

# Adult Skate News

Edition 9 – July, 2005

Hi everybody! I hope everyone is coping with the cold weather – I know Sydney is coping it pretty bad compared to most winter's... 13 degrees at 5 in the afternoon?!? That's really quite cold for Sydney!!! But, I lived in Bendigo, Victoria for 9 years and put up with -5 degree temperatures, so I should be able to cope with this right?

Anyway, onto business... I have got a few photos from The Masters Cup, and I want to put them in their own "Special Edition" newsletter. If anyone has any they would like to include in this, can you please send them onto me ASAP please?

## *Competition Results*

### QLD

#### QLD State Championships

##### *Intermediate Ladies*

9<sup>th</sup>: Pauline Wharton IFSC (in a field of nine 16 year old and under skaters. Well done Pauline!)

##### *Pre-Primary Solo Ice Dance*

1<sup>st</sup>: (Tie) Julia Bruerton and Shannon Carr I GCFSC (Gold Coast)

3<sup>rd</sup>: Pauline Wharton IFSC (Acacia Ridge)

4<sup>th</sup>: Deborah Howard I GCFSC (Adult)

5<sup>th</sup>: Kendall Hunt IFSC (Adult)

##### *Pre-Primary dance*

1<sup>st</sup>: Kate Christopher and Alan Barnes, Boondall (Adult)

Well done to these brave adults for competing in the technical divisions against people who have almost been skating as long as they have been able to walk!

### VIC

#### OFDC Fun Skate, 11<sup>th</sup> June

##### *Adult Artistic*

1<sup>st</sup>: Tara Haydon (NSW)

2<sup>nd</sup>: Alyssa Montgomery (NSW)

##### *Masters Silver*

1<sup>st</sup>: Amy Hodman (NSW)

2<sup>nd</sup>: Tara Haydon (NSW)

3<sup>rd</sup>: Julie Champion (VIC)

##### *Masters Gold*

1<sup>st</sup>: Jason Yu (VIC)

#### The Masters Cup & Adult Interpretive Trophy, 13<sup>th</sup> June

##### *Masters Proficiency*

1<sup>st</sup>: Kiaren Tamapii (VIC)

2<sup>nd</sup>: Donna Goddard (VIC)

3<sup>rd</sup>: Herbert Gerig (VIC)

##### *Masters Bronze:*

1<sup>st</sup>: Brooke Morgan (ACT)

2<sup>nd</sup>: Shirley Climas-Milne (VIC)

3<sup>rd</sup>: Alyssa Montgomery (NSW)

##### *Masters Silver (Under 40)*

1<sup>st</sup>: Amy Hodman (NSW)

2<sup>nd</sup>: Tara Haydon (NSW)

3<sup>rd</sup>: Rebecca Wells (ACT)

##### *Masters Silver (Over 40)*

1<sup>st</sup>: Jasmine Humphries (VIC)

2<sup>nd</sup>: Stewart Marshall (VIC)

3<sup>rd</sup>: Sheila Bryan (VIC)

##### *Masters Gold (Under 40)*

1<sup>st</sup>: Christine Joyce (VIC)

2<sup>nd</sup>: Jane Shipway (SA)

3<sup>rd</sup>: Jason Yu (VIC)

##### *Masters Gold (Over 40)*

1<sup>st</sup>: Jennifer Fowler (VIC)

2<sup>nd</sup>: Xenia Shaw (VIC)

3<sup>rd</sup>: Wendy Meik (VIC)

# Adult Skate News

Edition 9 – July, 2005

## *Masters Open*

1<sup>st</sup> Debbie Ralston (VIC)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Yvonne Shubart (VIC)

## *Solo Interpretive*

1<sup>st</sup> Nobby Doi (VIC)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Tara Haydon (NSW)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Alyssa Montgomery (NSW)

## *Pairs Interpretive*

1<sup>st</sup> Meik & Marshall (VIC)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Robbins & Robbins (ACT)

## *Team Interpretive*

1<sup>st</sup> Silver Blades Girls (VIC)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Allegro (SA)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Amigos (VIC)

## *Peoples Choice Awards*

Solo: Alyssa Montgomery (NSW)  
Pairs/Team: Allegro (SA)  
Dragon City Trophy, Bendigo Ice Skating Stadium, 2<sup>nd</sup>- 3<sup>rd</sup> July.

