

## Sheila Merry

I am sad to report that Sheila Merry (nee Westcott) passed away recently at the age of 96 and I am sure that those of you who knew Sheila will wish me to pass on our condolences to her family.

Sheila had a life long association with roller skating having joined the National Skating Association (the forerunner of FARS) back in 1936 and enjoyed continuous membership until her death. Her test qualifications were Silver Speed Skating, Gold Figures & Free and Gold Dance. She won the British Figure and Free championships in 1938 as well as numerous other national championships and competitions. At the age of 17, she was placed 5<sup>th</sup> in the European Championships. Unfortunately the war came along and that finished her skating career for the next five years, by which time she, like many others had missed the important 6 years of skating and life had moved on.

Together with her husband Robert (Bob) she was instrumental in starting the artistic section of the Herne Bay United Club and they both served on numerous NSA Committees.

Sheila became an International judge and was also qualified to judge in the U.K. at gold level in Figures & free, Pairs and Dance skating. Sheila liked nothing more than judging tests at grass roots level, which I can corroborate from personal experience.

Sheila remained active until the end and will be fondly remembered.

Vic Pratt

Chairman of Trustees