



## Newsletter of the Olympic Figure Skating Club February 2008

Associations Registered Number: A0012443U

Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter for the year.

We can start the new year by announcing that we are now officially the OLYMPIC FIGURE SKATING CLUB!! So not only is the skating season for us about to start, we have a new identity that brings us in line with most of the other figure skating clubs around Australia.

Please see the next page for details.

However even though the holidays have come and gone, there was plenty happening over January with the Holiday Programme.

If you do not already receive our newsletter by email, please email Wendy on [meik@bigpond.com](mailto:meik@bigpond.com) and you can be added to our mailing list to receive future newsletters. Contributions for the newsletter are most welcome. Email me on [kwillyau@dodo.com.au](mailto:kwillyau@dodo.com.au). I would love to hear from you and value having lots of diverse information to share around.

If you want any further information about events and information, here are some handy email addresses:

Wendy (Competition stuff) - [meik@bigpond.com](mailto:meik@bigpond.com)

Kim (Newsletter stuff) - [kwillyau@dodo.com.au](mailto:kwillyau@dodo.com.au)

Carmel (ISV stuff) - [cardel@alphalink.com.au](mailto:cardel@alphalink.com.au)

### From the President

*And now a few words from our President Katherin Molnar.*

What a year 2008 is promising to be for the Olympic Figure Skating Club. Currently the committee is organizing and preparing for the Olympic Trophy Challenge, Victoria's premiere interstate figure skating competition. At this stage we have entrants coming from Queensland, Tasmania and even far away as Western Australia. It promises to be a well-attended and exciting event. I strongly urge all of our skaters to take part in an opportunity to skate in a National competition, from Aussie Skaters, to Adults, to Dancers and Senior skaters. 2007 was such a successful year for OFDC, culminating in the "critically acclaimed" Christmas Show. As a result I am very excited about being involved in 2008. I look forward to seeing you all out on the ice.

## Club Name Change

Well we now have a new name – OLYMPIC FIGURE SKATING CLUB.

This was decided at the Annual General Meeting held last November.

After submitting the forms and paying some money, Wendy organized the name change and we now have the certificate to prove it.

This brings us in line with many of the other figure skating clubs around Australia and also makes it easier to connect outside the skating community (when you spoke to the media no-one ever got “Olympic Figure & Dance Club” right!).

Now the most exciting news about it – WE NEED A NEW LOGO! So we announce our Logo Competition.



## Calling All Talented Designers - Sharpen your pencils!

*Logo (noun):*

*“a design used by an organization on its letterhead, advertising material, and signs as an emblem by which the organization can easily be recognized”*

The new name change for the club has prompted the call for a new logo for the club as well. This logo will be used for all official administrative business and on the club tracksuit.

As a club, we are looking for a logo design that will best represent and promote our club locally and interstate.

Entries will be judged by the OFSC committee.  
No correspondence will be entered into.

If you think you have a good idea for a logo, please submit your application to any committee member. You can submit your logo entries via the following:

- On an A4 sheet of paper, or
- Burnt onto a CD, or
- By email to [kwillyau@dodo.com.au](mailto:kwillyau@dodo.com.au)

All entries must be received by no later than the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008

## The OFSC Committee

Just to remind everyone who is on the Committee for 2007/08. These people will be able to help you with any club business or questions.

|                                 |                 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| President:                      | Katherin Molnar |
| Vice-President:                 | Cherry Lau      |
| Secretary:                      | Kim Wilson      |
| Treasurer/Competition Convenor: | Wendy Meik      |
| ISV Representative:             | Cherry Lau      |

### *Committee Members:*

Carmel Morrison, Marie Romeo, Heather Brunda, Paul Zechovsky, Jack Fidock, Tania McKenzie, Julie-Anne Taylor, Meredith Masterman

## Local Club & Skating News

### **Mandy Woetzel Sessions**

On Good Friday morning, we will be having some sessions with our coach Mandy Woetzel. Wendy is currently organizing groups that will be separated by levels (lower levels, adults, senior skaters). The cost will also be kept to a minimum.

