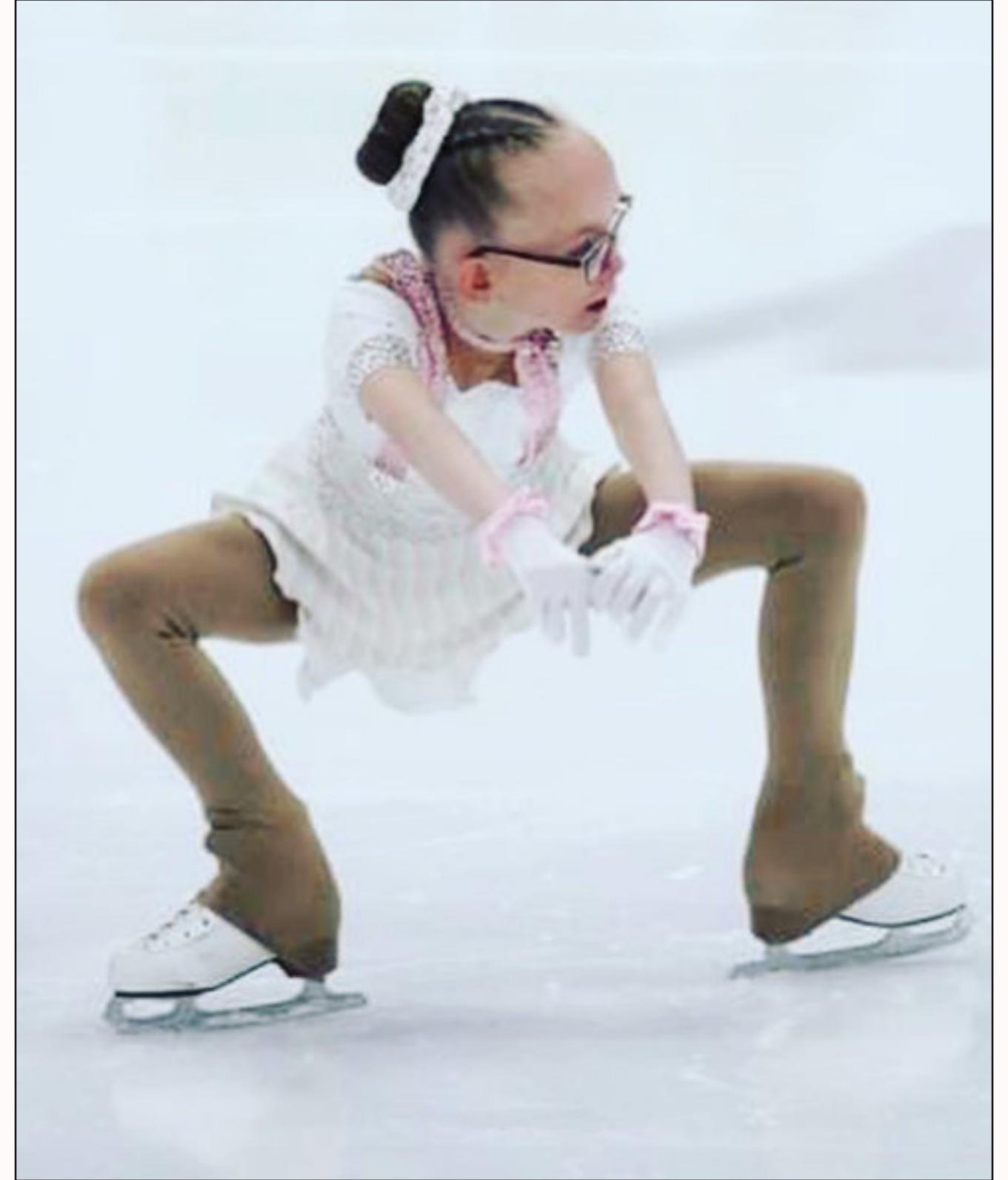
My challenges so far have been my double jumps! I am working super hard to try and land these consistently.

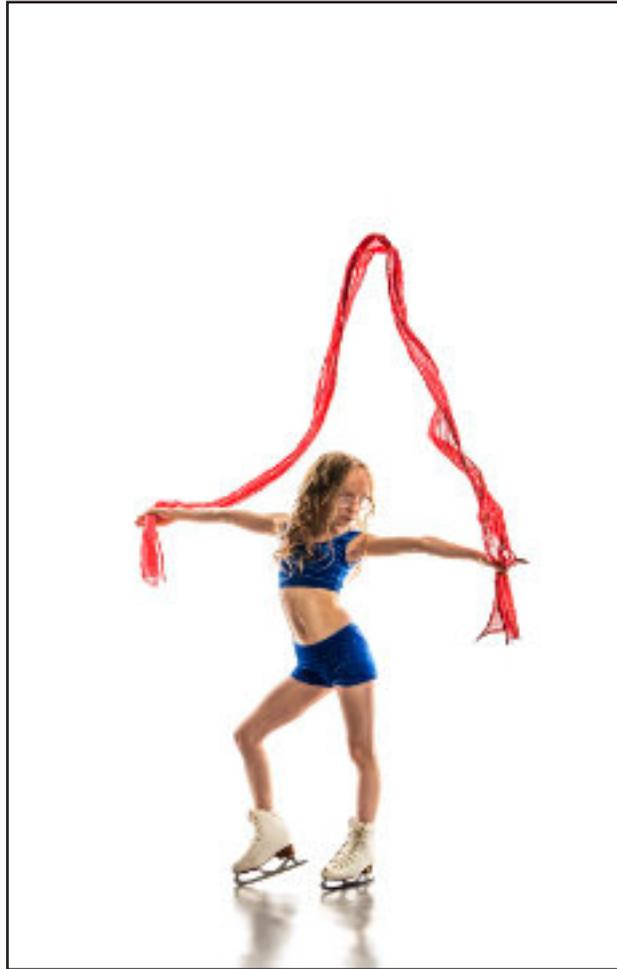
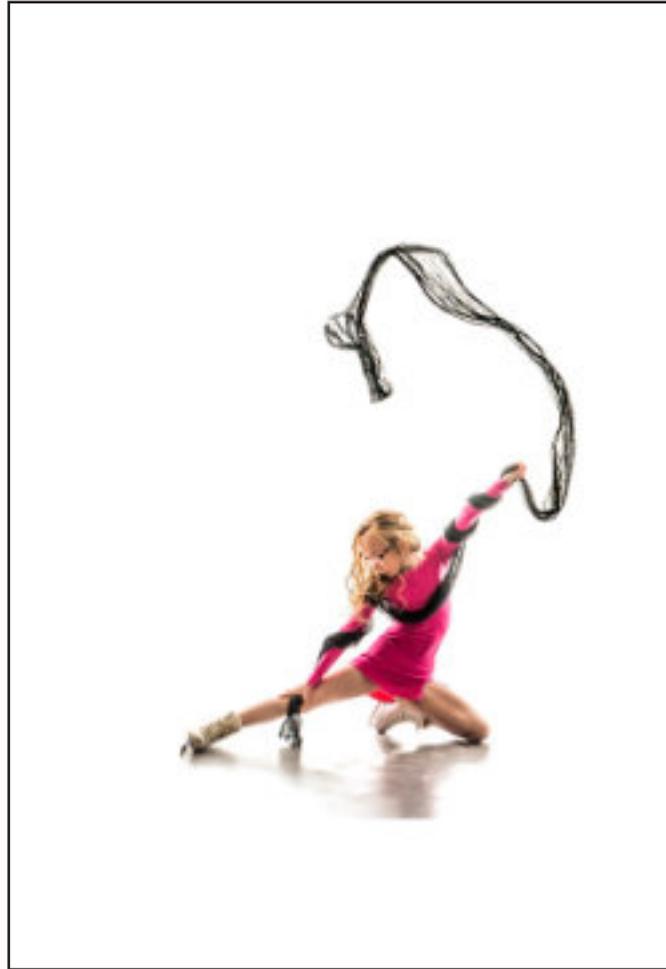
I hope one day to be a professional skater and be able to travel and see the world whilst I skate.

