



Siblings to skate for glory

By Clare Newman

Friday, November 23, 2012



Charlotte Aiken and Josh Whidborne perform their 'Singin' In the Rain' routine. Picture by WWW.DIGITALPHOTOEVENTS.CO.UK

ICE SKATING

SISTER and brother Charlotte and Henry Aiken are going for glory at the British Championships next week.

Charlotte, 20, and Henry, 17, who grew up on the Island and learned to skate at Ryde Arena, are taking part in the senior ice dance and junior ice dance competition, with respective partners Josh Whidborne and Mina Zdravkova.

The former Ryde School students moved from the Island in 2003 but their father, Stuart, still lives in Bembridge, and their grandparents, Keith and Sheila, live in Seaview.

The pair make regular visits to the Island and are still members of the IW Ice Dance and Figure Skating Club, occasionally appearing in galas and shows at Ryde.

But their main base is London, near to Lee Valley ice rink.

Charlotte and Josh are two-time British junior champions, members of the Team GB performance team and the British Olympic ambition programme for Sochi 2014.

"This season we are aiming to finish second if we can," said Charlotte. "That means we will qualify for the European Championships in Zagreb early next year."

Charlotte and Josh will perform two routines over next weekend, December 1 and 2, the short programme which contains compulsory elements and a long programme to *Singin' In the Rain*.

Meanwhile, Henry, who won the 2011 novice championship with his former partner, Anni Maczka, is now hoping for junior success with new partner, Mina, who is just 13.

The pair are on the international development squad but this is the first time they have competed at junior level.



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Their long programme is set to the score from *Tarzan*.

Charlotte thanked everyone at Ryde Arena for helping her and Henry get into skating, and added: "They are always so welcoming, whenever we come back it's lovely."

Anyone who is interested in sponsoring Charlotte and Henry can do so by e-mailing kateaiken@btinternet.com.

Meanwhile, there is hope for more IW success at the championship this weekend in synchronised skating.

The Wight Jewels, who have won the British Championship every year since 2008 will be looking for a fifth title, while the Wight Crystals will be competing for the first time at advanced novice level.

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