Wendy will send out further details when they are finalized. But put that date in your diary now.

### **Synchronized Skating News**

Synchronized skating is back in action for the year and they would love some new members to come along. If you are looking to improve your skating as well as being part of a team then this could be for you.

The aim again is to take two teams to National. There is the Adult team which went last year but with the younger skaters the aim is to take a Junior level team as well.

Sessions currently run from 6.00pm to 7.30pm on Friday evenings, however after Easter the time will be from 6.00pm to 6.30pm. There will be off-ice training to supplement on-ice during this time.

If you are interested in being part of a Synchronized team please contact Wendy.

### **Ice Dance Sessions**

Our ice dance sessions continue on Sundays until the 16<sup>th</sup> of March. The session runs from 12.30pm to 2pm and includes a half hour group lesson with one of our fabulous ice dance coaches. We strongly recommend skaters consider coming along to the sessions. They are an excellent way of improving your edges, learning to skate with music and you also end up having a great social time.

Recently we had a couple of young Aussie Skaters Chelsea and Chloe come along to the session and have a go at ice dancing. They haven't been skating very long, but the smiles on their faces spoke volumes about how much they enjoyed it. We would love to see some more of the young ones come along and give it a go.

To encourage new people to try ice dancing, we have a special offer. If you have never attended a dance session before, then you can come along as a once off for \$7.50 (shared price of a two for one entry).

## Olympic Trophy Challenge and Artistic Cup

Our own National competition, the Olympic Trophy and Artistic Cup is being held over Easter Weekend (March 21<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>).

This year we have entries coming from all over Australia, including the possibility of a skater from Perth!

We do need volunteers to help with this event, from selling raffle tickets or helping with organizing breakfast for early morning practice sessions. But there are plenty of jobs that need

If you can help out at the event and volunteer some time, please let Kim know so you can be added to our list of volunteers (email address on front of newsletter).

This year we want to make our event the best ever and any assistance you can give will help us do that.

## Docklands Ice Skating Rink

At Waterfront City another temporary Docklands Rink is being set up and will be open until August next year. To find out more about the Docklands Ice Skating Rink, please visit [www.waterfrontcity.com.au](http://www.waterfrontcity.com.au).

Open 7 days during school holiday periods (incl. public holidays)

Open Wednesday to Sunday outside school holiday periods

**Times:** 10am – 9.30pm (8pm – 9.30pm is a disco skate session)

**Cost for 1.5 hour session:** 5 years and under - \$7, 6 to 15 years - \$12, 16 years and over - \$15  
Spectators and Skate Hire - \$3

**Bookings:** Call the box office on 03 9602 5620

**Location:** Waterfront City Pavilion, Waterfront City, Docklands Drive, Melbourne Docklands

## Bendigo Ice Rink News

As you will know by now the Bendigo Ice Rink has closed. At the time of publishing this newsletter there was no official word as to if it will be reopening. We will advise as soon as we have news.

## Synthetic Ice Rink

You may have heard rumours about a synthetic ice rink coming to Melbourne.

N-ICE IN AUSTRALIA are aiming to set up synthetic rinks as attractions at events and also to provide opportunities for people to have a go at skating.

There may be an opportunity for skaters to do demonstrations at events and we will keep you posted about these. In the meantime you can check out more about N-ICE please check out their website at [www.n-iceinaustralia.com.au](http://www.n-iceinaustralia.com.au).

## Disney on Ice

Next year the Disney on Ice Tour will be High School Musical, taking place in April/ May. Details are at [www.highschoolmusicaltheicetour.com.au](http://www.highschoolmusicaltheicetour.com.au)

## Club Membership

Just a reminder that if you are not already a club member, please consider joining. The club is responsible for organizing our Fun Skates and events such as the Olympic Trophy Challenge (you do get a discount on your entry fee if you are a member). We are also very active in organizing activities for skaters, including seminars and ice dance sessions, fundraising (which all goes back into the sport) and other social activities. And we also produce this newsletter that not only keeps you informed about what we do but also what goes on around the skating world. You would seriously not have these things if it wasn't for the club.

