

October 2011

Communication 059

2011 New Zealand National Figure Skating Championship

The 2011 NZ National Figure Skating Championship was held in Gore last week. The competition, which was run from Wednesday 12th October to Sunday 16th October, was very successful and the NZIFSA would like to thank the Organizing Committee from Ice Sports Southland for all the very hard work they put into making this competition happen.

It takes hours of behind the scenes work before a competition of this size can even start and then run smoothly. The NZIFSA is very appreciative of the hours put in and also of the way the officials were looked after.

All the officials at the competition were there voluntarily and the NZIFSA would like to thank them as well for giving up their valuable time and in most cases some of their annual leave to attend. The competition could not have run without you all. We would also like to give a big thank you to the two judges who travelled from Australia, Wendy Langton & Natalie Taylor. It was great to see you both at the competition.

A big thank you as well to the skaters who attended. We saw some great skating and great sportsmanship. The national competition is for you all.

The 2012 National Competition will be held in Auckland and a call for Expressions of Interest have gone out to the northern clubs and sub association. We hope to be able to let you know after the November Board meeting when this competition will be held.

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Welcome to the new NZIFSA Treasurer

The NZIFSA Board is pleased to advise that they have appointed Mrs Tracy McGuigan as the new Treasurer. Tracy is an accountant and is based in Gore. You can contact Tracy on:

treasurer@nzifsa.co.nz

Because Tracy needed to resign as our auditor so that she could be appointed treasurer, the Board is now looking for a new auditor. Please let the CEO know if you can assist on: ceo@nzifsa.co.nz

Congratulations to Ms. S Petricevic

Sue Petricevic has become the first NZ judge to gain the ISU qualification for judging Singles and Pairs when she passed the ISU exam in Oberstdorf, Germany in September. This is a fantastic achievement and means that we now have officials qualified to judge at the ISU Championship level in every discipline - Singles, Pairs, Ice Dance and Synchronized Skating. Well done Sue!

Skater Selections at Nationals

The following is the list of skaters who were selected at Nationals for the International Squad, NZ Representatives to Australia, Talent ID/Age Development Squad and International Development Squad.

International Squad:

Four of the following skaters have been included in the international squad subject to them holding the correct competitive tests by the end of December 2011.

While the following skaters have met the NZIFSA TES requirements, they also have to meet the ISU TES to be able to compete at International Competitions. For those going to Australia that have yet to meet the ISU requirements, they will have a further opportunity to do so at the Australian National Championships.

Novice Ladies

Tracey Danbrook (subject to test)

Novice Men

Thomas Woodbridge (subject to test)

Junior Ladies:

Jessie Park

Madelaine Parker

Iyryn Quigley (subject to test)

Junior Dance:

Ayesha Campbell & Shane Speden

Senior Ladies

Morgan Figgins

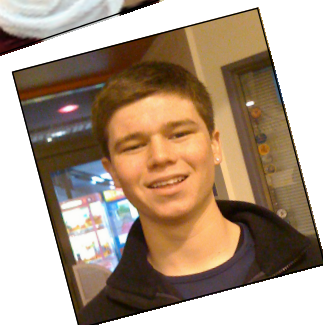
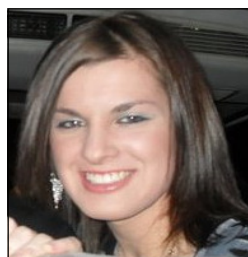
Millie Campbell (subject to test)

Senior Men

Cameron Hems

Novice Synchronised

Botany Blades



Skater Selections at Nationals continued

NZ Representatives for Australian National Championships:

While the following skaters have met our selection criteria, the final numbers of skaters from each grade accepted to compete at the Australian National Championships will be determined by Ice Skating Australia. This may not be all three place getters from our selection. NZIFSA will advise skaters named as soon as we are informed.

