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Synchro stars golden again

Thursday, March 28, 2013



The Wight Jewels.

ICE SKATING

THE IW's synchronised skating teams finished the season on a high by taking two international-level golds at the Trophy D'Ecosse in Dumfries – and all three achieving podium places.

The Trophy D'Ecosse is the only synchro event in the UK that has International Skating Union (ISU) approval for the top levels of competition, novice, junior and senior. ISU events see the toughest level of international competition and judging.

Junior team Wight Jewels earned their best short programme score at ISU events to the *Puss Suite from Puss in Boots*, 31.15.

In the free, they did it again, producing an ISU season's best score of 67.48, skating to a Cirque du Soleil remix, to bring their total to 98.63.

The result gave the team plenty to celebrate.

A score of 98.63 is the best achieved by a British junior team at an ISU event all season and it was the first medal they have won at an ISU event.

Head coach Terri Smith said: "I'm so proud of my team. The Jewels have improved so much this season and our results from earlier competitions this season didn't reflect the massive improvement the girls have made. Their hard work and determination eventually paid off."

Meanwhile, Wight Crystals matched the Jewels with gold in the basic novice event with a score of 24.30, again a season's best for the team in an ISU competition. Their routine to *Jungle Rhythm and Jungle Jive* could have scored more, but for a costume violation and a fall that cost them two points.

In a non-ISU elementary event, Wight Sparkles took silver after skating a strong routine to a medley from *Grease*, one place better than last year.

After all the highs of the event, it was also bittersweet as three key members skated with the team for the final time due to retirement – Heather Macdonald and co-captains Izzy Coeshott and Gemma Marsh.

At 19, they will be too old to compete at junior level next season. Izzy and Gemma, as members of the IW's first synchronised skating team, Wight Diamonds, have been at the heart of synchro at Ryde since 2004, driving the

Jewels on to be four-times British junior champions.

"I'm sure their team members will agree we will miss them dearly but they won't be too far away from the ice rink and synchro practices," said Smith.

"They have all been great role models and I really hope the team continues next season with as much focus and determination. We wish them all the best in their futures."

The IW synchronised skating teams are sponsored by Wightlink and Vikoma. The teams thanked IW Ice Dance and Figure Skating Club, Shanklin Rotary and Wight Strollers for their donations, and Tesco and Sainsbury's for allowing the teams to raise funds through bag packing.

Wight Jewels: Kirsty Atter, Nicola Baxter, Sophie-Rose Broadley-Darby, Charlotte Chapman, Isabelle Coeshott, Roxy Collins, Sabrina Danzig, Nikita Heathfield, Beth Howarth, Robyn Johnson, Heather MacDonald, Gemma Marsh, Isabella Parkes, Kayleigh Pedley, Gemma Sanders, Keelin Scholes, Beckie Vockins, Caitlin Fyffe, Ella Newnham

Wight Crystals: Kirsty Atter, Sarah Baldwin, Charlotte Chapman, Roxy Collins, Serena Copping, Holly Donohue, Caitlin Fyffe, Nikita Heathfield, Robyn Johnson, Ella Newnham, Kayleigh Pedley, Jordan Pointer, Hayley Purrington, Ayesha Taylor, Amy World, Saphire Recalde-Arnold, Will Riley

Wight Sparkles: Aileen Armstrong, Elizabeth Betts, Charlotte Chapman, Roxy Collins, Toni Delap, Isabella Dixon, Holly Donohue, Isabella Maitland, Hayley Purrington, Savannah Randall, Saphire Recalde-Arnold, Will Riley, Stella Stratton, Ayesha Taylor.



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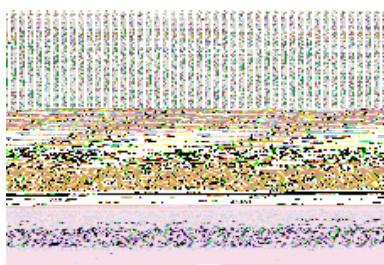
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