



Newsletter of the Olympic Figure & Dance Club July-August 2007

Associations Registered Number: A0012443U

June and July have been a couple of busy months. The Queens Birthday weekend hosted test sessions, a Fun Skate and the Masters Cup. July featured our most important state event on the calendar – the State Championships and Southern Cross Trophy.

The next competition relevant to us all is Skate Bendigo on Sunday August 5th. But the major event on Australia's skating calendar is the National Championships which will be held in Newcastle from August 17th to 26th. We wish all our skaters taking part in this prestigious event the best of luck.

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. Contributions for the newsletter are most welcome. Email me on kwillyau@dodo.com.au. I would love to hear from you and value having lots of diverse information to share around.

Please check our website for the full Victorian Results and Protocols – the address is at the bottom of this newsletter

Blades of Glory Fundraiser



Thanks to all of you who came along our special Blades of Glory fundraiser. A fun night was had by those who attended and it was well supported with almost 80 people coming along and over \$200 raised for the club.

If you do miss seeing the movie at the cinema, the DVD will be coming out in September/October.

Speaking of fundraising, the club will also be doing some fundraising to assist our club members to go to Nationals – Wendy will send out an email later on as to what we will be doing. Read on further as there are some guidelines the club has developed in this regard.

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

Wendy (OFDC stuff) - meik@bigpond.com
Kim (Newsletter stuff) - kwillyau@dodo.com.au
Carmel (ISV stuff) - cardel@alphalink.com.au

Some important Club news

There are a couple of issues that the club would like to draw your attention to. They are very important and affect the identity of the club in future.

Firstly we are considering a name change for the club. It is considered that the name Olympic Figure and Dance Club is a bit out of date (and also when you talk to media they never get the name right). We feel that something a bit simpler and straight forward will move the club in the right direction in future.

Now we cannot undertake this name change without a vote of the members and this is where you as club members play a role.

At the AGM which will take place in November, we will be putting forward a resolution to change the club name. A couple of options are Olympic Ice Skating Club or Olympic Figure Skating Club. However if you are interested in this issue you will have a chance to have a say on the matter.

We will make proxy votes available to members if they are unable to attend the meeting. But we would encourage all members to come along to the meeting and have their say in person. Hey it is also a good opportunity to get to know who is who and how the committee runs. You may even consider nominating to be on the Committee for the next year and it would be good to get some new faces on it.

The other thing for members to be aware of is the Club has a constitution, which are basically the rules of the club. This is another item that is currently being looked at for updating. It is also something that all club members are entitled to have access to and the future aim is to have it available on the website later in the year when it has been updated.

As future developments happen we will keep you informed. But in the meantime feel free to ask questions and also consider coming to the AGM in November.

Figure Skating Guidelines

In our series of reminders about figure sessions, it would be timely leading into Nationals that we ask all skaters to be aware of the more senior skaters who will be competing at this event. As these skaters need to be able to run through their programmes without interruptions, all other skaters are reminded to please watch out and move out of the way for them. And if parents can please keep an eye on their younger children during the figure sessions, it would be most appreciated if they can help out in this regard too by making their children aware of this.

In the couple of weeks immediately preceding Nationals too, our representative skaters will have priority with the music system. Unless a skater is in a lesson with a coach, then the state representatives should be given the opportunity to play their music if need be.

Ice Dancing Sessions

We have had a few enquiries about the ice dancing sessions. These will be recommencing in October once the ice hockey season has finished. They will most likely be held on Sunday afternoons at 12.30pm to 2pm.

The session will include a group lesson by one of our dance professionals.

For those doing Synchronised skating these sessions will be of great benefit as many of the edges utilised in Synchro skating come from ice dance. So all Synchro skaters should take the opportunity to add this to their skating training.

News from the Committee

With a recent committee meeting, the following items were discussed. These items concern all club members so please read thoroughly.

Assistance for Skaters going to Nationals

As you may be aware the club helps skaters financially with attending Nationals and Hollins Trophy.

From next financial year (which starts on October 1st), we have implemented some guidelines that will require skaters to fulfill to be considered for this support.

Firstly skaters must become a financial member of the club (that is renew their membership) by 30th November this year.

Secondly we ask skaters to participate in a club nominated activity. These activities include:

- Judging Aussie Skate competitions
- Exhibitions at club competitions
- Volunteering at competitions
- Performing in the Christmas Show (Mandatory unless there are exceptional circumstances)

Skaters must participate in at least two of these activities.

These guidelines do not apply to this forthcoming Nationals but will apply from next year onwards.

Skaters will be reimbursed after Nationals by completing the Application for Financial Assistance form.

