



## MARCH 2024 NEWSLETTER

What an amazing six or so weeks since our last newsletter. The highlight being following Dwayne's Winter Youth Olympic Games performance. How brilliant was that to be able to watch Dwayne win a Bronze medal at this event. Then to watch Dwayne at Junior Worlds, the stress of whether he would make the cut in the short program to compete in the freeskate and then to watch him place 8<sup>th</sup> in the freeskate. All very exciting for those of us living vicariously.

Of note we have also had Black Ice win two Bronze medals in Mixed Age interclub competitions in Europe and Titanium competing in an international competition in the United Kingdom as they prepare for World Junior Synchronized Skating Championships this Friday and Saturday.

We would like to offer an apology for the misnaming of the athletes in the photo of the World Masters Games in the January newsletter. Our sincere apologies Rachel Sidda and Susan Wallace, we had erroneously noted that Susan Wallace was in the photo, when it was actually Rachel Sidda.

### WHERE TO WATCH WORLD JUNIOR SYNCHRONIZED SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Titanium competing at the Junior World Synchronized Skating Championships is history in the making as this is the first time New Zealand will have a team at SYSWJC. We wish them all the best and look forward to watching the live stream <https://www.youtube.com/c/SkatingISU>

We won't know the draw order until Friday morning our time. Keep an eye on the official website <https://wjsysc2024.com/en/> for this information. We do know the opening ceremony is Friday 3pm Central European Time (CET), which is 3am Saturday morning in New Zealand. The short programs are scheduled to start at Friday 4:00pm (CET) i.e. **4am Saturday** morning in NZ. The free skating is scheduled for Saturday 2:30pm (CET) i.e. **2:30am Sunday** morning in NZ.

### RECENT INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

#### 2024 Winter Youth Olympic Games, Gangwon, Korea, 27-29 January 2024

Junior Men	Dwayne Li	SP 4 <sup>th</sup> /18	FS 4 <sup>th</sup> /18	Overall 3 <sup>rd</sup> /18
Coach	Bess Cao			
Judge	Sue Petricevic			

#### 2024 World Junior Figure Skating Championships, Taipei, Taiwan 26 Feb – 3 March 2024

Junior Men	Dwayne Li	SP 23 <sup>rd</sup> /41	FS 8 <sup>th</sup> /24	Overall 12 <sup>th</sup> /24
Coach	Bess Cao			
Team Leader	Stella Chen			

#### Steel City Trophy, Sheffield, United Kingdom, 1- 3 March 2024

Junior Synchro	Titanium	SP 6 <sup>th</sup> /6	FS 6 <sup>th</sup> /6	Overall 6 <sup>th</sup> /6
Coach	Tracy Hipkiss			
Team Leader	Rachael Jannink			

## CONGRATULATIONS DWAYNE ON BRONZE MEDAL AT YOUTH OLYMPICS

NZIFSA would like to reiterate our congratulations to Dwayne Li and coach Bess Cao on winning a bronze medal at the Winter Youth Olympic Games in Gangwon, Korea. We are all so very proud of Dwayne and what he has achieved through dedication and tireless hard work.

### From Dwayne (Yanhao) Li on the Winter Youth Olympic Games and Junior World Champs

The experience of the Youth Olympic Games was a remarkable and emotional journey. Skating in such a vast venue was both exciting and nerve-racking, but it was also incredibly rewarding. The training leading up to the games was tiring and lengthy; however, the results at the end made the intense training worthwhile. The Olympic environment was something very special, and it is something I am eagerly anticipating as I aim for the 2030 Games. Transitioning from the Youth Olympics to Junior Worlds, which were just around the corner, was tough and challenging. It required precise planning, efficient recovery, and focus despite the attention and expectations.

