



**Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating 2008/2009**



*John Curry*

**Memorial  
Competition  
2008**

Sheffield, England

15<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> October 2008

**FIRST INFORMATION**



**To all participating ISU members**

On behalf of the National Ice Skating Association of U.K, the Organising Committee and the Lord Mayor and Counsellors of the City of Sheffield, I am extremely pleased to invite you to the second ISU Junior Grand Prix John Curry Memorial Competition and to welcome back all those who visited Sheffield in 2007.

We are pleased that Sheffield is once again part of the ISU Junior Grand Prix Series and, in holding this Event, we can commemorate the achievements of John Curry who won the European, World and Olympic titles in 1976. He was without doubt one of the greatest singles skaters of his time and we, in Great Britain, are hugely proud of his achievements

We look forward to receiving your entries, send best wishes to all the skaters and hope that they skate to their potential, enjoy their time in Sheffield and also take home with them warm memories of their visit to Yorkshire.

For further information, please visit our website [www.iceskating.org.uk/juniorgrandprix](http://www.iceskating.org.uk/juniorgrandprix)

Haig Oundjian  
NISA President  
For and on behalf of the Organising Committee



## SHEFFIELD AND THE SURROUNDING AREA

Sheffield has something special which is very much appreciated by the local community and it is now spreading its reputation worldwide. It is not just the great shops, bars, restaurants, art galleries, museums and theatres but also the fact that Sheffield can boast that it is the greenest, safest city in the UK. Over a third of the city lies within the boundary of the second most visited National Park in the world. Sheffield has always been a centre of creativity, be it science, music, high tech industry sports or the arts and has a fine heritage of cutlery and steel making.

Sheffield has been the home of John Wilson skates, one of the most recognised names in the world of ice skating for more than 300 years. The reputation of the John Wilson group was made in 1849 when Queen Victoria instructed the company to make her and Prince Albert a pair of ice skates. Today John Wilson skates continue to be the premier blade choice for the World Elite Figure Skaters.

Sheffield is ideal for skaters and their families as you will never be far away from one of 200 parks, woodlands or gardens and the city centre is actually less than 5 miles from the Peak District. There is so much to do in Sheffield, from enjoying the fantastic food in our numerous cosmopolitan restaurants or relaxing in an array of cafes and bistros to electrifying entertainment, exciting events and the astounding attractions which are bound to get you hooked. The city centre buzzes with theatres, cinemas, and shops. Attractions outside the centre are usually reached by bus, tram and train or alternatively walking is an ideal way to explore the suburbs and their many green spaces.

Sheffield was one of the first cities in the UK to introduce the super tram system. The tram provides clean, green access to not only the city centre but also the shops and the many sporting venues including the iceSheffield arena.

***“Following multi-million pounds investment, the Sheffield of today is unrecognisable and we know you will like what you find.”***

## **THE COMPETITION AND ITS NAME**

***“Without doubt John Curry (1949-1994) is acknowledged world wide for transforming ice figure skating as an Olympic sport into an art form. His problems were those faced by many pioneers: incomprehension from most, prejudice from many, active support from too few. His tragedy is that his life was cut short before he could overcome them.”***

## **Early Dreams**

Born in 1949, John Curry was a dance enthusiast from an early age: he had wanted to take ballet classes when he was five years old, but his father refused. Instead, John took up skating, at which he excelled. Numerous competition wins followed, satisfying his father that skating qualified as a competitive sport. When he was 16 his father died and John moved to London. He began training full-time and also started taking the previously forbidden ballet classes. Already, he was formulating his life's mission: to form a dance company on ice, bringing ballet-standard dance to the skating world.

John wanted to make a name for himself in international figure skating, but two obstacles stood in his way: one technical and one stylistic. Technically, John's performance suffered as he competed at higher levels: after a flawless practice, nervousness would lead to errors in front of the judges. And stylistically, John was at odds with the British figure skating community. His vision of ice skating and his years as a ballet enthusiast had helped him to develop his own fluid, expressive style. This was seen as acceptable in a child skater, but less appropriate for a young man: 'I was actually told not to be so graceful,' he later recalled.