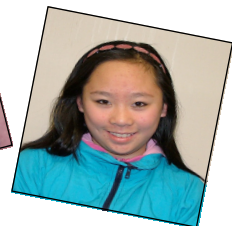
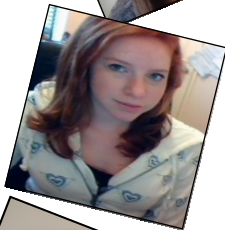
Primary Ladies

Brooke Tempo
Rebecca Lau
Leah Mettam
Abbey Miller (substitute)



Intermediate Ladies

Alexandra Ley
Krystal Deets
Charlotte van Uden (substitute)
Jo Ann Chin (substitute)



Intermediate Men

Connor McIver
Daniel Cheuk



Novice Ladies

Tracey Danbrook
Preeya Laud



Novice Men

Thomas Woodbridge



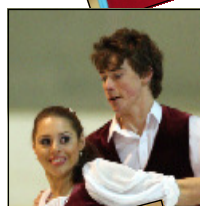
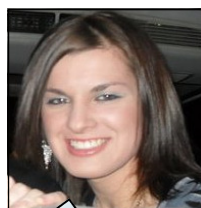
Junior Ladies

Madelaine Parker
Iyrin Quigley
Jessie Park



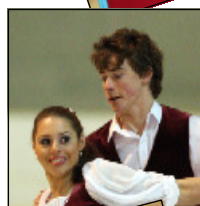
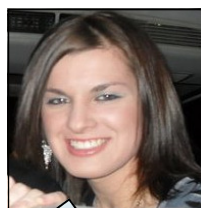
Junior Dance

Ayesha Campbell & Shane Speden



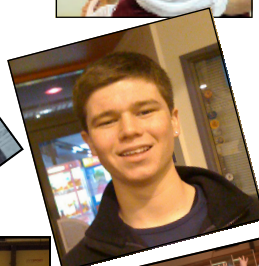
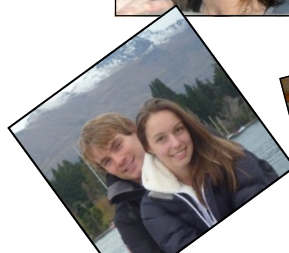
Senior Ladies

Morgan Figgins
Millie Campbell



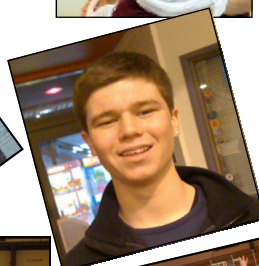
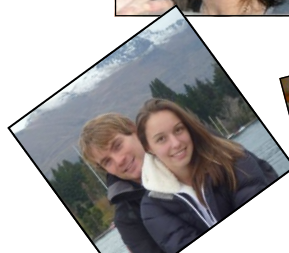
Senior Men

Cameron Hems



Senior Pairs

Ariel Nadas & Grant Howie



Novice Synchro

Botany Blades



Adult Synchro

Spectrum
Icy Chicks

Skater Selections at Nationals continued

Talent ID / Age Development skaters

Juvenile Ladies

Haylee Booth
Anastasia Ozerova
Abbey Heale
Alicia Dennis
Emma Taggart



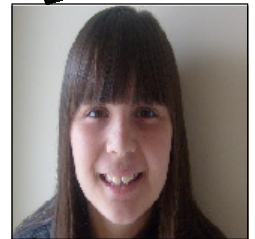
Juvenile Men

Harrison Bain
Rohan Kinraid



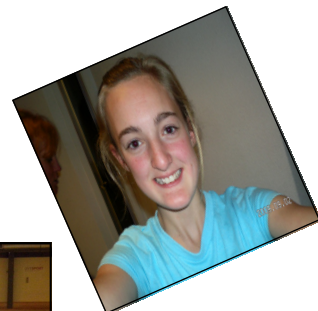
Pre Primary Pairs

Zara Anthony-Whigham & Alex Anstey



Pre Primary Ladies

Keely McGuigan
Zara Anthony-Whigham
Zelda Ladefoged



Primary Ladies:

Rebecca Lau
Leah Mettam
Abbey Miller
Brooke Tamepo

Novice Synchro

Botany Blades



International Development Squad

Novice Ladies:

Preeya Laud



Junior Ladies:

Kaho Hirafune



Congratulations to all the selected skaters.