As Junior Worlds marked the last event of the season for me, it became a test of perseverance and alertness. While the short program was not my initial goal, I managed to keep a clear mind for the free skate. I was able to deliver a desirable performance in the free skate and end this season on a high note. The physical and emotional pressure of competing at two significant events back-to-back cannot be overstated. However, it was also an invaluable opportunity for growth and learning. Overcoming the fatigue and performing at my best required determination at a new level.

Overall, the YOG and Junior World experience was hard to come by, and I am glad that I made the most of these opportunities. I feel proud to represent New Zealand at such a high level, and I am committed to unlocking my full potential.



Adam Hagara (Silver), Hyungyeom Kim (Gold) and Dwayne Li (Bronze) – Junior mens medalists at the Winter Youth Olympic Games

## UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

### 2024 World Junior Synch Figure Skating Champs, Neuchatel, Switzerland, 15-16 March 2024

Junior Synchro	Titanium
Coach	Tracy Hipkiss
Team Leader	Rachael Jannink

### ISU World Figure Skating Championships 2024, Montréal, Canada, 18-24 Mar 2024.

Judge	Sandra Williamson-Leadley
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### ISU International Adult Competition, Oberstdorf, Germany, 12-17 May 2024

Bronze I Women Freeskate & Artistic	Juliet Sivertsen
Bronze II Women Artistic & Freeskate	Viktoria Marinova
Bronze IV Men Freeskate	John Gilmour

Silver II Women Freeskate & Artistic	Kirsty Cox
	Olga Levien
Silver IV Women Freeskate	Tammy Cowan
Gold IV Women Artistic	Tammy Cowan

## RECENT INTER CLUB INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

### 2024 Trophy De Ecosse, Dumfries, Scotland, 26-27 January 2024

Mixed Age Synchro	Black Ice	FS 3 <sup>rd</sup> /7	Overall 3 <sup>rd</sup> /7
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### Hevelius Cup, Gdansk, Poland, 2-4 February 2024

Mixed Age Synchro	Black Ice	FS 3 <sup>rd</sup> /9	Overall 3 <sup>rd</sup> /9
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### ANZAS 2024 Adult Figure Skating Competition, Melbourne, Australia, 10-11 February 2024

Bronze IV & V Men Freeskate	Alastair Christie	FS 3 <sup>rd</sup> /3	Overall 3 <sup>rd</sup> /3
Bronze III & IV Men Artistic	Alastair Christie	FS 2 <sup>nd</sup> /2	Overall 2 <sup>nd</sup> /2

### From Megan Briggs on the recent Black Ice overseas interclub experience

To start 2024, Black Ice were given the incredible opportunity to compete in the two overseas Synchro Inter Club Competitions, Trophy D'Ecosse in Dumfries, Scotland and Hevelius Cup in Gdańsk, Poland. Black Ice could not have been prouder to be competing overseas and as a team we faced these two competitions head on and in full confidence we could do our club and our country proud. Our hard work over the summer holidays that included hours and hours of hard training and team bonding, could not have paid off more! We were so happy to be able to bring home not one but two shiny bronze medals! Having the opportunity to meet some of the teams from different parts of the world and also being able to observe some of the top teams compete has definitely been a highlight. For me especially, it has changed the way that I see synchro as a sport, as well as being an experience for me to reflect on the type of skater that I want to be in the near future.



Over the 3-week duration of our trip, as a team we were able to manage a good amount of sight seeing, therefore balancing out our skating time. Starting off our trip with an extraordinary desert safari and camel riding in Dubai. Another big highlight for me would have definitely been our 3-day Edinburgh trip after Trophy d'Ecosse, which came as a great opportunity for us to celebrate our success and see some of Scotland together. This came as a great team bonding experience before we headed off to compete in Gdańsk. As a team we were able to explore a bit of Poland before we competed a second time around. We were lucky enough that some of Team Ice Fires skaters were happy to take us around the old town, giving us a great taste of the polish culture and the gorgeous historical buildings they have there. Overall, this was probably the best

experience Black Ice has had together as a team and together we have made some of the most unforgettable memories. I think this trip has definitely only made us stronger and as a team we are more than ready to take on the 2024 season. Moving forward, I am more than confident that great things are ahead for us.