Amy Lewis

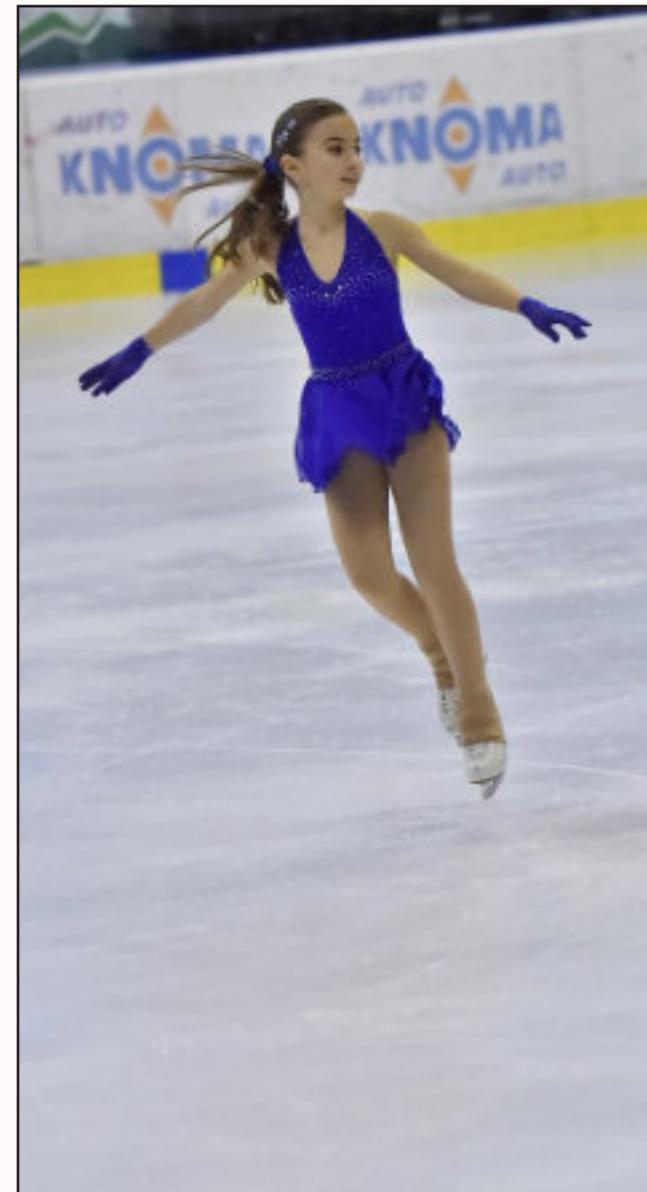
My name is Amy I'm 9 and when I'm older I would love to go to be in Disney on ice and be a coach. I love every second of being on the ice! My current goal is to land my axel on ice. I was on the young stars development programme before Covid and I'm working hard to get back on it.









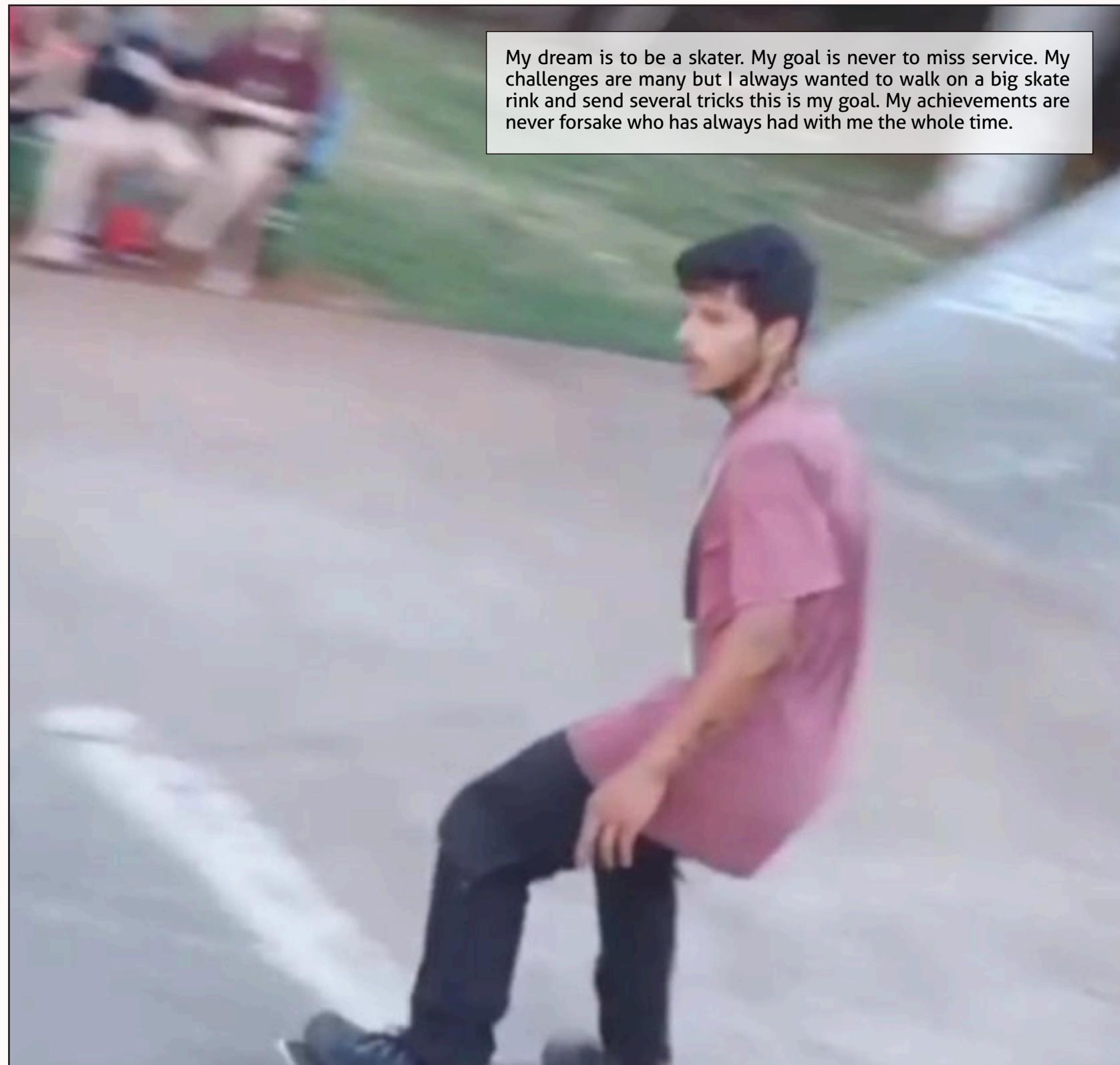


I'm Ginevra Bacchioni, I'm thirteen years old and I love figure skating. I had my first step on the ice when I was three years old with my mum and I started to skate officially with a coach at the age of five.

