

Strictly embargoed: 19.00 hrs Thursday 18th April, 2019

**THE PUBLIC HAS DECIDED!
INCLUSIVE SKATING WINS £50,000 OF NATIONAL LOTTERY FUNDING
AFTER CRUCIAL VOTE**

A local community group based in Bearsden has won a public vote to secure £50,000 of National Lottery funding as part of this year's The People's Projects. The money was awarded after the Skate for All project won the public over with their plans for a UK wide development plan to help ice skaters with challenges access the sport.

The Bearsden-based project was one of five groups in STV West to compete for a share of a life changing £3 million. Each of the groups had their projects featured on prime time TV, giving the public a chance to see their fantastic work and then make the tough choice of where the money should go.

After being chosen by voters from across the region, Inclusive Skating will use this new funding to continue their work to bring people together, strengthen local communities across the UK and make a difference to people's lives.

The People's Projects is a partnership between The National Lottery Community Fund, The National Lottery and ITV / STV. Since 2005 it has given the public a unique say in how National Lottery money should be put to good use in their local area.

The People's Projects celebrates some of the incredible projects supported by The National Lottery Community Fund - the UK's largest funder of community activities. This year, 95 community groups across the UK were shortlisted, with five groups going head to head in each region.

Margarita Sweeney-Baird, Founder and Chair of Inclusive Skating said: "We are absolutely thrilled to have taken part in The People's Projects this year. It has been a huge platform for us to raise awareness of the work we do, and we can't thank the public enough for getting behind us and giving us the opportunity to make our community a better place for all. This funding will enable us to train volunteers and coaches to set up Inclusive Skating clubs and activities throughout the UK. Free online training for volunteers and coaches will now be available. We will also have the funding for Coach development officers to help too!

Joe Ferns, UK Funding Director at The National Lottery Community

Fund, said: “The People’s Projects highlights the fantastic things communities are doing across the UK to enable people to thrive. In every village, town and city, local groups are working together to turn great ideas into reality and deliver the change people want to see in their area.

“We’re really excited to see this year’s winners use National Lottery funding to strengthen their local community and support people to lead happier and healthier lives.”

The People’s Projects has awarded around £45 million to over 1,000 good causes across the UK since it started in 2005.

ENDS

For enquiries, please contact
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Notes to Editors

Inclusive Skating was registered as a charity in September 2011. It was founded by Margarita Sweeney-Baird as part of her work to create a new competition and event system for skaters with challenges. www.inclusiveskating.org

The charity was registered as Impaired Skating with several alternative names to allow the skaters themselves to choose the name for their organisation. Following feed-back the name Inclusive Skating was chosen in 2013. Inclusive Skating relies almost entirely upon donations and volunteer support. It does not receive any public funding and donations go directly towards helping disabled ice skaters and their families and carers.

About The National Lottery and The People’s Projects

- Each week, The National Lottery generates, on average, £30 million for National Lottery funded projects. In total £39 billion has now been raised and more than 535,000 individual grants have been made across the UK, an average of over 190 lottery grants in every UK postcode district.
- The National Lottery has so far given away over £69 billion in prizes and created more than 5,100 millionaires or multi-millionaires since its launch in 1994.
- For further information on The National Lottery and its games, please visit: www.national-lottery.co.uk
- Players of all National Lottery games must be aged 16 or over.
- The People’s Projects is a partnership between The National Lottery, The National Lottery Community Fund, ITV and STV which gives the public the chance to have a say in how National Lottery funding is spent in their community.
- The People’s Projects funds projects that improve the lives of people and communities across the UK.
- This year 57 awards of up to £50,000 are up for grabs across the UK - three awards in each ITV region.
- For more information on shortlisted groups and voting visit www.thepeoplesprojects.org.uk

National Lottery Community Fund



We are the largest community funder in the UK - we're proud to award money raised by National Lottery players to communities across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Since June 2004, we have made over 200,000 grants and awarded over £9 billion to projects that have benefited millions of people.

We are passionate about funding great ideas that matter to communities and make a difference to people's lives. At the heart of everything we do is the belief that when people are in the lead, communities thrive. Thanks to the support of National Lottery players, our funding is open to everyone. We're privileged to be able to work with the smallest of local groups right up to UK-wide charities, enabling people and communities to bring their ambitions to life.

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