The membership fee is \$30 for new members and \$20 for renewals. For enquiries please contact Kim on 9580 7003 or [kwillyau@dodo.com.au](mailto:kwillyau@dodo.com.au).

## Rink Rules

The Figure Session rules have been redrafted and copies of these are available from Jack in the box (who takes your money or clips your card when you enter the rink).

In particular new policy to note is cancelled lessons. In many industries if you don't give 24 hours notice of cancellation of a lesson you will be charge for that lesson. This is something that is going to be implemented with our coaches and we need everyone to be aware of it.

## Second Hand Goods

The club has a wide range of second hand skating goods in the club room, including boots and skating costumes.

If you would like to have a look at what is available please see a committee member who can show you what is available.

## Tracksuits

Club tracksuits have been put on hold until after we have decided on the new club logo. However we can still take orders – you just won't get your tracksuit for a couple of months.

## Rink Problem Website

To help keep people informed about what has been happening with rink developments I have set up a website. It is often difficult to find information about what has happened with rink closures and proposals over the years and I have aimed to include as many articles and pieces of information as possible. The website is at [www.geocities.com/victoria\\_rinks](http://www.geocities.com/victoria_rinks).

### **And just something to make you realize what our sport is about ....**

*I found this quote from a news article about Vadim Naumov, former Russian World Champion pairs skater in 1994 and now a coach in the US. I really thought this quote from the article summed up our sport very well.*

"We're not naturally made to do what we do on skates. You're balancing on a metal plate a third of an inch wide, doing tricks that even while standing on your feet would not be possible – while moving as fast as a sprinter, being graceful, and delivering emotion, all at the same time."

Any wonder we sometimes find it so hard!!!

## School Holiday Programme

*During January another School Holiday programme was held to help skaters with their development. This time we had groups for Preliminary and Elementary Skaters and Senior Skaters. And on the Saturday before we had a session for the Adults.*

*Alex Dillon has kindly written a report for the newsletter. Thanks Alex.*

During the school holidays I went to the skaters development program which was held at the Olympic rink and at other places where we did off ice activities. There were two groups. The first group was Elementary and above and the other group was Aussie Skate to Elementary. I was really looking forward to it and on the first day woke up at 5.30 ready to go. Mum was really happy about this!

We worked on lots of things to help us become better skaters.

The first day we worked with Julie-Anne's friend Barbara from Tasmania who helped us to learn how to get into character. We pretended to be trees!! We also had a music session and a group session on moving our whole bodies to music.

Each morning before and after ice training we learnt to stretch and warm-up with Karolina.

I really enjoyed working on putting a program together with Trevor and Julieanne. We did a flamenco program and went to a belly dancing studio with mirrors so we could see ourselves move.

On the last day we performed our programs we had worked really hard on together, with other skaters in front of our parents who were very proud of us.

On the fourth day we did toe pick work and stroking with Trevor and Russell who worked us very hard. The following day we worked with a rhythmic gymnast who stretched us in every direction. Alice and I needed to have a long spa when we got home.

She also talked to us about what foods to eat and drink during training and competitions to help us to stay fit. Unfortunately McDonalds was not on the list!

I really enjoyed the program and really liked being able to spend lots of time with all the other skaters. We had fun and got to know each other better.

Thanks to Wendy, Julie-Anne and all the parents for running the program, feeding us, driving us around and giving us the training to help us be the best skaters we can be.

*Alex D*

# Ice Skating Victoria Competition and Event Calendar

Here is the competition calendar for this year. Please note that dates and times may be subject to change. We will advise closer to the events.