Artistic:

### *Adult 1*

1<sup>st</sup> Katherine Molnar (VIC)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Christine Joyce (VIC)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Julie-Anne Taylor (VIC)

## NSW

NSW Free Skating Competition, Hunter Ice Skating Stadium, 19<sup>th</sup> June.

Tara Haydon (HI SC) placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in a field of 6 teenage girls aged between 14 and 16 years of age. Well done Tara!

## GERMANY

Yes, that's right – Australia had a representative in an International Adult Figure Skating Competition!

Chris Hall (from MI SC in NSW) placed 5<sup>th</sup> in his division (Mens Silver). Great effort by Chris – and it was only his 2<sup>nd</sup> competition!!!

Tests:

Yvonne Shubart (VIC)

Primary – this means Yvonne can now compete at National level! Well done Yvonne!!!

Melissa Young (NSW)

Basic 1 & 2  
Novice 1 & 2  
Intermediate 1 & 2

Rebecca Summers (NSW)

Novice 1 & 2

## *Future Competitions*

### VIC

July 23<sup>rd</sup>- 24<sup>th</sup>: Victorian State Championships & Southern Cross Trophy.

Olympic Ice Skating Centre, Oakleigh South. Will have at least two adult divisions, to be skated on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Wendy Meik at [meik@bigpond.com](mailto:meik@bigpond.com) for more information. *Entries close 11<sup>th</sup> July.*

That's all I have the information on at time of printing, without going *too* far into the future... Please be sure to send any information on about any comps either for adults, or with adult divisions! Also remember to let me know if they're in-house comps only, state wide or National.

### New Zealand

September 26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>: 2005 New Zealand National Championships.

Dunedin Ice Stadium, Dunedin. Has a Masters Section, with four divisions. The only contact details I have are for the NZISA Treasurer (who you send the entries to.):

PO Box 5651  
Moray Place  
DUNEDIN  
NEW ZEALAND

There is also a Masters Cup games happening over in New Zealand, which

# Adult Skate News

Edition 9 - July, 2005

includes Figure Skating. The page didn't work when I forwarded it to work, so unfortunately I don't have the details here with me. However, I'm sure if you do a "Google" search, it shouldn't be too hard to find!

New Zealand is a little easier for us Aussies to get to than the European countries, so it's certainly worth considering! Although, as you'll see in the next section, the trip to Germany was certainly worth it for one of our skaters!!!

## *Reader Write-up*

Chris - our Australian representative in Germany - has done a write up for us on his experience. See below:

Our first site of Oberstdorf is from the window of a Deuche Bahn Reggio train as we arrive. The village nestles in a glacial valley below the Allgau range of mountains, which make up this part of the Bavarian Alps, the Nebblehorn being the tallest mountain. Today, in early June there is still snow on the peaks. We find our way to our pre booked accommodation in the western part of the village, wondering at the pretty , picture book houses and gardens, houses that look as if you lifted their roofs they would play a tune like "Edlewies"

I had first heard about the competition back in December 2004, a friend emailed me the entry form. The entry requirements were that I was between 30 and 65 years old and that I hadn't been placed in a National Competition, so I applied for the Silver Mens 2 Division which suited my standard for a two minute ten seconds free program. I received conformation of my application and paid 60E, about \$100, as the entry fee. For the next five months I worked towards the day that I would compete.

We then started to make our travel arrangements and found Harvey World Travel very helpful. We booked an Early Bird Flight with Singapore Airlines and got a round trip, Sydney/ Singapore/ London / Frankfurt/ Singapore/Sydney for \$2,392 per person including taxes and one stopover hotel in Singapore.

We had decided to combine the trip to the competition with a short break in England, but had we not done this the easiest way to get to Oberstdorf would have been a flight to Munich then a 2 1/2 hr train trip.

