



Mike Banks

Mike Banks skating in the Murrayfield Club Exhibition Show 2009

In Memory of Mike Banks

It is with sad regret that we have to advise that a member of the Club, Mike Banks, passed away peacefully in Special Care Unit, Queen Margaret Hospital, Dunfermline, at 1.30am on Friday 16th December 2011 aged 73 years, following a short illness.

Mike was a long standing member of the Murrayfield Ice Skating Club, Scotland's oldest ice skating club where he continued to skate until very recently.

Mike joined the club shortly after moving to Dunfermline where he met Alan McIver, which led to him becoming a driving instructor and he worked part time for Alan's School of Motoring. Mike and Alan's friendship saw them travelling to competitions and championships where they were always keen to get involved and could often be seen helping out behind the scenes.

His early abiding passions were yachting and skiing but both of these gave way to ice skating and we of course knew Mike because of the latter. It was as an adult that he converted from skiing to skating but was very keen and loved skating in competitions. Along with other members of Murrayfield Ice Skating Club he travelled to Nottingham, Birmingham and Altrincham to skate in the Northern Ice dance league on a regular basis. The enjoyment was not just in the skating but the travel and the good company. He was a regular competitor in the Club competitions as well the Open competitions at Murrayfield. Mike more recently became involved in the Recreational Ice Dance League (RIDL), travelling the country and dancing with many partners to help out clubs struggling to field a full team. He continued to be an enthusiastic supporter of RIDL and until earlier this year was still actively skating in these events.

Many skaters would have known Mike for sharpening of blades or the supply of boots and skates. Being from an engineering background, Mike took a detailed interest in just how to sharpen blades and could discuss the finer points of this for hours. Mike used to sharpen the blades for British Ice Dance champions and fellow Murrayfield Club members John & Sinead Kerr. It was little known that Mike used to sponsor John & Sinead at time when every bit of assistance meant so much to them. His faith in them certainly paid off and Mike was very proud of their achievements and became a close friend of the family. In the latter few months Maeve and Dr Alister Kerr (John & Sinead's parents) spent a lot of time visiting Mike and doing whatever they could for him, something Mike was grateful for. MISC extend their thanks to the Kerr family for their support to Mike when most needed.

Mike was an active member of Murrayfield Ice Skating Club and had only recently returned onto the committee after a number of years absence. Over the years Mike regularly helped at the Club on Sundays and with the setting up at both Club and the Club's Open competitions. He was known for his hard work and commitment to a sport he loved. Mike will be sadly missed by MISC and he will be remembered fondly by skaters both young and old. He will remain in our thoughts.

Condolences go to Mike's daughter Jennifer and to Sandra Felton-Edkins, Mike's long time skating partner