



Newsletter of the Olympic Figure & Dance Club February 2007

Associations Registered Number: A0012443U

Welcome to our first edition for 2007. We hope you look forward to the forthcoming skating year. It is a big year ahead, with our major competition being the Olympic Trophy over the Easter long weekend. But as usual there are lots of other things happening here and also in the Australian and International skating world.

If you do not already receive our newsletter by email, please email Wendy on meik@bigpond.com and you can be added to our mailing list to receive future newsletters. They are also on the OFDC website at

I would love any contributions you may have for the newsletter. Email me on kwillyau@dodo.com.au. I am also looking for "Skaters of the Newsletter" to feature, so please email me if you want to star in the newsletter.

Memberships

If you are not aware, the Olympic Figure & Dance Club is the Olympic Ice Skating Centre's home club. We run all the competitions that take place at Oakleigh, liaise with the rink in obtaining ice time for training and are instrumental in organizing a number of on-ice and off-ice activities that aim to help skaters develop their potential.

OFDC membership also entitles skaters to a discount on competition entries so the cost of the membership is "paid off" over the course of a year. Club members are covered by insurance for every club run event.

OFDC club membership is for the financial year 1 October to 30 September. New membership is \$30, and renewing membership is \$20. OFDC offers \$5 discount on each competition entry fee. Only the skater needs to be a member. If the member is under 16 years of age, then a parent is the nominated voting member.

For enquiries about memberships contact Kim Wilson or Wendy Meik (email addresses above). I have also put some information about ISV and Aussie Skate memberships further on in the newsletter.

For those who are members, I know it is a bit late but membership cards will be distributed shortly. You will be able to collect them from Jack during the figure sessions.

And if you would like to help

We are always looking for people to become involved in helping with competitions and other roles. There has been a dedicated group who do most of the work but it would great to see some new faces helping out.

If you can lend a hand, please let Wendy or Kim know.

Figure Skating Guidelines

A lot of you might be aware of the new Skater's Guidelines but a lot will not.

They are designed to make the running of the sessions safer and also help maximize quality training opportunities for all skaters.

You can collect a copy of the guidelines from Jack in the box office at the Figure Sessions. please read them thoroughly and sign the attached agreement.

Also you will notice coloured armbands that skaters are now wearing. If you are having a lesson then you will need to wear a yellow band, if you have your programme music on the sound system then you must wear an orange one. This is to help identify who does have priority in regards to right of way on the ice.



Christmas Show News



The Christmas Show took place on December 16th. The stands were packed – certainly a large enough crowd to give consideration for next year's show to be held over two nights at the end of this year.

At this stage, thought is being given to this year's show. We are planning on having a Vegas theme which so far has been well received by everyone.

There is a lot of scope within this theme for music and ideas so get your thinking caps on now.

There are now DVDs available of the Christmas Show for \$20. Contact Wendy to order your copy.

Wendy also has copies of the November Fun Skate available, as well as other competitions.

ISA Website

Ice Skating Australia has a new website. It looks fantastic and much easier to navigate than the previous website so well done to those who have put it together.

So if you are after competition rules, test information, and lots of other information to do with our local skating scene, then visit the Ice Skating Australia Website on www.isa.org.au.

Einstein Factor

Quite a few of you know but many others don't that recently I was a contestant on the Einstein Factor. The premise of the show is to find someone "who knows everything about something and something about everything". Anyway the episode I am in will be shown on the ABC at 6.30pm on Sunday 25th February. My topic was "Figure Skating in the 1990s". Watch the show and try to test your figure skating knowledge.

Summer School Holiday Programme

Another successful holiday programme was held in January. This was a joint activity between ISV and OFDC. Activities for this programme ranged from on-ice activities with Robi Chalmers from South Australia, a few dance sessions including ballroom, belly dancing and interpretation, drama classes and a music lesson. The ballroom dancing was most popular but throughout there was good attendance and skaters gained much out of the session.

Many thanks go to Julie-Anne Oaten and Wendy Meik for putting the programme together and organising the venues.

For those who couldn't make it (particularly the adults who had to work) – never fear. We will be repeating some of the sessions at a more convenient time. I am very interested in doing my music session again so please contact me on my email address for enquiries.

Ice Dancing

Again we are holding some ice dancing sessions. They are for skaters of all levels and aim to help improve skaters edges and an understanding of skating to music. This time we are holding them on Sundays at 12.30pm and run until March 25th. It is also a great opportunity to skate on clean ice without having to battle lots of other skaters. Cost is \$20 per session which includes rink entry and professional lesson.



High Level Strength Training

Christie Johnson has a personal trainer who is interested in helping figure skaters improve their strength and fitness, via either personal sessions or a group class. He is located in Highett near Southland. If you are interested or would like further information please contact Christie via email makovitza@hotmail.com.

