

Super Skater wins place at British Championships!

On Saturday 20th February, our very own Declan McCartney, from Year 6, took part in the annual Wisbech In-line Speed Skating Competition in Cambridgeshire. Declan competed in three different races: a 3 lap race, 6 lap race and finally a gruelling 10 lap race. Declan stormed past his competitors to win all THREE races he competed in and will go to next month's National Championships in Essex, trying to become the (under 14 yr old) British Champion! We were able to grab a quick interview with Declan, in-between school work and skating practice!

Wow Declan! You've just competed in a regional competition, one where you won all THREE races you competed in! What made you decide to get into In-line Speed Skating?

I saw an online video of some young Speed Skaters and thought it looked brilliant! They were going so fast, as I'm a bit of a speed freak, I wanted to have a go! Luckily, my mum knows a Speed Skating coach at Rollerworld in Derby who came to see me skate and he asked me to join his team, South Woodham Ferrers (SWF).

So then Declan, how old were you when you first started?

I first started to skate when I was 2 years old, but didn't start to Speed Skate till I was 10 years old. Some kids start a bit earlier, about 8-9 years old, but most kids start at about 10 years old, as you can get a few injuries and accidents because you can travel at up to 25mph!

You must be very dedicated and committed to skating. How many hours a week do you train?

I train with my team on a Sunday morning, 9am till 11.30am, Tuesday evening, 4.30pm till 6pm, then finally on a Thursday evening, 5pm till 6pm. Sometimes after training I feel tired, but most of the time I'm ok, I just want to carry on skating!

Can anyone Speed Skate?

Everyone can, but you MUST be able to use Speed Skates! You don't need to be the fittest person to skate, plus it doesn't matter if you're a boy or a girl! We even have a member of our team who's 69 years old!

If you were interested in Speed Skating, how would you begin?

You can turn up to any practice on a Sunday morning at Rollerworld and speak to any one of the coaches involved. Then they'll ask to see you skate and hopefully, after a few tips from the coaches, they'll ask you to come and join the team!

Thank you for that Declan. We'll definitely keep our fingers crossed for you at the upcoming British Championships! If you want to find out more about In-line Speed Skating then you can have a look on the internet (with your parents / carers permission) or ask Declan when you see him!

Interview commissioned for the Beaufort Times School Newspaper.