I compete now in Swiss-cup in the U14 category and I have been qualified for the 2022 Swiss Nationals.

Figure skating is my life and I hope to start going to international competitions as soon as possible.

My biggest dream is to go to the Olympics one day. That's why I started training hard since when I was little, and I keep on doing it everyday. It's for sure tough as when all my friends and school companions go on holiday I have to intensify my training: every time available has to be dedicated to ice skating, with sacrifice and dedication. But this is the only way to run behind my dream. I have the full support of my parents and my brother that come with me in all competitions and encourage me on doing more and more: they are my biggest fans!

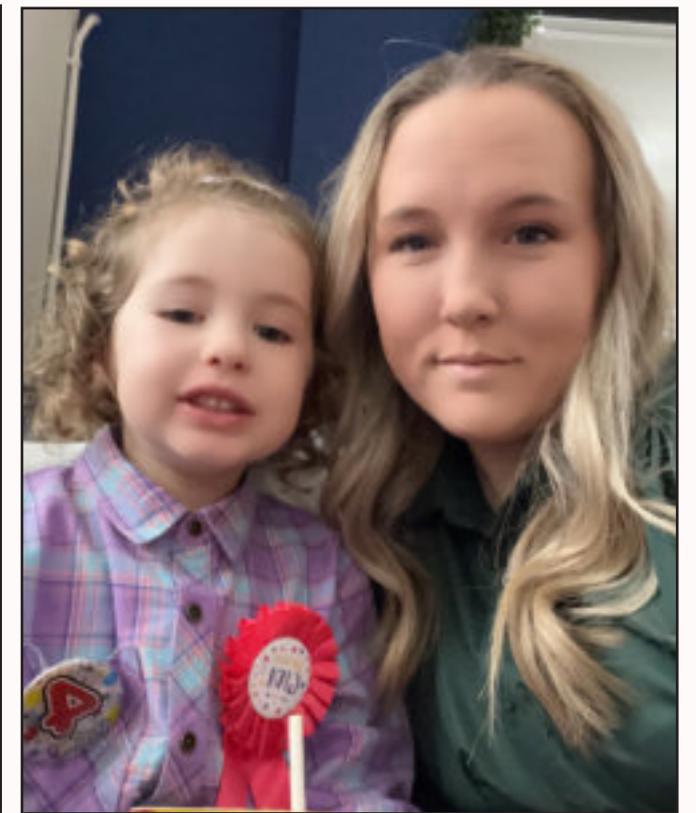
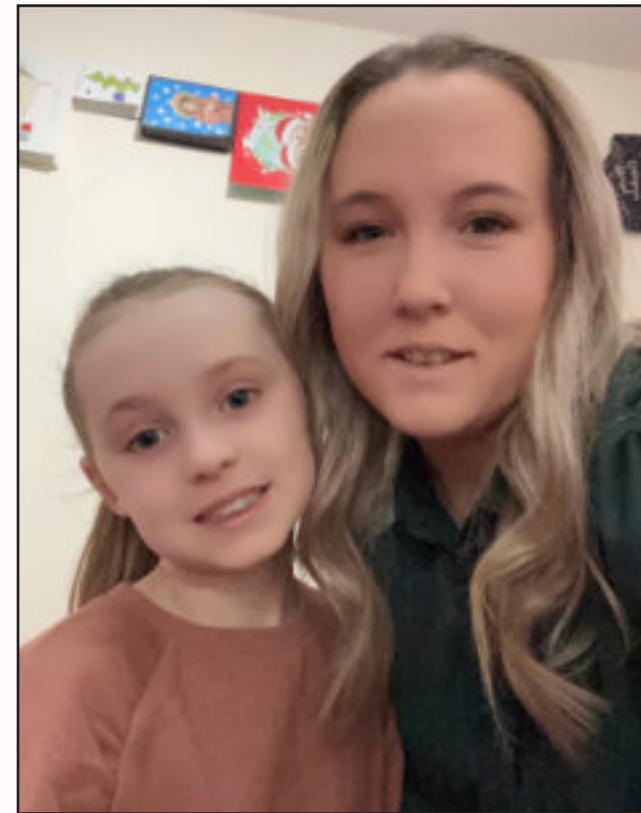






I am a 7yo figure skater, I have been skating since I was 3 years old. My rink was closed for 17 months due to Covid which set me back but I am currently working harder than ever. My dreams are

to become a professional ice skater and Ballet dancer. My goals for this year are to compete in my first ice skating competition and then to beat my own personal best.



Katiea & Emily Young



Hello we are Katie and Emily Young we are 8 year old twins from Belfast Northern Ireland and we have been skating from just before our 6th Birthday, we skate in dundonald ice bowl and we skate on average around 5 times a week, our coach is Dempsey Andrews and she is amazing she has helped us get through our dundonald levels 1 to 10 , our British ice skating passport bronze , silver and gold , our level 1 and 2 British ice skating association field moves tests and she has helped us get ready to take our level 3 ones hopefully next month , we joined the competitive team last year and skated a couple of competitions and we are looking forward to a busier

year competing, ice skating makes us feel alive it makes us feel better when we have had a bad day , it makes us work harder to achieve something if we are finding it difficult, Katie's favourite position on the ice is an I stand and Emily's favourite position is a beuillman, our favourite spins are the corkscrew and the sit spin! In the future we hope to pass our level 3 field moves and eventually once we have gone through our levels we hope to be apart of the British squad and maybe even go on to teach ice skating, we love all things to do with the ice .

