

NEW ZEALAND ICE FIGURE SKATING ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER – JANUARY /FEBRUARY 2013

Welcome back to a New Year. We hope you have all enjoyed a much needed break and the warm weather, and return to ice skating completely rejuvenated for another year.

BUSY TIME

Whilst most of our skating fraternity were enjoying their summer break some members of the Board, Operations Group and Development Group were hard at it handling International requirements and organising camps for 2013. Upcoming events that required attention were the ISU Dance Seminar to be held in Korea, the ISU Development Competition in the Philippines, and an NZIFSA Development Camp to be held end of April beginning of May in New Zealand.

ISU DANCE SEMINAR – Seoul Korea

The ISU held the first Dance Development seminar last year and is holding one again this year. Only one skater put their name forward, Patrick Costley, and he will be joined by his coach Debbie Darvill and Christchurch coaches Michelle Carroll and Kim Lewis.

ISU DEVELOPMENT TROPHY

At the end of last year we received notification from ISU of an International Development Competition for Member Countries who were struggling to meet ISU standards. New Zealand was one of these countries. On receipt of the Announcement we noted that there was also included a four day training camp to be held prior to the one day competition making this even more worthwhile to attend. Each Member was permitted to enter one skater per event, but NZ made application to enter two skaters. Unfortunately, although advised to enter the second skater, we won't know if the second skater is accepted until after the close of entries.

The Board had to develop a set of selection criteria for this competition as the current Selection Policy didn't cover events of this nature. The Development Trophy is being competed for Junior and for Basic Novice A and Basic Novice B grades. Our Pre-primary and Primary grades have the same programme requirements as the ISU Basic Novice A and Basic Novice B grades respectively, however, the ISU age criteria are different. Basic Novice A is for skaters aged 10 – 12 yrs, and Basic Novice B for skaters aged 13 -14 yrs.

The decision was made that only skaters who had been selected to the Development Squads at Nationals would be eligible for selection. It was unfortunate that some skaters missed the opportunity to attend this initiative of the ISU due to the grade and/or age not aligning with the NZIFSA Development Selection criteria. It is therefore imperative that coaches, parents and skaters be fully aware of what grade the skater is entered into at our National Championships. Please refer to the NZIFSA Skater Development Policy if you wish to be considered in the future, and be aware that age, grade the TES score achieved at Nationals are all taken into account.

The following skaters met the NZIFSA selection criteria and have been approached about competing at the Development Trophy:

Junior	Brin Berge, Madelaine Parker, reserve Jessie Park Thomas Woodbridge
Basic Novice A	Anastasia Kutznetsova, Abbey Heale, reserve Haylee Booth Harrison Bain
Basic Novice B	Tracy Danbrook, Rebecca Lau, reserve Keely McGuigan

We are very hopeful that ISU will continue on with this important Development Competition.

DEVELOPMENT CAMP

We have been very fortunate to gain the services of John Dunn a Coach Representative to the ISU Dance Technical Committee. John will travel to New Zealand direct from running an ISU Dance Seminar in Seoul Korea to hold workshops in Auckland, Christchurch and Dunedin. A dance coach was chosen rather than a Technical Coach to focus on basic skating skills and the component mark.

Whilst these workshops are for the Development Squad members, other skaters will be invited to attend as well as coaches at a fee yet to be determined. Officials are also encouraged to attend.

Proposed schedule:

Botany Downs, Auckland Tuesday 30th April and Wednesday 1st May
Christchurch Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd May
Dunedin Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th May

We will have more information and registration forms for you soon.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR COACHING DIRECTOR

Our Coaching Director, Michelle Whelan, has been even busier than usual lately organising her wedding. We would like to extend our congratulations to Michelle on her marriage to Buzz Russell in Nelson on Saturday 9 February.



Thanks to Elizabeth O'Neill for the photo.

SINGAPORE and MALAYSIAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Two of our skaters requested permission to compete at these competitions. Jo-Ann Chin, Dunedin and Rebecca Lau from Christchurch. We wish these skaters well and hope they enjoy their experience.

WEBSITE

Many thanks to Craig Anderson who has been able to update and correct many of the problems experienced on the website. Some of these have accumulated since the Association's name change.

It is a time consuming task and we thank Craig for doing this.

TEST CERTIFICATES/MEDALS

Craig has also managed to alter the header on our Test Certificates so a huge task now confronts Ina Paul our Test/Competitive Secretary to issue all outstanding certificates and medals.

UPDATE DETAILS

Just a friendly reminder – if you have changed your address, phone number or any contact can you please post the correct one on the NZIFSA Website. This would be appreciated, especially when information has to be sent.

Coaches – please check and update your coaching details on the website.

ISU SPECIAL REGULATIONS Singles, Pairs and Ice Dance

There are a few copies of this handbook available. Please contact our President Jeanette King should you wish to obtain one at president@nzifsa.org.nz

NZIFSA 75th JUBILEE

Don't forget to enrol to attend these celebrations to be held at the Peppers Bluewater Resort, Lake Tekapo commencing with a Conversationee Friday 10th May, and a Dinner on Saturday evening. There are also a number of different packages available covering ice skating and hot pools these may be seen by viewing the Lake Tekapo website www.tekaposprings.co.nz. A Registration Form is posted on our NZIFSA Website.

To date we have received notification from former national champions and executive so it should be a good reunion.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Don't forget this important event to be held in Christchurch on Saturday 27th April. It is planned to include a forum for members present at this time, topic to be advised very shortly. The more in attendance the better the discussion.

Nominations for positions due for election, together with CV's should be submitted via Affiliated Clubs no later than one month from the meeting date.

Positions for election in 2013 are:

President

Two Board Members

Treasurer

Test and Competition Secretary

Skater Development Director

Coaching Director

Honorary Auditor

Also, due to a change in personal circumstances our General Secretary, Elizabeth Alabaster, is resigning and therefore we must find a replacement to take over this most important role. Liz has done an outstanding job since taking office particularly considering she was new to the sport and had little knowledge of how everything in skating worked. Her positive can-do attitude will be missed.

In addition the Board will be seeking expressions of interest for the following appointments to be made by the Board

Anti-Doping Officer

Grants Officer

Child Protection Officer

Whilst existing members may be seeking reappointment this does not preclude and we welcome others putting their names forward.

In closing we wish everyone a very successful 2013 skating year.

Jeanette King

Wendy Clucas