We had been recommended a house that was split into self catering apartments which we discovered, on our arrival, to be superb with every home comfort that you could imagine, warm, clean and very handy to the Eisportzentrum where the competition would be held, we even had views of the mountains from every window. In fact, the evening we arrived there was a sound of distant cow bells and on looking out of the window we watched as eight dairy cows walked past to be milked in the nearby farm. Oberstdorf is a popular skiing venue during the season and in the summer becomes busy as a centre for walking and hiking so the village is very geared up to holiday accommodation. It would not be difficult to find bed and board. We stayed for seven nights and paid 506E, about \$800 which included the German tourist tax.

The village is very accommodating to travellers. There are two good Supermarkets which supply all your needs if you are self catering. We found the meat very good quality, excellent fruit and vegetables and the wine and beer very cheap. Allgau is famous for it's cheese, and it is very good and tasty. The Germans love their pork and you get it, mostly in the form of sausages and salamis. There are some

## Adult Skate News

Edition 9 – July, 2005

excellent pubs and restaurants in the village with very variable menus at \$13 per main meal so if you are staying in a B&B there is always a place to eat in the evening. The Eisportzentrum has a very good restaurant that looks down on one of the Ice Rinks. One word of warning though. The Germans, especially in the country areas, are not very keen on the use of credit cards, We found that our card, American Express, was not accepted in the supermarket which meant that we had to make cash withdrawals from the ATM. Make sure that you don't have a limit on these. Have some spare travellers cheques handy in case of emergencies.

### Now to the skating!!!



I'd been advised by the organisers not to be too keen to start skating as soon as I got there due to the fact that we were at a very high altitude, being told that it was over 2000m, but in fact the mountain that towers over the village, The Neelehorn, is over 2000m high but Oberstdorf is only 800M so I had no problems and started training almost immediately.

The Eisportzentrum is truly an amazing place. Nestled in the lee of the Neelehorn whose cable car glides silently almost over its roofs, it contains three beautiful rinks, two large and one small, (with mirrors). The largest of the large is used as a training rink for the

students who are based at the school, also enclosed in the complex, and the speed skating team. It was fascinating watching the teams being trained by international coaches from Germany, Italy and Russia. The smaller of the large is used for public sessions, three per day, and for group coaching classes.

I began to train on the rink during public sessions but was encouraged by an official to buy some private ice time as there were going to be sessions available to the Adult Competitors. I paid 15E for three single hour sessions over the next three days and found that was more than sufficient. The competition was to be held on the Friday and Saturday so on Tuesday when I started training there were still only a few competitors at the centre. By the Thursday this had changed considerably and the private Ice Time Sessions became very busy. It was also possible to have your music played during this time so that you could at least have a chance for a run through. Everyone was very cheerful and accommodating as they cued up with their CD's or tapes at the tape machine and allowed each skater space on the ice when it was their turn to run through. It was beginning to get very exciting as more and more adult skaters arrived in the centre and the atmosphere was building towards the first day of the competition.

The night before, we all gathered in the small rink with the mirrors where there would be a welcoming party. I knew by now that there were 125 competitors but they of course had brought along friends and even in some cases, coaches, so there were probably nearly 300 people gathered in the rink. The competitors had been told to wear their skates and as their division was called, either Bronze, Silver, Gold or Masters, they would skate to the official desk and draw a number, that

# Adult Skate News

Edition 9 - July, 2005

would then be the order in which they would skate in the competition. We were introduced to the organisers, the officials and the judges. It was a very happy and friendly affair with plenty of nibbles and drinks to go around. As always there was a very large US contingent represented, closely followed by the French, the Germans, the Swiss, the English, the Dutch, the Italians, one lady from New Zealand and me, being the one and only Australian.

On Friday, starting at around 7.00am each skater had his official ice time in which he could run through his program. My division, Silver 2, had 5 competitors so we each had 20mins on the ice all together, to run things through. This took up all of the morning and the competition opened at 2.00 pm. There was a tremendous atmosphere with a crowd of well over 100 supporters waving flags, clanging cow bells and sounding horns. For the rest of the afternoon we saw the Bronze, Silver and Gold Dance Compulsories and the Gold Mens 2, Gold Ladies 2, Gold Men 1 and Gold Ladies 1.