### **From Gabby Wooler on the recent Black Ice overseas interclub experience**

After years of blood, sweat and tears, our team, Black Ice, had the opportunity to skate at inter-club competitions in Europe and were overjoyed that our dream would become a reality. On the way to Europe we spent a few days in Dubai camel riding, admiring the lights and fountain show in front of the Burj Khalifa, and skating at the ice rink inside the Dubai Mall. In Scotland, we reunited with our former teammates Sabrina Snoad and Afton Sperry, who would be skating with us in Europe. Competition day at Trophy d'Ecosse in Dumfries was a very exciting day with us earning our first bronze medal and attending the Ceilidh ceremony, where we were able to dance and interact with other teams over dinner. We also explored Edinburgh, admiring the stunning architecture of the buildings lining the intricate cobblestone-paved streets and visiting castles with rich histories.



In Poland, we were lucky to have been given a tour of the Gdansk Old Town by two lovely local skaters who were also competing in Mixed Age. At the Hevelius Cup, we were able to watch some incredible, well-known teams perform including Nexxice, Team Marigold, Team Miami University and the Haydenettes. This was another dream come true for me. We made ourselves and loved ones proud by coming third out of nine teams, and gaining 3 more points than we did in Scotland! From Gdansk, we spent a few days in Warsaw wandering through the Old Town, shopping and skating at an outdoor ice rink before some of the team went on to travel elsewhere, and the rest of us began the journey home. It had been my goal to skate with Black Ice since I joined synchro in 2017, and to have been able to compete overseas with them was a dream come true. The team has so much love and passion for the sport, and coming home with not one but two bronze medals was an incredible result.

## **OCEANIA INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION AND COACHES SEMINAR, MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA, 29 MAY – 2 JUNE 2024**

The 2024 Oceania International Figure Skating Competition is being held at the O'Brien Icehouse in Melbourne, Australia 29 – 31 May. Thank you to those skaters who submitted their confirmation of interest by the **17 February** deadline. If you missed this deadline please email the [secretary@nzifsa.org.nz](mailto:secretary@nzifsa.org.nz) to indicate your interest in attending this competition. We will have the announcement and details of the coaching development seminar 1 & 2 June very soon.



## CLUCAS CUP (SELECTION COMPETITION), DUNEDIN 15 & 16 JUNE 2024

In recognition of the contribution made to figure skating this competition is named after our late Patron, Wendy Clucas (nee Grafton).

The Clucas Cup will be awarded to the skater/ couple / or team that gains the highest percentage above the A team Selection TES, with the highest unfactored programme component score as the deciding factor if more than 1 skater is on a par.

As per the NZIFSA Selection Policy, this competition is to determine selection and priority order for international competitions with a closing date between 7 July 2024 and one week after our National Championships. The competition will be open to skaters in Basic Novice to Senior grades in all disciplines, plus Mixed Age Synchronized skating, who competed at the 2023 National Championships and who are age eligible for international competition in their respective grade as at 1 July 2024. If you any have questions regarding eligibility, please email the Secretary at [secretary@nzifs.org.nz](mailto:secretary@nzifs.org.nz).

The Announcement will be posted on the NZIFSA website along with the Provisional Schedule as soon as it is available.

## RECENT SKATER DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

### Adult Training Camp, Christchurch 24 & 25 February

A very successful and well received camp with coach **Greg Merriman** from Sydney. It was attended by 19 skaters and 4 coaches (2 of these only part of the time) and included a mix of on and off-ice sessions.