Photographers Credits: Photo credits to mum





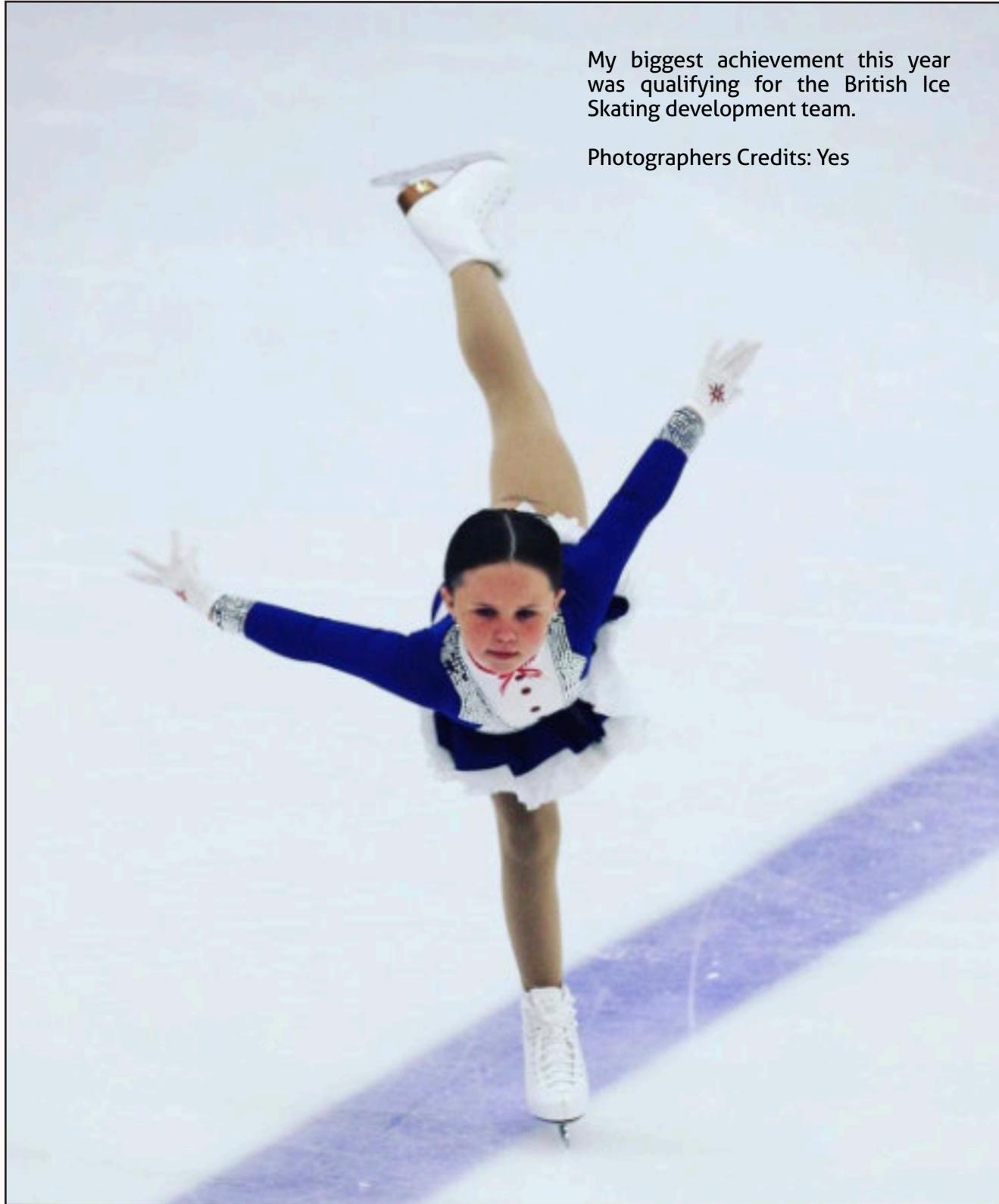


I love Iceskating and hope when I'm big enough I can be an Iceskating coach. I started Iceskating at 6 years old, I am now 8. I just came second at my club competition and won a silver medal 🥈 this was my second competition I have entered. My goal in the next few weeks is to be able to do an axel, jump. I can do toe loop, salchow, loop and flip jump. I can now do a standing spin with over 20 rotations which I am very proud of. I do lots of stretches to help with my flexibility, I have to work on this every day. I have learnt that to learn in anything it takes a lot of practise.



My biggest achievement this year was qualifying for the British Ice Skating development team.

Photographers Credits: Yes









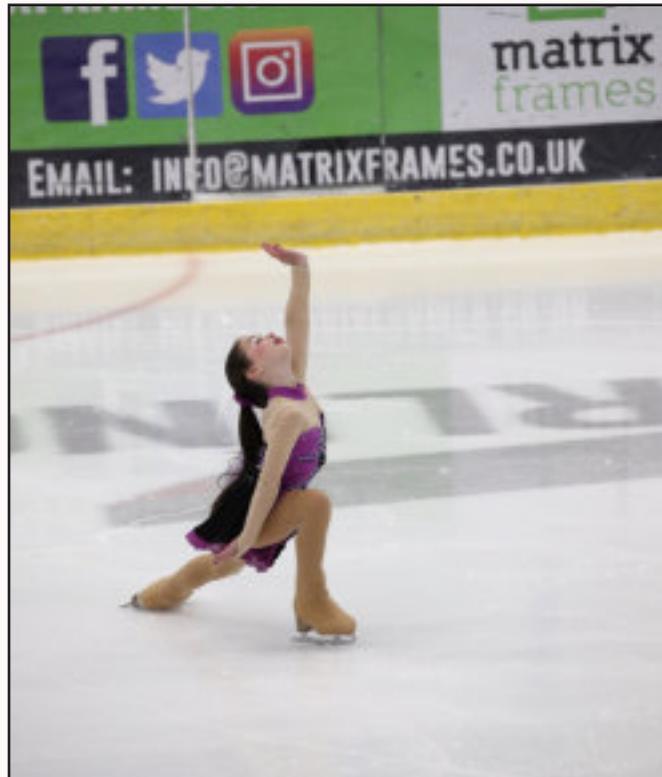
My name is Libbie and I'm 10 years old. I have only been skating since June and it's been a new world for me. Being on the ice and feeling the confidence from it is addictive. I have never wanted to be the centre of attention or in the focus of others... until now.

The community and support in the community it's amazing. Everyone I have met on my journey has been so friendly and helpful. It really is the best

sport I have ever been a part of.

I have huge goals for this year and to be an ambassador is one. I would love to pass all my levels and enter my first ever competition! I want to be able to perform, glide and feel so proud of myself. Yes, this dream may seem unreachable but so did even skating forwards 6 months ago

Dream Big or Go Home



I am 10 year old Lily and passionate about figure skating and dancing on the ice. First, on the ice at aged 3, lessons at 5 and first competed at aged 6 in London.