## **Creating a Champion**

In 1975 John moved to the US, where two new influences transformed his career. One was the then-fashionable Erhard Seminar Training (EST therapy). The second influence was that of his new trainers, Carlo and Christa Fassi (who later also coached Robin Cousins). Perhaps because of his troubled relationship with his father, John felt himself an outsider and longed to gain acceptance by excelling at his chosen career; the combination made him fiercely self-critical, which in turn made him reluctant to accept criticism from others. His relationships with trainers tended to be troubled and brief, but in the Fassis, John felt he had trainers who were sympathetic.

## **Competition Success**

With the Fassis and EST to support him, John finally began realising his potential on an international stage in 1976. He won the European Figure Skating Championship, with a performance which all nine judges gave 5.9 for artistic expression. He did not reach the same peak for his technical expertise, but avoided any major errors. Encouraged by the Fassis, John incorporated passages of classical ballet into his routine, including dances associated with Rudolf Nureyev. He followed this triumph by taking gold at the Winter Olympics and winning the World Figure Skating Championship.

Four months later The Queen appointed John an OBE and he was also made a Life Member of the National Skating Association.

John was also holder of the British Jennings Cup for men's free skating from 1968-1973. His first British Senior Championship was in 1970 and from 1972 to 1976 he was the undisputed British Champion and unchallengeable on British ice.



## THE VENUE

During the last 12 years, over £100 million of new sports facilities have been developed by the city of Sheffield. This includes a 9000 seat modern ice stadium with 60m x 30m Olympic ice pad together with two new ice pads located 150 metres away in the new iceSheffield development. This will be the venue that will host the John Curry Memorial Competition.

IceSheffield, the National Ice Skating Association's National Ice centre for figure skating, was opened in 2003 and contains two full size 60m x 30m Olympic ice pads. Built at a cost of £15.6 million, the arena contains both the Practice and Performance rink. There are approximately 1500 seats around the Performance rink and the venue has already hosted British Championships and the 2007 European Short Track Championships. The venue lies at the centre of a complex which includes the Hallam Arena and the English Institute of Sport which is a new facility built at a cost of £28 million and which houses an integrated sports medical and sports science facility including a large strength and conditioning room, extensive rehab facilities, treatment and consulting room, hydrotherapy pool and floatation tank, in addition to a full size indoor athletic track.

Also to complete the sporting complex is the Don Valley athletics stadium, a venue that regularly hosts International Grand Prix athletics meetings and is the home of the Sheffield Eagles the Rugby League team of the city

In addition to the services that one expects to find in an ice arena iceSheffield also offers wireless internet access in both rinks. This will be available to competitors, officials and support staff. (Terms and conditions apply)

## TRAVELLING TO SHEFFIELD

### 1. Airports

The nearest airport to Sheffield is Manchester (distance approx 50 miles/82KM/ 1 ½ hours).

The Organising Committee is delighted to meet the Teams at Manchester Airport, but we must charge the teams for transportation costs as follows:

#### **Manchester – Sheffield £20.00 per person one way and £40 return per person.**

It will be presumed that all persons listed on the travel form will require use of the shuttle service and will be billed accordingly. Any person listed not requiring this service MUST inform the organising committee of this not later than 14<sup>th</sup> September 2008.

Other international airports within 1 hour of Sheffield are:

Nottingham, East Midlands  
Birmingham  
Leeds/Bradford

There is no pre-arranged official transport between Sheffield and these airports. It may be possible to arrange this on application to the Organising Committee but costs will vary. If it is possible to arrange transfer then an exact cost must be arranged through the Organising Committee and paid in advance

### 2. Train

Sheffield is connected to the main railway lines from all over the United Kingdom. There is a regular and frequent service to Sheffield from all areas of the UK. The train station is located close to the hotels. Teams/Officials arriving by train will be met if arrival times are advised.

### 3. Motorway

Sheffield is also easy to reach by car, being served by major motorway links. In particular the M1 from London in the South to the North East of England and on to Scotland.