First Competition and Test Session for year

We would like to make special mention that towards the end of March we will be holding our first Fun Skate and Test Session (dates on the next page). I know there are already quite a few skaters who will be moving up in the Aussie Skate Levels (I judged a few Intermediate Aussie Skate tests lately and was quite impressed by how skaters were progressing – well done skaters) and many who are very keen to compete again. This competition is a good opportunity to get some early season competition practice. Also note that this event will be used to qualify Aussie Skaters for the Olympic Trophy Aussie Skate Divisions which will be held at Easter.

And the following weekend there will be a ISV test session. Please get your entry in soon if you intend to take a test – you can hand your entries to Wendy or myself at the rink.

So keep working hard and be well prepared for the forthcoming events.

Victorian Competition and Test Calendar for 2007

Date & Time	EVENT	RINK	DIVISIONS/SPECIAL FEATURES	ENTRY TO
Saturday & Sunday, 24-25th February	SA Skate	TBA	<i>Entries have closed for this event.</i>	ISV
Saturday 24th March @ 4.30pm	OFDC Fun Skate & Club Championships		Standard ISV Competiton Format ** Note 1	OFDC
Saturday 31st March @ 12.30pm	Test Day	Oakleigh		OFDC
Saturday to Monday, 6 th -9 th April (Time TBA)	<i>Olympic Trophy - National Comp</i>	Oakleigh	Aussie Skate, Technical & Freeskating, plus Artistic - see Announcement	OFDC
Saturday 14 th April Time TBC	SKATE BENDIGO with Artistic	Bendigo	Standard ISV Competiton Format ** Note 1	ISCB
Sunday 15 th April @ 12pm	Test - Bendigo			
Saturday 26th May @ 4pm	SKATE BENDIGO & Test	Bendigo	Standard ISV Competiton Format ** Note 1	ISCB
Saturday to Monday, 8 th -11 th June	Hollins Trophy - National Comp	NSW	See Announcement	ISV
Saturday 9 th June @ 12.30pm	Test Day	Oakleigh		OFDC
Saturday 9 th June @ 4.30pm	<i>OFDC FUN SKATE/ Homestead Motor Inn</i>	Oakleigh	Standard ISV Competiton Format ** Note 1	OFDC
Sunday 10 th June @ 12.30pm	Test Day (including Dance Tests)	Oakleigh		OFDC
Monday June 11 th @ 12pm	<i>Masters Cup & Adult Interpretive Trophy - National Comp</i>	Oakleigh	Adult Interpretive Comp - Minimum Age 20 See Announcement	KDISC
Saturday to Sunday, July 14 th to 15 th	Victorian State Championship & Southern Cross Trophy	TBA	See Announcement	ISV
Saturday, August 6th	SKATE BENDIGO - ISV National Squad	Bendigo	Standard ISV Competiton Format ** Note 1	ISCB
August 17 th -26th	Aust National Championship	NSW	See Announcement	ISV
Saturday, 6 th October	OFDC Fun Skate	Oakleigh	Standard ISV Competiton Format ** Note 1	OFDC
Saturday 6 th October @ 12.30pm	Test Day	Oakleigh		OFDC
Saturday 20 th October @ 4.30pm	SKATE BENDIGO & Tests	Bendigo	Standard ISV Competiton Format ** Note 1	ISCB
Saturday 27 th October @ 4.30pm	Adult Fun Skate	Oakleigh	Adult Interpretive Comp - Minimum Age 20 See Announcement	OFDC
Saturday 24 th November @ 12.30pm	Test Day			
Saturday 24 th November @ 4.30pm	OFDC Fun Skate	Oakleigh	Standard ISV Competiton Format ** Note 1	OFDC
Sunday 25 th November @ 12.20pm	Test Day (including Dance Tests)	Oakleigh		OFDC
Saturday 15 th December @ 5pm	OFDC Christmas Show	Oakleigh		

Note 1: Standard ISV Competition Format is based on National Aussie Skate Rules and ISA Rules.

These Rules are available on the Ice Skating Australia web site www.isa.org.au.

ISV Competitions may also include Pre-Preliminary and Adult Divisions and Interpretive Events.

Note 2: Victorian Skaters wishing to compete in interstate events are reminded that entries must be submitted through ISV.

Memberships

Apart from OFDC Membership, there are a couple of other memberships available to skaters. Aussie Skate is for skaters who are just starting out in skating. Ice Skating Victoria is for skaters who are competing and undertaking tests under the national test stream.

Aussie Skate Membership

Aussie skate is a "learn to skate" program run by Ice Skating Australia through the rinks. It is a great programme for beginning skaters and you can work your way through a number of different tests and levels. When you join the Aussie Skate Program you will receive a booklet outlining all the tests and you will be allocated an Aussie Skate Number. Each completed test is recorded by the rink and you receive a badge. At Olympic, it is \$8.00 to join and \$5.00 to do each test.

Ice Skating Victoria (ISV) Membership

ISV membership is required of all skaters in the competition and ISA test stream. This is important in regards to public liability protection for skaters undertaking competitions. The membership year is from 1st October to 30th September. There are two levels of membership:

Associate membership - \$20

Associate membership is for Aussie Skate level competitors and Adult skaters who enter one or two competitions per year (not skating at ISV test levels).