At 7 years old, I qualified and competed in the British Solo Dance Championships 2019 at the beginner level. Smiled throughout and danced the Foxtrot, Blues and Fredance in front of a panel of judges as the youngest skater. All thanks

Lily Seal

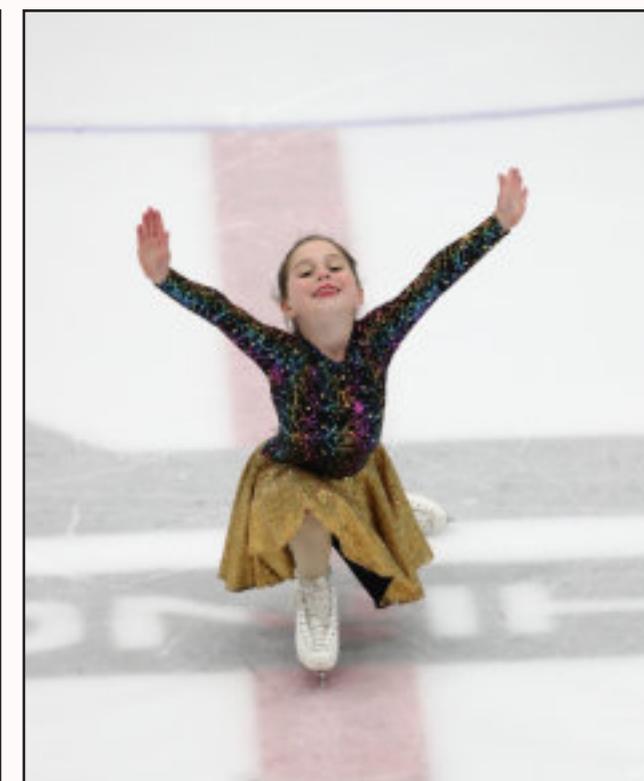
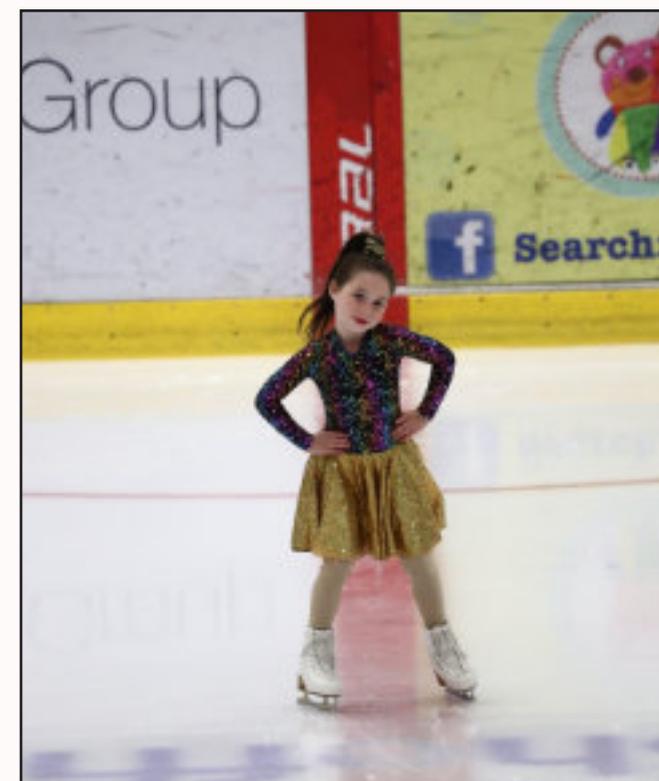
to my fantastic Coach Jodie O'Keefe.

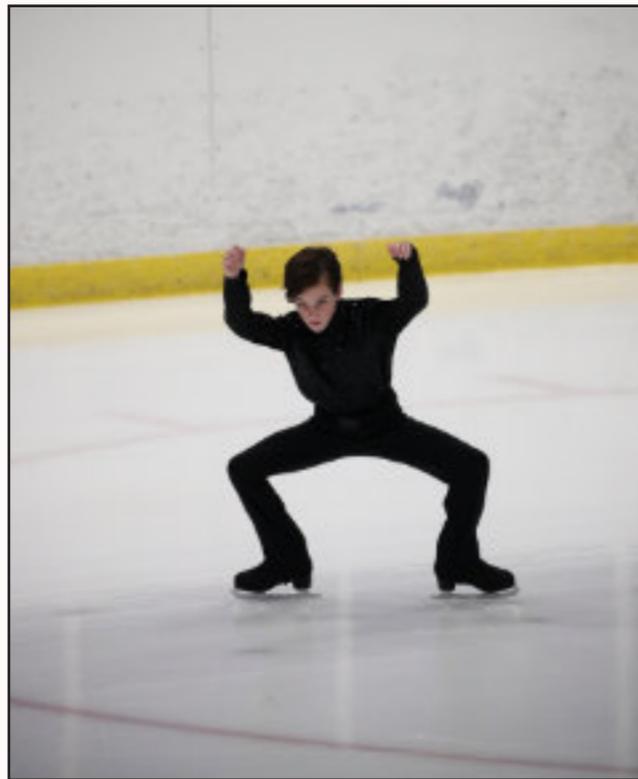
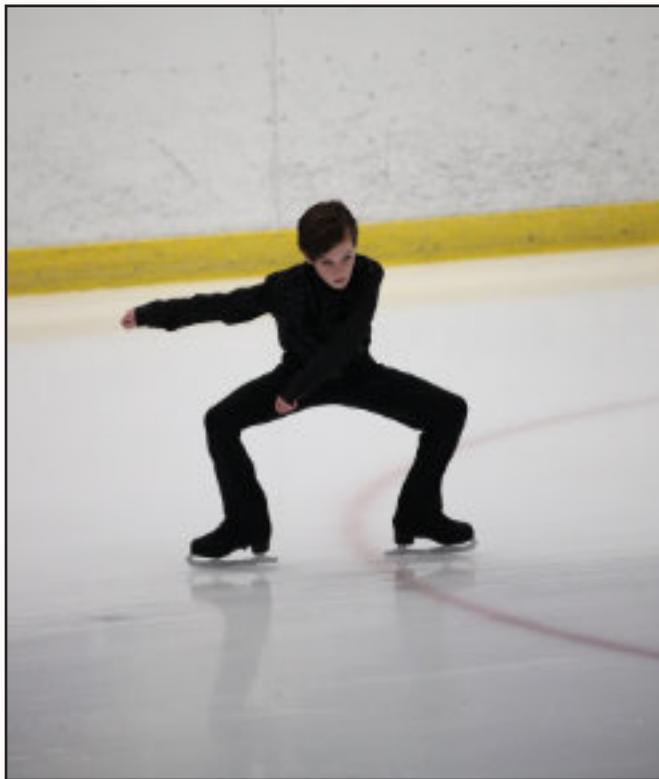
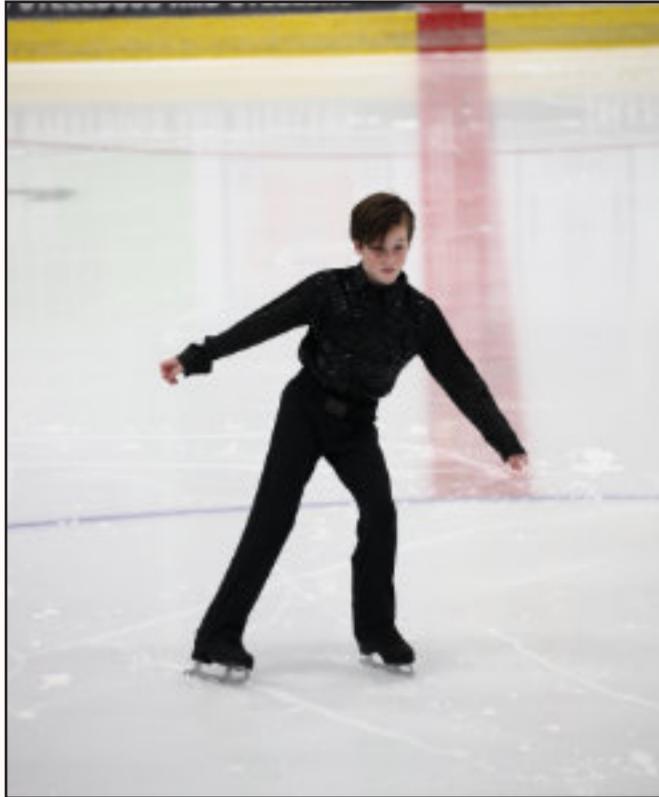
I passed Gold for both Freeskate and Freedance Skate UK and achieved my Level 1 Fieldmoves, Level 2 Freedance and continuing to work hard for my next series of National Tests. I find my Patterndances a challenge, timing is something I am working on. This year I look forward to competing in Young Stars and the British Championships 2022 with my new dance to the 'Happy Feet' song.