### **From Russell Dear from Wellington**

We got so much out of it and,... having lessons from a high-level coach on a proper sized rink with a good amount of ice time was like Christmas for me :-)

## UPCOMING SKATER DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

### **Singles Basic Novice to Senior, Auckland (Botany), 29 March – 1 April**

Only two weeks to go before this workshop with Keegan Murphy as is the international moderator. Keegan represented Canada internationally on the Junior Grand Prix Circuit for 5 years and won the silver medal at the 2002 Canadian Championships in Junior Men. In his 10 years of coaching, Keegan has quickly produced a stable of provincial and national champions as well as international competitors on the Junior Grand Prix Circuit, ISU Junior World Championships and ISU Senior International Circuit.

Registrations for this camp closed **Tuesday 5 March**. A detailed schedule will be available soon, however we anticipate the camp will start around 7am on Friday 29 March and will finish around 1:30pm on Monday 1 April. Participants from outside Auckland should plan to stay in Auckland on the Thursday night before the camp starts.

### **Synchronized Skating, Dunedin 16 & 17 April and Auckland (Botany), 19-21 April**

Heather Paige has confirmed her availability for these two workshops. These workshops are aimed at our Basic Novice to Senior Level teams. Heather was the coach that we engaged virtually in 2022 and in person in 2023. Heather is a Moderator/Mentor for the ISU SYS Technical Committee and Coach/Director of the Starlights SYS teams out of the Chicago area in the US.

**Registrations** are due **by Tuesday 26 March**. Skaters and coaches can register online at: <https://www.cognitofrms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/2024SynchronizedSkatingTrainingCamp>

#### ***Cost information:***

- \$150 for Basic Novice team members
- \$200 for Advanced Novice, Mixed Age, Junior and Senior team members
- \$100 for Level 2 – 4 Coaches for Dunedin (2 day camp)
- \$150 for Level 2 – 4 Coaches for Auckland (3 day camp)
- \$75 / day for Level 2 – 4 Coaches who can only attend part of a camp.

These workshops are not being offered to our KiwiSkate or Adult teams. A separate development session will be offered to KiwiSkate teams. Details of this will be provided in the near future.

### **Singles Pre-Elementary, Elementary & Juvenile, Dunedin 25 & 26 May, Auckland 1 & 2 June**

We are pleased to confirm that we are holding two training camps for Pre Elementary, Elementary and Juvenile level skaters.

Registrations are due **by Monday 6 May**. Skaters and coaches can register online at: <https://www.cognitofrms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/2024PreElementaryToJuvenileCampsAKLORDND>

#### ***Cost information:***

- \$75 for NZIFSA Development Squad Members
- \$150 for all other skaters
- \$75 Kiwiskate and Level 1 – 4 Coaches
- \$50 / day for Kiwiskate and Level 1 – 4 Coaches who can only attend part of a camp.

### **Coach Moderators for Pre-Elementary, Elementary & Juvenile Camps – Auckland & Dunedin**

NZIFSA are seeking expressions of interest from coaches interested in being a moderator for these camps. We anticipate that Level 3 coaches are more likely to have the skill set and level of experience we are seeking, however Level 2 coaches will be considered.

Coaches have been asked to complete the online form outlining their skill set and experience and motivation for applying by **20 March 2024** (note we have extended the deadline a little).

<https://www.cognitofrms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/EOIModeratorForSkaterCamps2024>

## **RECENT COACHING COURSES**

### **KiwiSkate Coaching Course – Auckland (Avondale & Botany) 17 & 18 February**

The course was attended by 20 participants and moderated primarily by Caitlyn Paul.

### **Level 1 Coaching Course – Auckland (Avondale & Botany) 17 & 18 February**

The level 1 course was attended by six participants who are now working through the online e-learning modules for a couple weeks to complete the course then they will have time to complete their practical requirements. The course was moderated primarily by Kim Lewis with input from Mathieu Wilson.

## **UPCOMING COACHING COURSES**

One further KiwiSkate Coaching Courses has been scheduled.

### **KiwiSkate Coaching Course – Gore 4 & 5 May**

The course will start around 9:00am on Saturday and finish around 1:00pm on Sunday. Registration for this course closes on **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April**.

