



Annual General Meeting – 10 December 2008

President's Report

I am pleased to present my report for the year to the end of November 2008.

We have just completed four years here in the Dunedin Ice Stadium and this year we have seen growth in all areas and disciplines of our sport.

- We have 201 paid up members for 2008 and 67 TC Skaters
- We have this year consistently had around 32 hours of ice time available per week to the club for our diversified range of training sessions. An increase of 9% over 2007.
- We have contributed just over \$84,500 to ice time covering just over 35% of the time used by club skaters. Although down on 2007, this is again a very pleasing result of both significant fundraising and increased usage.
- We have enabled two coaches to be employed full time and two others for limited times this year.
- We have had six figure skaters selected to compete internationally at figure skating competitions, one at the Worlds, five at Australian Nationals and one at the Australian Hollins Trophy; three speed skaters competed at Australian speed skating Nationals; and an adult skaters elected to compete at international adult events.
- We had more representation across all grades in Otago Southland with 21 skaters and South Island Championships with 37 skaters.
- We had 34 skaters at the NZ National Championships an increase over the previous year of 88%.
- We held four test days and had 43 tests passed.

I congratulate all the club members who have contributed to these results; they have worked together for the good of the sport at all levels and across all disciplines.

In order to deliver a comprehensive programme to each of our divisions we continued to work with specific portfolios and delegated responsibility of these to committee members. I cannot possibly detail all the achievements but will briefly outline key achievements in each area, which together make 2008 a successful year for our club. These are in no particular order:

Competitions and Tests

Jen Gleeson has managed the tests and competitions for the club. Currently we have 67 skaters registered to take tests and compete, a 55% increase over 2007. We had 69 competitors at Club Champs, 21 at Otago Southlands, 37 at South Islands and 34 at Nationals. We ran an international selection competition with the NZISA in May and Club Championships in July and the largest competition in NZ the South Islands Championships in August. We have held 6 test days and 58 skaters sat tests.

Figure Skaters

Seraya Figgins and Barbara Taylor represented all the skaters who attend our morning and evening training sessions. We have had significant growth in the number of skaters taking lessons and practicing during these club times. Our growth has come in all areas from the very young to the not so young adult skaters.

For the twelve months to 30 September we have had 5594 skaters attending these sessions. We have averaged increased attendance at club sessions by a very pleasing 10.7%, again a very pleasing result.

Synchronised Skating.

Robyn Meng again managed the Icentric team. In April we hosted Anu Oksanen from Finland and Robi Chalmers from Australia. Icentric gained members from both Gore and Christchurch and were rewarded with first place at Nationals. Five of the Dunedin based members have been selected for the new Zealand team to compete at Worlds in 2009.

Karen Hoebergen again managed our adult grade synchronised team, Icythawus, which successfully competed at Canterbury Masters in November this year. We are looking to increase numbers in 2009.

Sandra Knopp managed, Ici-Cools, the Juvenile Team which competed at Nationals for the first time and performed very well. The aim is to build the team in 2009.

Development

Jeanette Wilkinson has managed the groups of development skaters (novice, advanced, junior synchronised team and teen skate). Our thanks to the Community Trust of Otago for their continuing support of this programme which has enabled some 45 skaters to progress through the programmes. Many are now taking private lessons and have competed in club and regional events. This group is vitally important to the continued growth of the sport.

Speed Skating

Simon Heale has managed speed which over the past two years has doubled its numbers and has had skaters competing in NZ and Australian National competitions where they recorded NZ records and coming home with titles.

Fundraising

Managed by Julie-Ann Miskell, this year we have again successfully applied for and received finance from various funding bodies. This funding has assisted us to run specific programmes, assist skaters to cover ice time costs, and to pay part of fees and travel expenses to international competitions. Unfortunately we were not able to assist our skaters at Nationals this year.

Judging

New to the committee this year Grant Howie has taken on the role of increasing our pool of judges and technical experts. The IJS system requires that we have ten to twelve people able to undertake the various tasks at competitions. We are slowly increasing these numbers and over the next year will again focus on developing more.

Club Activities and Promotion

Thanks to Owen Naumann we have had eight very successful club nights, with record attendance and loads of fun. Our thanks to Julie-Ann Miskell we have a robust member database and a user friendly website. Again we have managed to get articles about our skaters in various media throughout Otago.

Christmas Shows

Both the 2007 and 2008 shows fall within this report. Despite a very successful Tale of Two Christmases', after paying expenses the club broke even.

Thanks to Lisa Stevens and Ashleigh Black for their enthusiasm in developing and dedication in directing 'Oz on Ice'. Without their passion, and support from Dunedin Ice Stadium management a small group of us would not have been able to assist them to produce what I am sure will be our most financially rewarding show to date.

I cannot comment on the portfolios without also commenting on the office bearers. Owen Naumann as vice-president has kept me in line, Craig Miskell has kept an eye on the purse strings and as you can see by the financial report we survived the year despite no major fundraising effort until the ice show. Jessica

Shaw has been my right hand person looking after the secretarial needs of the club. To Nicola Hunt – thank you for helping on the committee and we are sorry you are leaving town and not available to take the position of Treasurer. To Jan Howie, we know your time was captured by the NZISA but you provided us with instant updates. To Bryan McGillan, we regret that your shift prevent you from taking part in club activities.

Our sport is one that focuses largely on individuals each with differing needs and goals. It has been and is my goal to help deliver the needs to all these diverse skaters and groups of skaters. The committee has worked to achieve outcomes that I believe have meet most of these needs. We all realise that our club is forever growing and as we address the changing needs we have at times not been able to meet them all and for that we apologise.

We would not be able to meet these needs without the dedication of our coaches. A special thanks to our coaches Fanis Shakirzianau, Deanna Pielak-Jones and Maryna Shakirzianava for working tirelessly with our members. It is their expertise and motivation and sheer determination that enables our skaters to participate and achieve at all levels of the sport.

I would also like to thank Neil Gamble manager of the Dunedin Ice Stadium and his team for the assistance they have given the club in ensuring we have not only the best ice in New Zealand but have as many hours of ice time as possible.

My vision for the future is to see the number of skaters participating in all areas of our sport both competitively and recreationally increase. I look forward to the day when we have competitors in all grades in all disciplines at regional, national and international events and we have skaters active in recreational skating just for the fun of it. In addition to assisting our skaters meet their goals in 2009 and ensuring we have the finance to support them we have two major competitions to run numerous club events and tests and I am sure an end of year ice show. In addition we will be a part of hosting an the first ISU sanctioned international competition to be held in NZ in association with the Winter Games being held in Central in August.

In closing a big thank you to the committee, you have made managing the club rewarding. I look forward to seeing you all at the AGM to participate in electing your 2009 committee.

Sue Hoseit
President 2008

Committee 2008:

Vice-President: Owen Naumann

Treasurer: Craig Miskell

Secretary: Jessica Shaw

Competition Secretary: Jen Gleeson

Immediate Past President: Warwick Johnson

Committee members:

Seraya Figgins
Julie-Ann Miskell
Nicola Hunt
Robyn Meng
Barbara Taylor
Jeanette Wilkinson
Simon Heale
Grant Howie
Jan Howie
Bryan McGillan