Saturday morning saw the competition start at 8.30am with the Bronze Men and Ladies 2 and 3 then through the Silver mens and ladies to the Pairs in the afternoon and finally the Masters Mens and Ladies and Free Dance Silver and Gold.

What a marvellous two days it had been. The atmosphere of warmth and friendliness with a smattering of good healthy competition was wonderful to experience. The most memorable time for me was the final group photo. We were asked onto the ice in our costumes and gathered together as everyone flashed and videoed. Then there was a Victory Ceremony. Each division was called to the ice and awarded a trophy, or a medal, a certificate,

a commemorative plate and the gentlemen were given ties, while the ladies received the ladies scarves. The president of the of the ISU Ottavio Cinquanta and Sissy Krick the Vice President of the Deutsche Eislauf-Union presided over the ceremony. Then, to top everything off, we were all invited to a Grand Banquet in the Eiszentrum Restaurant where there were many speeches, many words of encouragement, and the promise from the president himself that the competition, having been such a huge success, was returning to Oberstdorf in 2006. To great cheers, he announced the age limit would be adjusted from 30 to 28 and from 65 to 70. He also bade us to return to our countries and spread the word that Adult Skating and competition was here to stay. See you all there in 2006!!!!



Thanks Chris!

## *New Show*

Has everyone been watching the new show on Ch 9 - "Skating On Thin Ice"? They've only had 2 episodes so far, but it's only a short series, which means there's only 2 or 3 episodes left. For those that haven't tuned it yet - please do. Bump the ratings up for any skating they show on *free to air* tv!!! For those that have watched the first 2 episodes

# Adult Skate News

Edition 9 – July, 2005

- has it bought back memories of when you started too? I've cringed, laughed and cried along with them, while I remembered back to 7 years ago when I took my first group lesson!

Imagine how exciting it would be to be able to do something like what they are doing - perform in a Disney On Ice show?

I think this show could encourage more adult beginner skaters - if celebs can do it, why not the average Joe? Of course, these celebs have been given the gear, the ice time and the coaches on a silver platter... who wouldn't have loved *that* when they first started??? Dance studios around the country took advantage of "Dancing With The Stars" and held free "Come 'n' Try" days. If you have any pull with the appropriate people at your rink - why not push to do the same??

It is also a great show, highlighting just how hard it is to learn something like skating as an adult, and how it's not as easy as it is for a 5 or 10 year old who has no fear... Lets just all get out there and go for it - like these celebrities are doing. They're grabbing every bit of advice they're given and using it, along with their sheer determination and guts.

## *Skater update*

Some of you may or may not know that one of our readers (& the very first retailer of the month) has relocated over to London - just after The Masters Cup. Well, I am relieved to say that she was not effected by the terrible bombings that occurred late last week. She had planned to head into London that morning by the tube to go skating, however they ended up making plans to visit Wales for the weekend. Talk about fate stepping in!

I have asked Brooke to check out the adult skating scene over there and give us a bit of a report. Hopefully she will have a chance to have a good sticky beak into it and let us know what it's like!

Well, that's just about it from me for the month. I do just have one more thing to add. I know I keep harping on about this, but it seems as though what I've been saying may end up coming true (for NSW anyway). A reliable source told me that in a meeting held not long ago, adult skating was spoken about. They were talking about how in the last few Artistic competitions with adult divisions, only 2 adults have entered (with the exception of one interstate guest skater back in March). The competition convenors cannot afford to keep putting these divisions in and pay for the extra ice time if they keep getting such a low amount of entries. They weren't suggesting that adult skating is pointless - there were at least a couple of people very supportive of it actually. They want to include adults in their competitions, but are finding that it's difficult to fund, when the entries are so low.

*Please don't make adult skating extinct!!!!*

Happy Skating!

Alyssa

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*Club Key:*

OFDC: Olympic Figure & Dance Club (VIC)

HI SC: Hunter Ice Skating Club (NSW)

MI SC: Macquarie Ice Skating Club (NSW)

IGCFSC: Iceland Gold Coast Figure Skating Club (QLD)

IFSC: Iceworld Figure Skating Club (QLD)