Full membership - \$60 (\$50 to renew)

Skater must have full ISV membership to undertake an ISV test and to compete at competitions at an ISV level (Preliminary through to Senior).

Wendy has copies of the membership forms and there are copies on the noticeboard. You need to fill in your form and send it to:

The Honorary Secretary,
P O Box 72,
Nunawading Vic 3131

Remember to make cheques payable to "Ice Skating Victoria". The bank will not accept cheques made payable to "ISV". You can also hand them to an OFDC committee member.



The fourth Australian Youth Olympic Festival (AYOF) took place From 17 – 21 January 2007 in Sydney. It is an event for athletes aged 13 – 19 years who will represent each continent across 16 Olympic sports. Figure skating was included in the programme and this was a great opportunity for our young skaters to shine in front of a home crowd.

By all reports the event was a great success. You could not get a seat because of the numbers attending which goes well for the next event to be held in two years time (in Melbourne depending on whether Docklands is built). It also gave Australian skaters and spectators a chance to see some of the very talented skaters from overseas, particularly from Japan and China who took the most of the medals. It also gave our local judges to either judge or practice on an international event.

Particularly good news for Australia though was Tina Wang taking third place in the ladies event. However all Australian skaters performed well and showed the importance of events like this for the development of Junior skating in Australia and will certainly give our skaters something to aspire to in future.

Our other Australians were Cheltzie Lee (6th) Phoebe Di Tommaso (9th), Nicholas Fernandez (7th), Mark Webster (8th) and Matthew Tinson (9th). For full results check the ISA website on www.isa.org.au.

International Skating – Major Events

Over January and February some of the biggest skating events took place. These events can provide an insight into the forthcoming World Championships which will be held in Toyko from March 20-25th.

The first thing to mention that this is a post Olympic season which can usually be a let down with skaters gearing towards the next Olympic cycle. But after seeing some of the programmes to come out of these events there have been some excellent performances. Rather than post a list of results (read below for links to full results and protocols), I thought it would be worth mentioning those performances that have stood out for me as I have downloaded clips, viewed clips on Youtube and also followed the Europeans live via an audio feed (staying up to 2am on a Saturday night).

Canadian Nationals saw defending champions Jeffrey Buttle and Joannie Rochette retain their titles. Buttle has the most amazing long programme to Armenian folk music and he has artistry to die for.

US Nationals and **Europeans** took place in the same week. On both sides of the Atlantic there were some excellent performances.

My favourite programmes in both events came out of the pairs competition. The German champions Savchenko/Skolkowy did make a mistake in their short programme but skated a flawless and stunning long programme to claim their first European title. And in the US, a new pairs team of Castile/Okowski won their first title. This team had great throws and lifts, but along with a beautiful performance are certainly a team to watch in the future.

Evan Lysacek took the US mens title. He had a great short programme but his long programme was superb, starting off with a quad (that spun so quickly it looked like a triple) and did not miss a beat. In Europe, Brian Joubert captured the Mens title. He finished second in the short programme, but skated strongly in the long programme to finish first overall.

The dance event in Europe was a very hotly fought competition, coming down a battle between the French, Russians and Bulgarians. The French team of Delobel & Schoenfelder won the title, with smooth and flawless skating. The amazing thing is this team have been together for 18 years – now that is dedication!!! Belbin & Agosto again won the US dance title.

And the most recent event was the **Four Continents Championship**. If you don't know about this event, it is for countries that are not part of Europe and includes the Americas, Asia, Africa and Australia.

The Pairs were won by Shen & Zhao from China. They have beautiful programmes this year and are probably the best team in the world at present. Evan Lysacek came back from fourth place after the short programme to take the title from Jeffrey Buttle. The dance event was won by the Canadian team of Dubruiel & Lauzon and in the most remarkable result Kimmie Meissner, after finishing 6th in the short, gained enough points to take the title.

And a couple of our Victorian judges were there too. Mark Storton and Cathy Taylor were part of the judging panels. As for our Australian competitors, here are the results:

- Men – Sean Carlow – 13th, Nicholas Fernandez – 16th
- Ladies – Joanne Carter – 16th, Phoebe Di Tommaso – 21st
- Dance – Maria & Evgeni Bouronov – 12th

You can find out the results of these and other competitions at www.frogsonice.com/skateweb (just follow the relevant links) or www.isu.org.

You can also watch the events via the internet. You can find a number of programmes from the various events on YouTube at www.youtube.com. Type in the event you are after in YouTube's search engine eg "2007 Europeans" or maybe your favourite skater's name.

Otherwise those lucky things who have Foxtel have been able to receive coverage on ESPN.

However if you don't have access to any of the above, I have been fortunate to obtain a copy of the British Eurosport coverage of the Europeans, including Dance, Mens and Ladies events (sorry no pairs). However I have downloaded a number of clips via the internet of the Pairs event that I may try to make a DVD out of, otherwise you can watch them on your computer. So please let me know if you would like a copy. My DVDs and CDs are \$4 each.

And the other thing I have just received is the latest series of Dancing on Ice from the UK. So if you would like a copy of this just let me know.