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Having an ice time

By Richard Wright

Saturday, May 18, 2013

ICE SKATERS not only gave the proceeds from their annual gala to the Sophie Rolf KissyPuppy Fund but went out on the town selling raffle tickets too.

They took £300 on the door at Ryde's Planet Ice Arena last Friday and added to that £1,300 raised from the previous sale of tickets.

Star prize was a pair of Bestival tickets and other donated prizes included a meal to be cooked at home for the winners by the chef from the Ponda Rosa at Ashey.

Planet Ice donated the rink for the gala, which was enjoyed by an audience including the Rolf family.

Five-year-old Sophie watched the show and she and her family took to the ice afterwards.

Sophie, from Totland, was impressed by the glitter costumes and the penguin skating support aid will encourage her to return and skate again.

Sophie is battling an inoperable brain tumour and her parents have embarked on an appeal to provide facilities for children at the Earl Mountbatten Hospice.

Isle of Wight Figure Skating Club head coach Terri Smith said Sophie was also joined by 17-year-old Island musician Sam Sheasby, who wrote *Angel (Sophie's Song)* to raise funds for the appeal.

Terri said: "Skaters of all abilities took part in the gala, which included top guest skater Danielle Harrison and was followed by our awards ceremony. We were pleased to be able to raise so much for the fund — all thanks to people's generosity."

Parents and families of some of Sophie's classmates at St Saviour's School will be putting their best foot forward over the bank holiday weekend in aid of her KissyPuppy Fund.

The group will be walking the whole 72 miles around the Island's coastal footpath, starting from Freshwater Bay on Friday morning and finishing back at the bay on Monday afternoon.

The group are encouraging youngsters to join them for the last five-mile leg of the journey from Alum Bay to Freshwater Bay from 11am on the Monday.

To find out more, visit www.kissypuppy.co.uk or to donate to Sophie's fund visit www.justgiving.com/EMH-KissyPuppy.

See a video of the gala below and more pictures in this week's *Isle of Wight County Press*, Friday, May 17.



Georgia Whelan, left, with Sophie Rolf.
Picture by Robin Crossley.

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