I attend Off-Ice sessions and go to Acrobatics, I

love doing Cartwheels on the ice! My goal is to do a Biellmann one day. My dream is to ice dance around the world and then teach a new generation of figure skaters.

I also skate as a Couple for Ice Dance, and we train together with our coach Jodie and attend lessons with Phillip Poole – (previous GB world ice dance competitor). My partner Oscar and I compete in Artistic competitions and working our way to Basic Novice so we can officially compete nationally and one day internationally as a couple.







My love for ice-skating started in 2019, when I was nine. I'm eleven now. I used to play football and rugby at the weekends on teams with my twin brother, but that summer, I needed something to do. I'd been ice skating before so I asked if I could do ice skating lessons. I started at my local Planet Ice rink where I worked my way through their Skate Excellence programme.

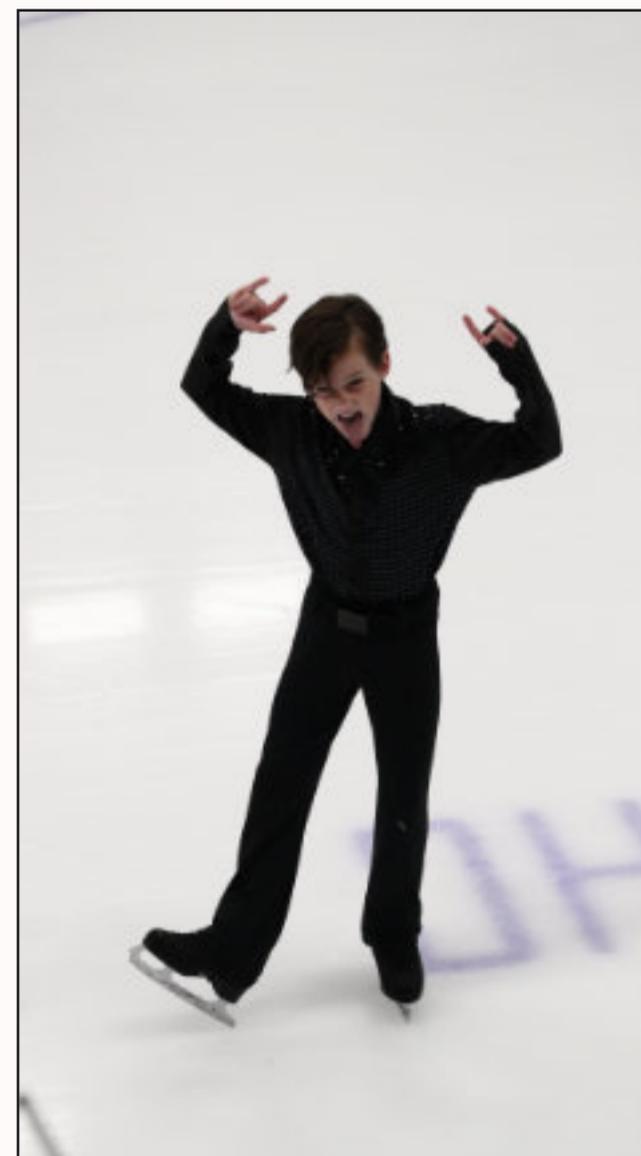
I've never looked back.

It was during these lessons that I was picked out by one of the instructors, who is now my coach. She saw something in me and I'm glad she did. Now, only a couple of years later, I'm training lots and have an ice dance partner, Lily. We've competed against each other in solo dance and have competed together as a duo in our local rink in Gosport, in the south of England. I'm really excited about competing with her in future dance competitions!

It's definitely challenging getting up early to go training at the weekends, but when I'm there, time flies by. And I can see myself improving every week, every month.

My greatest achievement so far – and it's only been a few years (less if you include the lockdowns that we've had) – was going to Sheffield last year to compete in the British Ice Skating Celebrations where I came second in my category.

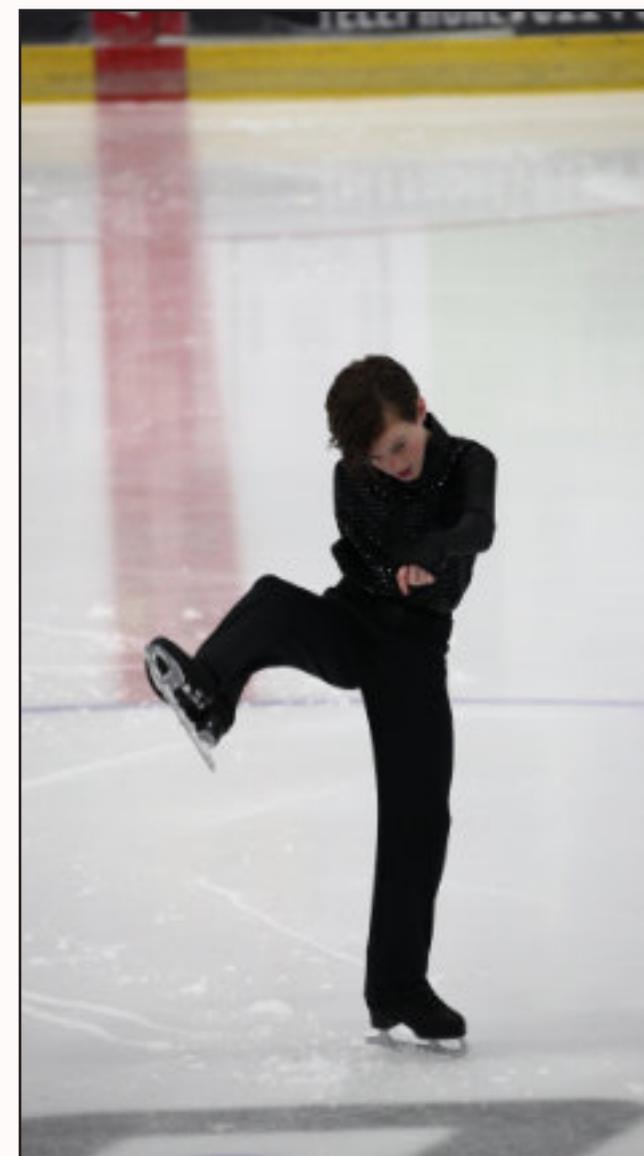
I can't wait to go there again!



