

IRENE MCKECHNIE

At the age of 12 years I joined the dance school of the late great William MacNiven Cuthbertson. He ignited in me, a lifelong passion called "Highland Dancing". Entirely due to this great Dancing Master's superb teaching skill I won Juvenile, Junior & Adult World Championship Titles. I loved every minute of my time in the competitive field and have so many happy memories of days at the Highland Games with my mum and dad.

My life as a professional dancer then followed. TV. Shows and tours with Jimmy Shand and the White Heather Club provided me with an opportunity to earn an income doing something I loved!

I have been very fortunate to see my pupils win all Major Championships in the U.K. My love of teaching has never waned since the first class I taught. The thrill of nurturing a young child from their first dance steps right through to winning a Championship Title is wonderful. To my absolute delight my daughter 'Nadine ' also a Juvenile World Championship Winner was also bitten by the bug of Highland Dancing and now teaches with me.

I consider it a great honour to be an Independent Member of the S.O.B.H.D. And have been privileged to be a Member of Technical and Judges committees for more years than I care to admit. When first joining the Technical Committee other members were:- Mrs Jessie Stewart-Haggerty MBE, Miss Sadie Simpson, Miss Evelyn McLaren. Miss Cissie Tucker, Miss Jean Ritchie, Mrs Margaret Todd. Some of whom were responsible for the First Edition of the S.O.B.H.D. Text Book. Elite company indeed! As a new Member to the Committee I was very much in awe of their expertise and knowledge and their absolute commitment to Highland Dancing.

Lifelong friends have been made because we share the same passion. It is in our hearts and souls "THE LOVE OF HIGHLAND DANCING".