The first test session is on Saturday March 15<sup>th</sup>. Let Wendy know as soon as possible if you plan to do a test.

| Date & Time  | Event  | Rink     | Divisions/Special Features  | Club  |
|--|--|----------|---|-------|
| Sat March 15 <sup>th</sup><br>12.30pm                      | Test Day   | Oakleigh |   | OFDC  |
| Sat-Sun,<br>March 21 <sup>st</sup> -24 <sup>th</sup>       | Olympic Trophy and Artistic Cup – National Competition         | Oakleigh | Aussie Skate, Technical & Freeskating, plus Artistic – see Announcement | OFDC  |
| Fri, Sat & Sun<br>April 25 <sup>th</sup> -27 <sup>th</sup> | Dragon City Trophy & Sun Loong Artistic                        | Bendigo  |   | ISCB  |
| Sat May 24 <sup>th</sup>                                   | Skate Bendigo & Test Day                                       | Bendigo  | Standard ISV Competition Format<br>**Note 1                             | ISCB  |
| Fri, Sat & Sun<br>June 6 <sup>th</sup> -9 <sup>th</sup>    | Hollins Trophy – National Competition                          | NSW      | See Announcement  | ISV   |
| Sat June 7 <sup>th</sup> at<br>12.30pm                     | Test Day   | Oakleigh |   | OFDC  |
| Sat June 7 <sup>th</sup> at<br>4.30pm                      | OFDC Fun Skate   | Oakleigh | Standard ISV Competition Format<br>**Note 1                             | OFDC  |
| Sun June 8 <sup>th</sup> at<br>12.30pm                     | Test Day (including Dance Tests)                               | Oakleigh |   | OFDC  |
| Mon June 9 <sup>th</sup> – All<br>Day                      | Masters Cup & Adult Interpretive Trophy – National Competition | Oakleigh | Adult Interpretive Competition – Minimum Age 20 – See Announcement      | KDISC |
| Sat & Sun<br>July 12 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup>       | Victorian State Championships & Southern Cross Trophy          | Bendigo  | See Announcement  | ISV   |
| Sun Aug 3 <sup>rd</sup>                                    | Skate Bendigo – ISV National Squad                             | Bendigo  | Standard ISV Competition Format<br>**Note 1                             | ISCB  |
| August   | Australian National Championships                              |          | See Announcement  | ISV   |
| Sat Oct 4 <sup>th</sup> at<br>12.30pm                      | Test Day   | Oakleigh |   | OFDC  |
| Sat Oct 4 <sup>th</sup> at 4.30pm                          | OFDC Fun Skate   | Oakleigh | Standard ISV Competition Format<br>**Note 1                             | OFDC  |
| Sat Oct 18 <sup>th</sup> at<br>4.30pm                      | Skate Bendigo & Test Day                                       | Bendigo  | Standard ISV Competition Format<br>**Note 1                             | ISCB  |
| Sat Oct 25 <sup>th</sup> at<br>4.30pm                      | Adult Fun Skate  | Oakleigh | Adult Interpretive Competition – Minimum Age 20 – See Announcement      | OFDC  |
| Sat Nov 22 <sup>nd</sup> at<br>12.30pm                     | Test Day   | Oakleigh |   | OFDC  |
| Sat Nov 22 <sup>nd</sup> at<br>4.30pm                      | OFDC Fun Skate   | Oakleigh | Standard ISV Competition Format<br>**Note 1                             | OFDC  |
| Sun Nov 23 <sup>rd</sup>                                   | Test Day (including Dance Tests)                               | Oakleigh |   | OFDC  |
| Sat Dec 6 <sup>th</sup>                                    | ISCB Christmas Break up  | Bendigo  |   |       |
| Sat Dec 13 <sup>th</sup> at 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 website at [www.isa.org.au](http://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 competitions are reminded that entries must be submitted through ISV.