Sports Administrator of the Year - Arnold Schmidt & Bridget Danbrook

This was one of the hardest years that that Council/Board has had with the nominations that were received for the above award. The following were nominated by Clubs: Ina Paul - CISC, Sandra Williamson-Leadley - ISS, Anita Tamepo - WAISC, Bridget Danbrook - AIFSC and Arnold Schmidt - CMFSC. All of these people nominated would have been worthy winners, however after lengthy discussion the Board decided to share the award this year between Arnold Schmidt and Bridget Danbrook. The following is what their two Clubs had to say about their respective nominees:

Arnold Schmidt:

Arnold has now been treasurer of CMFSC for four years. He brings to that job the skills of an accountant and the work ethic of a Trojan. At regular committee meetings Arnold comes not only with accurate and meticulous reports of the club's finances but also projections and a range of scenarios that provide a useful basis for decisions about spending for the forthcoming period. By doing this he allows the club to maximize the value of its funding and also to ensure that funds are distributed equitably amongst different groups within the membership. His skills extend far beyond financial reporting in that he contributes significantly in terms of ideas for spending and general financial management. Arnold has also contributed positively to our success with funding applications by always providing timely and thorough accountability reports for our charitable funders.

Arnold's methods are rigorous and his reports are presented in a way that allows all members of the committee to understand them and make informed decisions based on them. He undertook an Excel course in his own time and is now highly skilled at constructing detailed yet clear and comprehensible spread sheets. The value of this to the club is immense – it saves committee time and leads to more robust financial decision making. It is a tribute to Arnold's skills that each year the auditor praises the quality of his annual accounts.

There's another reason we think Arnold is deserving of this award. He will be 76 years old this year and took up figure skating in his late sixties. It has been great to have a skating treasurer but at the end of last year Arnold suffered a serious shoulder injury on the ice which has forced him to give up skating. This has in no way lessened his contribution as treasurer. Although he can no longer get satisfaction from skating he still works long hours on our financial management and shows continued commitment to the club by coming to the rink up to twice weekly to catch up with the committee executive on business matters.

As well as his professional skills, Arnold brings to the task modesty, good humour and a kind and diplomatic manner that works wonders with debtors. He is a truly generous soul and we consider ourselves fortunate to have such a treasurer.

Bridget Danbrook:

Bridget has worked tirelessly as our Secretary for AIFSC. This is her first year as our secretary, but what a year; Bridget has given so much to this committee and the skaters of our club making every aspect of her job run so efficiently. Previous to this role, Bridget has given a couple of years as a committee member and was also our Synchronised Figure Skating coordinator and Funding co-ordinator during 2010. The Synchronised Figure Skating role was a huge role to co-ordinate with our club having five teams, with four of our teams competing at NZ nationals in 2010. As the Funding co-ordinator, Bridget managed to secure the region of \$19,000 for our club which contributed towards paying for Ice Time for our Synchronised Teams during 2010, which we all know is not cheap. Bridget's organisational skills were some of the most efficient this club has ever seen. Bridget also looks after the trophies and organises the medal for AIFSC and North Islands. This year Bridget has also been persuaded to stand on the North Island's committee.

Bridget has given up many hours of her already busy life. We often wonder where she finds the time, and only realise how she does this, by checking the times she is sending out her e-mails!!

Bridget had also helped at countless competitions, without her work in the back ground we would struggle to operate such well run competitions. Luckily for us Bridget has also talked her husband Allan into sitting on the AIFSC committee, Allan also gives up many hours of his time, helping with both the physical and ISU Calc set-up of our competitions. Bridget would be one of the most hard working and honest people that we have has the pleasure to work with.