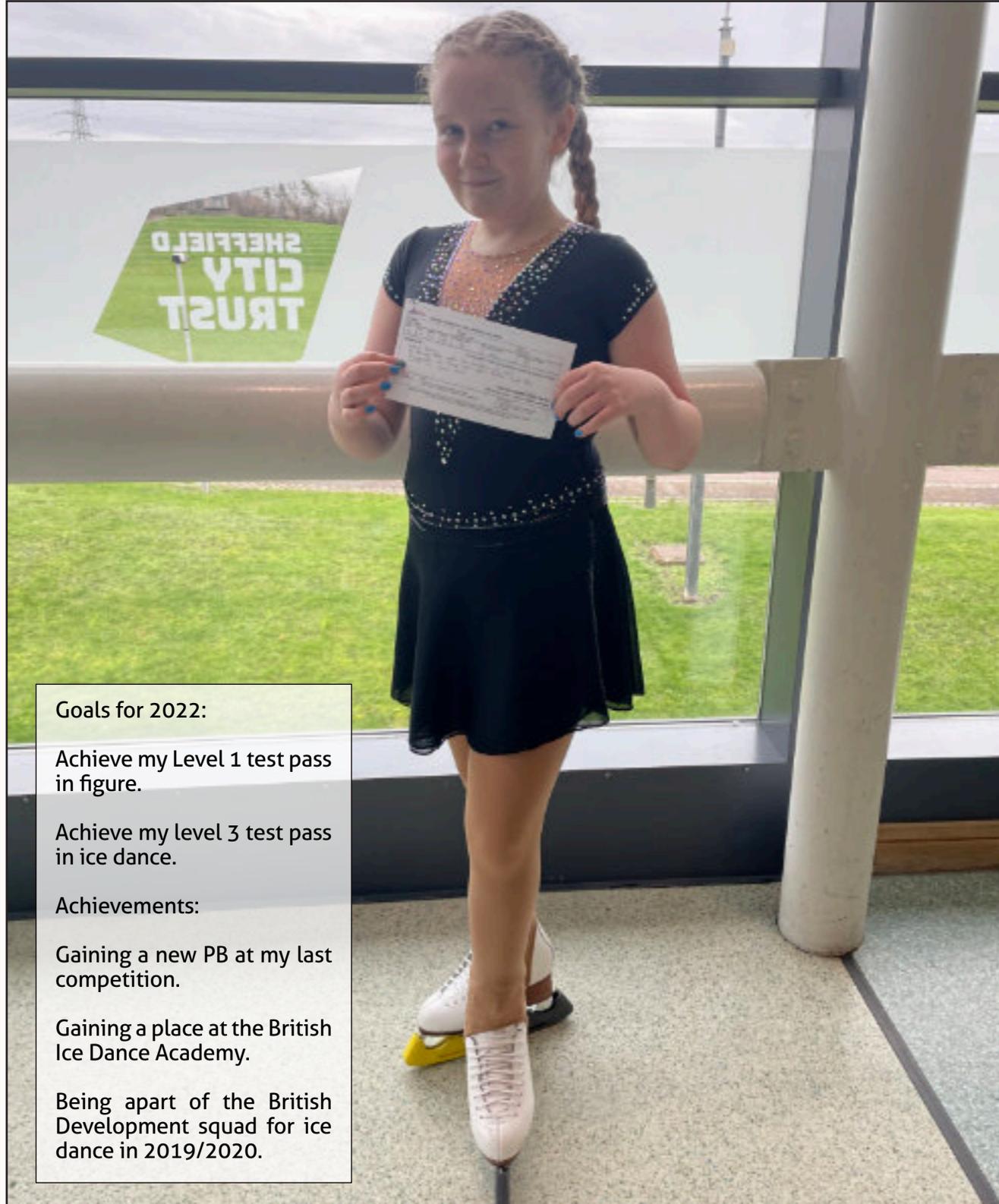
I've also won both the "spin, spiral, jump" competitions I've entered and came third in artistic duo dance with Lily at my local rink.

I'll be working on my general strength, especially my upper body strength, so that I will be in a good position to do lifts when I need to. This year my aim is to successfully land an axel and get through the solo ice dance series so that I can once again skate in Sheffield.

Photographers Credits: N/A (personal)







Goals for 2022:

Achieve my Level 1 test pass in figure.

Achieve my level 3 test pass in ice dance.

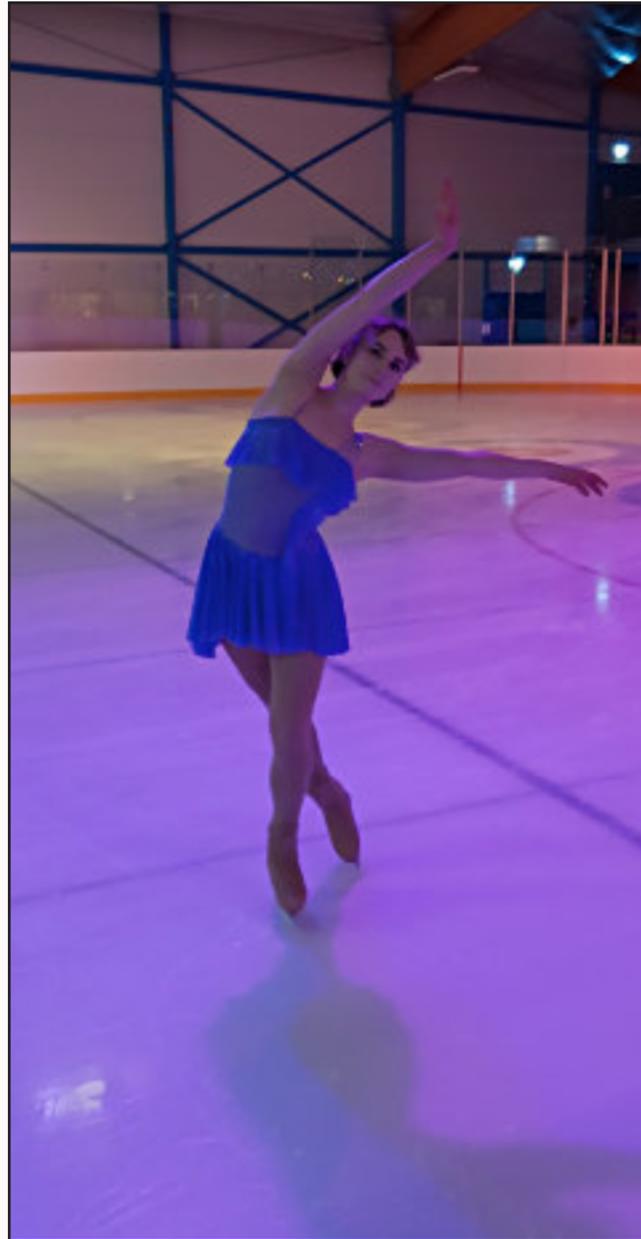
Achievements:

Gaining a new PB at my last competition.

Gaining a place at the British Ice Dance Academy.

Being apart of the British Development squad for ice dance in 2019/2020.