# International Skating News

*The International skating scene has been incredibly busy, with a number of events and also a number of fantastic performances. Of course you can view clips of them on Youtube and some of the events may be shown on Foxtel. I have a copy of Eurosport coverage of the Europeans which I can copy for people on DVD (the coverage is much more extensive than what was shown on Foxtel). Cost is \$4 per disc.*

*To wet your appetite I have written a summary of these events to highlight the performances that are really rocking the skating world. Before that though, here are the remaining international events for this skating season to look out for.*

|                |   |                    |
|----------------|---|--------------------|
| 25 Feb - 2 Mar | World Junior Figure Skating Championships | Sofia, Bulgaria    |
| 17 - 23 Mar    | World Figure Skating Championships        | Gothenburg, Sweden |
| 28 - 30 Mar    | World Synchronized Skating Championships  | Budapest, Hungary  |

## Canadian Nationals

Canada is such a strong skating country and from their nationals they will be sending a team to Worlds that are bound to challenge for medals.

Patrick Chan I think has been the highlight for me this season. I loved his performances in the Grand Prix Series but his long programme at Canadian Nationals was just sublime. He won the mens event with a flawless performance that had the crowd standing on it's feet towards the end. This guy has the most amazing edges you will ever see on skater – his blades flow across the ice without effort. He won the mens event, putting defending Jeffrey Buttle into second place. Jeff skated well but Patrick skated even better.

Joannie Rochette again won the ladies events. Even though her performances in the long and short programmes may have had some problems, overall she is a great example of maturity, attack and presentation that you can only admire.

The pairs had an upset with Langlois & Hay taking the title, upsetting the defending champions of Dube & Davidson.

For the dance the favourites were Virtue & Moir and they easily capture their first national title. These two have skated together since childhood and this really shows in their performances, as well as beautiful skating skills and quality ice dancing.

## US Nationals

This year's event will be remembered for two things:

- Firstly the winners in two events will not be able to go to Worlds because of age restrictions.
- Secondly the men's event was overshadowed by controversy due to a tie for first place (which I don't think has happened before).

The pairs event was won by McLaughlin & Brubaker. She is only 15 years old which means they are too young to go to Worlds. And he is too old for them to go to Junior Worlds. So the US Nationals was basically their World Championship. They are beautiful to watch and put together a strong performance to gain their first national title.

The ice dance title was retained by Belbin & Agosto, after a strong challenge from Davis & White who took the silver. After a disappointing season last year, they have come back with an entertaining original dance and beautiful freedance which will give them a good chance of again medalling at worlds.

The ladies saw a whole bunch of new faces reach the podium. And from what I saw it was a cracker of an event. The title was won by last year's Junior champion Mirai Nagasu. This was only her second time competing at a senior event but she handled it extremely well. Lovely

performances in both short and long to get first place. Second went to Rachel Flatt. This girl has wonderful personality and presentation on the ice, with a beautiful long programme. However the first two placegetters, due to their age, will not be able to go to Worlds. In third place was Ashley Wagner – a very strong skater who like the others delivered great programmes. The mens event again came down to a battle between Johnny Weir and Evan Lysacek. At the very end the results were tied with 244.77 points each. Lysacek won due to the higher placement in the freeski (which breaks a tie). But both skated very well to challenge for the title.

## **European Championships**

The European Championships were held during the same week as the US Nationals so the attention of figure skating fans was focussed on both sides of the Atlantic. The ice dancing has really been my personal highlight with so many great freedances.

The Pairs event was totally dominated by Savcheko & Skolkowy. The German pair are probably the most refined and polished team in the world at the moment, and even with flaws were still the best overall. Really beautiful to watch and a class act.

The Mens event was won for the first time by Thomas Verner from Czechoslovakia. He performed very well and is really a great all round skater. Stephane Lambiel took the silver medal and Brian Joubert the bronze.

The Ice Dance is my personal favourite and there is something about this year's competition that is seeing creative and interesting programmes. Domnina & Shabalin from Russia are this year's champions. He only had a knee operation a few weeks before this event but you wouldn't have known to watch him skate. They skated amazingly.