### TRAVELLING WITHIN SHEFFIELD

The fastest and easiest way to travel around Sheffield is by **Supertram**. The Supertram runs a very frequent service between 05.00 and midnight, linking the railway station, City Centre, IceSheffield and Meadowhall Shopping Centre. A small fee per journey applies, or daily and weekly passes can be obtained. For maps and timetables, please visit the website, [www.supertram.com](http://www.supertram.com)

### THE OFFICIAL HOTELS

- **ISU Officials, Technical Panels, Referees, Judges & Technical staff of ST-Sportservice GmbH**

#### **Novotel Sheffield**

**Address:** 50 Arundel Gate  
Sheffield  
S1 2PR  
Phone: ++44 114 278 1781  
Fax: ++44 114 278 7744

**Rate:** Single occupancy £95 Twin occupancy £105

- **Competitors, Team Leaders, Team Officials, Coaches, Medical Staff**

#### **Premier Inn Sheffield City Centre**

**Address:** Angel Street  
Sheffield  
S3 8LN  
Phone: 0870 238 3324  
Fax: ++44 114 250 2802

**Rate:** Single occupancy **£66.00** Twin occupancy **£71**

All rates are per room per night, including breakfast and all local taxes.  
All rooms are equipped with TV, bath/shower, toilet etc.

The Hotels are located in the city centre, approx. 15 min. by shuttle bus to iceSheffield  
The Supertram also runs from the City Centre to IceSheffield from 5am until midnight, taking approximately 15 mins in each direction.

Electricity 240 V, 3 pin square sockets

The hotels accept all major credit cards (including Visa; Eurocard/Master Card; American Express; Diners Club). The currency used in shops, restaurants etc. is the Pound Stirling (£)

All hotel reservations must be made through the Organising Committee. The hotels will not accept any private bookings.

- **Chaperones & Non Accredited Visitors (and team members not paid by the Organising Committee who wish to arrange their own accommodation)**

A special hotel booking service has been arranged. Those wishing to book hotels should do so independantly via <https://www.conferencebookings.co.uk/delegate/YSTGRANDPRIX08> There are a large number of hotels of various sizes and price ranges available in Sheffield City Centre. There is no shuttle bus service from these hotels, but those with appropriate accreditation can join the shuttle bus service at either the Novotel or the Premier Inn City centre.

### **MEALS**

ISU Event Officials (Referees, Technical Controllers, Technical Specialists, Data/Replay Operators), Judges and Competitors will receive meal vouchers for the period through the Organising Committee, beginning with dinner on Tuesday, October 14<sup>th</sup> 2008 to breakfast on Sunday October 19<sup>th</sup> 2008 Breakfast and dinner will be served in the official hotels. Lunch will be served at iceSheffield in the Glacier Suite. Meal vouchers can only be used in the designated dining room at each individual official Hotel. Meal vouchers are not transferable between persons or hotels.

All other persons may purchase meal vouchers from the Organising Committee for:

£12 Lunch

£17 Dinner

Meal vouchers for Dinner in the Premier Inn may be purchased each morning at the Premier Inn Sheffield City Centre on the day you wish to use them. These vouchers are non refundable after purchase.

Each meal includes a non-alcoholic drink.

### **ACCREDITATION / HALF PRICE ALL EVENT TICKET**

The official accreditation will take place at Ice Sheffield **as follows:**

**13<sup>th</sup> October 2008 between 5pm and 8pm in Glacier Suite**

**14<sup>th</sup> October 2008 from 10am in Glacier Suite**

**15<sup>th</sup> October 2008 from 10am on The Concourse, Reception/Entry level, IceSheffield**

***Times to be confirmed***

Officially entered and listed Chaperones (one per skater) will not receive Accreditation, but will receive a special permit to join the shuttle bus system. These chaperones may purchase a half price All Event ticket. Bus permit and half price All Event ticket can be obtained only at the official Accreditation point, the Glacier Suite at IceSheffield.

**Skaters' passports and Clearance Certificates (if required), must be presented at Accreditation for verification. Any Health Care forms & Declaration forms not sent with Team entry must also be provided before Accreditation can be completed.**

### **ANTI-DOPING CONTROLS**

Anti-Doping tests may be conducted. The tests will be taken from each first placed skater/couple. One skater from the remainder of the skaters shall be selected by random draw in Singles, Pair Skating and Ice Dance. In case of a couple it will be determined by draw whether the Lady or the Man will be

tested. The anti-doping tests will be conducted in accordance with the current ISU Anti-Doping Code as published in communication 1447 and 1448 or any further updates.