In skating it is important to start young in order to reach the highest levels, but what if there's no opportunity? This was my experience as I grew up in Cambridge, UK, a city without a rink, and the nearest rink was a 50-min drive away in Peterborough. I watched skating in the Winter Olympics on TV as a child, and was in awe of the level of grace and beauty of the sport. I used to ask to go the ice rink almost every birthday from the age of about 9. I loved how fast I could go, and

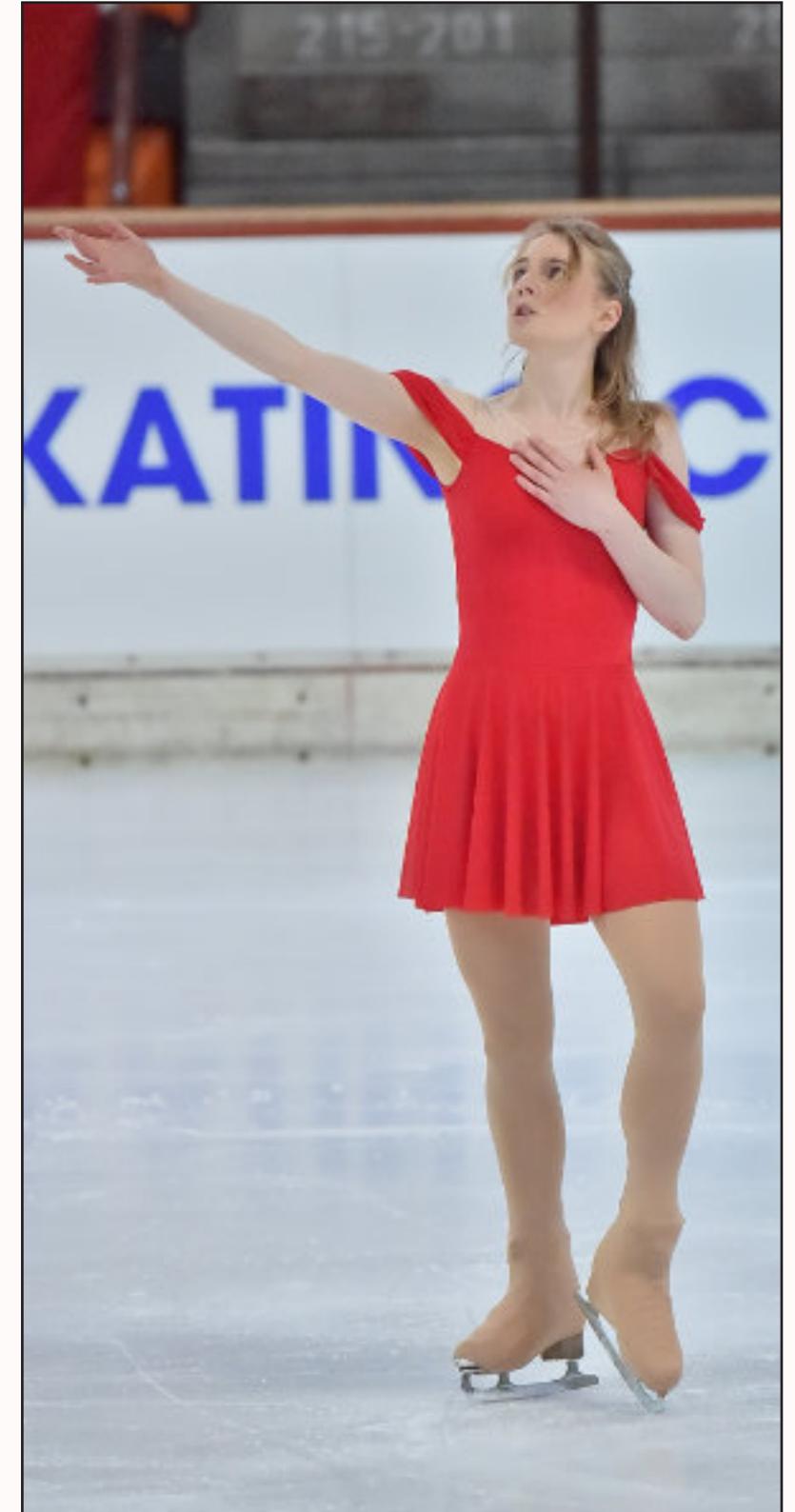
watched and learnt techniques from others. I wanted to fly, and progress, but lessons and regular skating was out of the question.

When I was 23 and after returning from a challenging time at university, I was given a pair of white skates for my birthday! I was thrilled! At this point I had my own driver's license and was able to take myself to the rink at Peterborough for private lessons. I threw myself into it, and

progressed rapidly with my first coach, who was so positive and encouraging, despite my being an adult. Longingly I watched the children who also skated there and dreamed of being able to do what they could.

A few years later I moved away to study again in Nottingham, but found it much more challenging to find consistent coaching. It was during this time that I found out about a skating camp for adults in the Dolomites region of Italy, organised by Marcello Cazzaniga. I went there and thoroughly enjoyed the friendly experience of intensive coaching, off-ice training, companionship with fellow adult skaters, wonderful nutritious food, and started to hear plenty of discussion about adult competitions. I returned to this same camp for around six years in a row, as I found I typically learned more from there in a week than many months back in the UK. I began to compete, and my first experience was of the 'Swan Challenge' near Lake Bled in Slovenia in 2017. It was a magical time, with stunning scenery, and an incredibly supportive atmosphere. Later on in 2019 I went to the ISU Adult Competition in Oberstdorf, Germany, the biggest competition of the adult skating calendar, but unfortunately then I was very ill and despite competing in two events, was unable to fully participate in the week.

I am so happy that in the last two years, my hometown Cambridge has opened its own ice rink, and finally I am getting regular lessons again, with two fantastic coaches. I am continuing to compete and am making good progress. As a former



Shona Taunton

musician I especially enjoy choreography, and love choosing the music from film scores and classical pieces I know so well. Costumes are fun, and designing them to fit the music brings out my creativity. With regard to goals... one day, I'd love to be able to do a Biellmann spin. Overall, my

dream is to be a lifelong skater, still lacing up when I'm an old lady!

Photographers Credits: Marzia D'Angelo, Luca Tonegutti, Kayleigh Roycroft, Andraz Anzeljc



Zane Benson



Hi, I am zane benson. I am 12 years old and I'm from Orlando florida. I am a figure skater. My dream is junior Grand Prix before I am 15 years old. My goal this year is to win the regional championships.

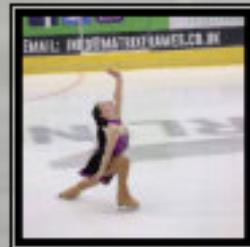
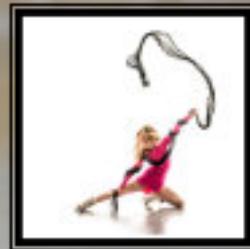
Before i ice skated I was a roller skater that won the national championships 4 years in a row. I transitioned to ice skating before COVID. And I am working on my triple jumps.

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Ginevra Bacchioni



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