For the ladies event, it wasn't a mistake free event. In fact there were probably too many mistakes. But it was a close result. Carolina Kostner from Italy won her second championship, but was nearly pipped by Switzerland's Sarah Meier. If Sarah has just gotten the salchow in the short programme the title would have been hers. In third was a young Finnish skater Laura Lepisto, who may not have had all the triples, but certainly gave a good quality skate to take the bronze medal.

## **Four Continents Championships**

If you are not aware of this event, it is basically for all those countries who don't compete at Europeans. It could almost be called the AAAAs – representing the Americas, Africa, Asia and of course Australia!! I have not had a chance to watch much of this event on Youtube as it only happened this past week but here is a summary of the placements.

In the Pairs, the event was dominated by the Chinese, with Pang & Tong taking the championships, followed by the Zhangs. Third place went to Castille & Okolski from the US. Ice Dance was a battle between the Candians and USA. Two of the best young teams in the world battled it out for the top spot. Virtue & Moir of Canada proved why they are potential world medallists this year by taking the title, followed by the US team of Davis & White. Third was Navarro & Bommentre from the US.

Unfortunately the favourite Yu-Na Kim from Korea was unable to compete due to injury (we hope that she will be okay for Worlds). However it was a class field, with the title going to Mao Asada from Japan. Joannie Rochette from Canada skated extremely well to the silver medal and third was Miki Ando from Japan.

The highlight of the 4CCs was Daisuke Takahashi from Japan. He blew away the rest of the men's event. That is not to say the rest of the men didn't skate well, it was just he was superb. He achieved a world record score with his performances. I did see both his short and long programmes on Youtube and they are well worth watching. Athleticism and musicality all rolled into one. You could say his short programme rocks!!

Jeffery Buttle from Canada skated very well to take the silver and third went to Evan Lysacek of the US.

## **In Memory of Christopher Bowman**

The skating world recently lost one of its stars with the death of Christopher Bowman. Bowman was US Champion and World medallist around the end of the 80s/early 90s. With an incredible charisma, he was one of the most entertaining skaters to perform on the world stage. Bowman was a child actor who took up skating at the age of five. He is renowned for being one of the most naturally gifted skaters, however he never lived up to his full potential because drug problems and bad training habits (see kids – don't do drugs!). If you look for his clips on Youtube you can see why he was so highly regarded but also why skating fans loved him.

*Okay this is not skating related but I found this ice sports related item and got a chuckle out of it and thought I would share it.*

### **Bon Jovi, the Boss considered for curling reality show: report** ***Monday, February 11, 2008 CBS Sports Website***

Sex, drugs, guitars — and curling?

The Toronto Star reported Monday that NBC has acquired exclusive rights to launch 10 episodes of a proposed television show called *Rockstar Curling*.

Bruce Springsteen and Jon Bon Jovi, apparently closet curlers, are among the megastar rockers being courted to host it.

Citing unnamed sources, the Star said the two rock stars are among a group of entertainment types who rent arena time on occasion to pick up brooms instead of guitars.

Organizers are trying to negotiate a deal to get one of them involved in the proposed show, possibly as a host.

The series' winners could wind up with a berth at the U.S. championships and perhaps at the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver.

The concept was developed in partnership with a New York-based sports marketing firm, mktpartners, the newspaper said.

"The sport of curling is clutter-free compared to mainstream American sports sponsorship," Colin Campbell, Canadian president of mktpartners, told the Star. "Rockstar Curling is an excellent opportunity for brands to capture the attention of consumers, leading up to the Olympics."

Curling was a surprise hit for NBC during the last two Winter Olympics, once getting better ratings than an NHL playoff game at the same time the following day.

The show would begin with nationwide tryouts, continue with the 10 chosen contestants receiving six months of free training in Lake Placid, N.Y., and conclude with the Olympic trials in February 2009, according to the Star.