**CLOSING PARTY**

All Competitors, Judges, ISU Officials and ISU Event Officials, one Team Leader per team and Guests of Honour are invited. The invitations will be given according to accreditation.

Additional closing party tickets are available to be purchased at the Organising Committee Office.

**TRANSPORTATION DURING THE EVENT**

A shuttle-bus service every 30 minutes connects the Novotel and the Premier Inn City Centre with iceSheffield and return. This shuttle bus service is only for Accredited persons and chaperones.

The Sheffield Supertram service is also available. The Supertram runs a very frequent service between 05.00 and midnight, linking the City Centre and IceSheffield, and takes about 15 minutes per journey. A small local fee per journey applies, or daily and weekly passes can be obtained. For maps and timetables, please visit the website, [www.supertram.com](http://www.supertram.com)

**DISTANCES**

	Novotel	Premier Inn City Centre	Practice and Main arena	Manchester Airport
Novotel		1 km	4.5 km	82 km
Premier Inn City Centre	1 km		4.5 km	82 km
Practice and Main arena	4.5 km	4.5 km		77.5 km
Manchester Airport	82 km	82 km	77.5 km	

**EXHIBITIONS**

Please note that there will be no exhibitions held



## **WEATHER**

The weather in Sheffield during the days of October might vary between +3.5°C and + 10°C often with rain showers. Please note that both ice-rinks are heated.

## **ADDITIONAL PRACTICE BEFORE THE START OF THE COMPETITION**

Practice time before the start of the official schedule is possible.  
Please contact iceSheffield direct by e-mail: [p.morrissey@icesheffield.com](mailto:p.morrissey@icesheffield.com)

## **TICKETS**

Daily tickets will be available at the price of £10 per adult and £5 per child under 16. These can be obtained directly from the NISA website [www.iceskating.org.uk/juniorgrandprix](http://www.iceskating.org.uk/juniorgrandprix)

Day tickets will also be available from IceSheffield from 15<sup>th</sup> October 2008.

Chaperones may purchase a half price All-Event ticket at the price of £15 at Accreditation

## **NISA VIDEO AND PHOTOGRAPHY POLICY**

The United Kingdom has very strict Child Protection laws particularly with regard to the videoing and photography of individuals under the age of 18. Please be aware that NISA has a policy of strictly prohibiting video and photography.

The majority of venues in the UK also have a policy of no video/photography within their buildings. This policy is applied within iceSheffield.

NISA is able to provide video/photography permits to accredited press personnel and, for the ISU Junior Grand prix, Official Team Photographers. These permits must be applied for in advance of the competition, prior to the closing date of the Event, using the NISA Media Accreditation form available on the NISA website with the competition entry forms. A designated Photography area will be designated.

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

Please inform the Organising Committee as soon as possible about

- Visa invitation requests
- Arrival time, date, venue and transfer requirements;
- Hotel requirements

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**Additional information can be viewed at: [www.iceskating.org.uk/juniorgrandprix](http://www.iceskating.org.uk/juniorgrandprix)**



**PRELIMINARY EVENT SCHEDULE - TBC**

Tuesday 14 October 2008	All day	Arrival of Teams
Wednesday 15 October 2008	All day	Official Practice
	10:00	Team Leaders' Meeting
		Draws of Starting Orders in accordance with the practice schedule
	17:00	Referees and Technical Controllers' Meeting
	18:00	Judges' Meeting and Draw
	21:00	ISU and Judges' Dinner
Thursday 16 October 2008		Official Practice
		ICE DANCE – Compulsory DANCE
		MEN – Short Program
		LADIES – Short Program
Friday 17 October 2008		Official Practice
		PAIRS – Short Program
		ICE DANCE – Original Dance
		LADIES – Free Skating
		Victory Ceremony – LADIES
Saturday 18 October 2008		Official Practice
		LADIES – Round Table Discussion
		ICE DANCE – Free Dance
		PAIRS – Free Skating
		MEN – Free Skating
		Victory Ceremonies – ICE DANCE, PAIRS, MEN
	21:00	Closing Party
Sunday 19 October 2008	TBC	ICE DANCE – Round Table Discussion
	TBC	PAIRS – Round Table Discussion
	TBC	MEN – Round Table Discussion

**PLEASE NOTE: This schedule is subject to change**