<https://www.cognitofrms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/KiwiSkateCoachingCourseGore45May2024>

The **KiwiSkate** courses are open to new KiwiSkate coaches as well as currently accredited coaches wishing to attain points to maintain their accreditation. The **course cost is \$80**.

The courses cover two levels:

- KiwiSkate Assistant Course - individuals must be 14 years of age as at 1 January prior to the course and it is recommended they hold an Elementary test in any discipline.
- KiwiSkate Coach Course – individuals must be 15 years of age as at 1 January prior to the course and must hold an Elementary test in any discipline. Coaches from different codes may apply to the Coaching Director for test dispensation based on their achievements/qualifications.

Please contact the Coaching Director at [coaches.director@nzifsa.org.nz](mailto:coaches.director@nzifsa.org.nz) if you have any questions regarding your eligibility.

All attendees must also pay the appropriate coach membership fee prior to registration. The online coach membership form can be found on the Forms page of the NZIFSA website <https://nzifsa.org.nz/forms/>.

## UPCOMING OFFICIALS TRAINING

As announced in the January newsletter we are looking to run the following training sessions in 2024:

**Accountant and Calc Operator Training** – online session, 4 & 5 May. Registrations closed 1 March. If you missed this date please contact the Officials Director.

**Synchronized Skating - Judge & Technical Seminar plus DO/RO and Calc Operator Training.** Christchurch 18 & 19 May. Coaches are also welcome. Please complete the following registration form (closes March 24).

<https://www.cognitofrms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/2024OfficialsTrainingChristchurchRegistration>

**Initial Judges Meeting (All Disciplines)** – online session Saturday 25 May.

This is a preseason meeting. All judges are expected to attend. Further information will be announced closer to the time.

**New and Probationary Officials (Singles)** - online session Saturday 8 June.

This online presentation is primarily for new judges and all probationary singles judges, however all are welcome.

<https://www.cognitofrms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/2024JudgeTrainingProbationaryOnline>

In addition to the above there will be online sessions to cover season updates.

If you have any questions regarding any of these please contact the Officials Director at [officials.director@nzifsa.org.nz](mailto:officials.director@nzifsa.org.nz).

## NZIFSA AGM – AUCKLAND, SATURDAY 23 MARCH 2024

The NZIFSA AGM is to be held in Auckland on Saturday 23 March at the Wiri Community Hall, 11 Inverell Avenue, Wiri, Auckland 2104. The AGM will be preceded by member forums and followed by a shared lunch.

**Members Forums 10am – 12 noon** (all members welcome)

- NZIFSA Strategic Direction and Priorities
- Setting Expectations for Officials and Volunteers Roles

**AGM 12 – 1:30pm**

**Shared lunch 1:30pm**

A meeting of the new Board, Operations Group and Development Group will be held on the Saturday afternoon (approximately 2.00pm - 6.00pm).



## **NZIFSA POLICIES CURRENTLY OPEN FOR SUBMISSIONS**

The **Anti-Match-Fixing and Sports Betting Policy**, **Health & Safety Policy** and **Members Forum Acceptable Use Policy** will be posted on the policy forum for initial submissions on Thursday 14 March and will be open for submissions for 40 days.

The Board had not received any feedback on the **Finance Policy**, **Child Protection Policy** or **Funding Policy** following an initial call for submissions. Having reviewed these policies the Board has proposed some amendments to the **Funding Policy** and posted this on the Members Forum. Feedback on the proposed amendments is due by **5 April 2024**. The other two policies have been approved without change.

## **NZIFSA BOARD MEETING**

The next meeting of the NZIFSA Board will be held on Saturday 23 March following the AGM. If you have any correspondence that you would like the Board to consider, please send it to the General Secretary ([secretary@nzifsa.org.nz](mailto:secretary@nzifsa.org.nz)) by Saturday 16 March. Any correspondence received after this date will be tabled at the April meeting.

All the best in skating,  
Robyn Morris and Jeanette King  
President and CEO  
NZIFSA