Bridget also works full-time, and does a great job of bring her three children, supporting all of them with their many commitments to school and university as well as their many different sporting activities. Bridget's youngest, Tracy is a figure skater and we all know how many hours is required by a parent, in being a 'supportive skating parent'.

Bridget has given so much to the AIFSC and we thank her for her tireless work, without people like Bridget, clubs like ours would struggle to operate.

AIFSC believe that Bridget would be a worthy recipient for the "Administrator of the Year" award and we thank the NZIFSA for taking the time to consider our nomination."

Sports Administrator of the Year continued

Bridget was awarded the trophy at Nationals and will hold it for six months and then it will need to travel south to Arnold for the rest of the year. The Board also wishes to congratulate Ina and Anita for their nominations.

As already mentioned the Board also received a nomination for the above award for Sandra Williamson-Leadley from Ice Sports Southland. After some discussion and knowing Sandra's feeling about Council/Board members receiving these awards they decided that they would not consider Sandra for the award as she has just ended her Presidential role, but felt that the nomination did draw attention to the contribution Sandra has made to skating. Here is what Ice Sports Southland said in their nomination:

"ISS wish to nominate Sandra for her assistance and support to our club and skating in general. We feel she goes far beyond what is expected of an official and we are also aware of the time and energy she brings to the sport. This positive enthusiasm is certainly noticed by those of us who work alongside her at competitions.

She is always willing to attend out club test days and club champs, and will go out of her way to get there, often and her own expense or by using her personal air points.

The way she is always willing to give the skaters feedback and support is really appreciated by both the skaters and parents alike.

She is also a very positive and encouraging role model for our up and coming officials, instilling them with confidence. The probationary judges in particular learn so much from her vast skating knowledge and the manner in which she works with them.

Even during this past year with the Christchurch earthquakes and her house being in the "red zone" she has still found time to continue with her skating commitments.

As she is no longer in the President role or a member of the NZIFSA Board, Ice Sports Southland therefore wish to nominate Sandra Williamson-Leadley for the NZIFSA Administrator of the Year."

The Board would like to acknowledge the significant contribution that Sandra has made to skating, not just with ISS but with all the Clubs. Thank you Sandra.

Sportsperson of the Year - Jacqui de Vries

The Board received two nominations for the above award this year: Alexandra Ley - AIFSC and Jacqui de Vries - CISC. After looking at the nominations and discussion the very worthy attributes of both nominations the Board decided to give the above award to Jacqui de Vries. Here is what CISC said in her nomination:

"We wish to nominate Jacqui de Vries for the Sportsperson of the Year Award. Jacqui has developed into a great role model and embodies the values we expect to see in a sports person.

Specifically it is the role she plays in the synchronised skating team, Kia Kaha, which we wish to draw your attention to. This is a new team that was formed at the start of 2011 season. While Jacqui has represented NZ at Senior World Synchronised in 2009 and 2010, the majority of this team are teenagers who are relatively new to skating and most had never skated in a synchronised skating team.

Jacqui's enthusiasm and passion for the sport were apparent from the start and she was elected captain by her team mates. Unfortunately injury forced Jacqui off the ice early in the year. However, she has continued to turn up to all on and off ice practice to support the team, offer advice and moral support. That is no casual undertaking given that some starts are at 6:30am. Jacqui has also travelled with the team to support them and give them encouragement at what was the team's first competition. She assists with the administration of the team, organises the costumes, and helps with hair and make-up at competitions.

The leadership she has continued to provide has been especially important during the tough year for the skaters with many challenges including the February earthquakes to overcome.

We believe that the very positive and supportive behaviour we have seen amongst the new team is a consequence of Jacqui's role modelling of what we look for in our sportspeople.

Thank you for the taking the time and opportunity and we hope that Jacqui will be considered for the Sportsperson Award for the 2011 season."

The Board also wishes to congratulate Alexandra for her nomination.