Memberships

For the next financial year, our club membership fee will remain at \$20. However we will require all skaters to renew their memberships by 30 November, 2007. This is to cover skaters for their public liability insurance for the end of year Christmas Show.

Skaters who do not renew their memberships by this date will be required to pay \$25 to rejoin the club.

Please be aware though for any skaters who intend to compete in the remaining competitions for this year, after 1st October you will need to renew both your OFDC membership and ISV memberships.

Christmas Show

Our annual End of Year Christmas Show is happening again. The date will be Saturday 15th December so put it in your diaries now.

This year we will be having a theme – Las Vegas. This means programmes should be based around songs and themes from Las Vegas. However this encompasses a wide range of ideas so there will be plenty to choose from.

For solo skaters (Nationals representatives and invited skaters), programmes will have a time limit of 2 minutes 30 seconds. Also your ideas for music need to be run by the organizing committee to make sure they are keeping in with the theme of the show. If you are not sure then please ask and we can help with suggestions.

There will also be groups numbers organized so don't worry if you don't think there will be something for you. The show is for all skaters to participate in so if you are not sure ask and we can point you in the right direction. We particularly want to see our young Aussie Skate skaters being involved and Cherry is organizing a number specifically for the adults.

Rehearsals will start once the hockey season is over and there is ice time available. This year we will need to charge a \$20 fee to participate in the show which will go towards the cost of running it.

So get your thinking caps on and get excited. We really want to have a great show this year.

2007 Victorian State Championships and Southern Cross Trophy

The weekend of 7th and 8th July saw the annual State Championships head up to Bendigo. Again the International Judging System was used for the second time for Pre-Primary levels and above and any kinks that occurred last year were smoothed over this year (and having done the data entry I was quite pleased with how quickly we got the marks into the computer on the second day). What was good was to see skaters getting used to the judging system and working their programmes around it. It is still a learning experience for us all but we are getting there.

The Southern Cross Trophy saw good entries in the Preliminary and Elementary Divisions. Two Synchronized teams competed for their first time – Kinetix in Open Division and Dynamix in Adult. It was first time we had an Adult team taking part in States and they have earned a place in the National team to take part in the National Championships in August. So well done to Dynamix.

The Victorian Team going to Nationals are:

- Senior Ladies – Daniella Romeo
- Junior Ladies – Simone Sheehan
- Novice Ladies – Rachelle Williams
- Intermediate Ladies – Claire Bryan, Adele Morrison, Chelsea Fitzpatrick
- Intermediate Men – Andrew Taylor
- Primary Ladies – Cassidy-Rae Browell
- Adult Synchronized - Dynamix

We wish all the above skaters the best luck for the forthcoming Nationals.

2007 Victorian Championships Results

Senior Ladies

1. Daniella Romeo OFDC

Junior Ladies

1. Simone Sheehan OFDC

Novice Ladies

1. Bethany Macleod OFDC
2. Rachelle Williams OFDC

Intermediate Ladies

1. Claire Bryan ISCB
2. Adele Morrison OFDC
3. Chelsea Fitzpatrick ISCB

4. Christie Johnston OFDC
5. Yvonne Shubart OFDC

Intermediate Mens

1. Andrew Taylor KISS

Pre-Primary Ladies

1. Katherine Molnar OFDC
2. Alice Stephenson ISCB
3. Lisa Gulley OFDC

Adult Synchronized

1. Dynamix OFDC

2007 Southern Cross Trophy Results

Open Synchronized Event

1. Kinetix OFDC

Adult Synchronized

1. Dynamix OFDC

Aussie Skate - Basic

1. Emma Duncan ISCB

Aussie Skate - Intermediate

1. Trevi Leader ISCB
2. Erin Taylor ISCB
3. Natasha-May Jeffery OFDC

Aussie Skate - Free Skate 1

1. Bailey McKenzie OFDC
2. Bella-Rose Campbell ISCB

Aussie Skate - Free Skate 2

1. Anne Sophie Schlegel OFDC
2. Tiffani Jeffery OFDC
3. Danielle Pyatt ISCB

Pre-preliminary Ladies & Mens

1. Alex Dillon OFDC
2. Stephanie McCandless OFDC
3. Alicia Ruberto OFDC

Preliminary Ladies

1. Kayla Erzetic OFDC
2. Amy Brunda OFDC
3. Annabelle Freeman OFDC
4. Sarah Pamment OFDC
5. Yasmin Ghanem OFDC
6. Morgan Clohesy ISCB

Elementary Ladies

1. Rachel Wood OFDC
2. Nicole Bateson OFDC
3. Jacqueline McLeod ISCB
4. Anahi Martinez OFDC
5. Jessica Du Lake OFDC
6. Sarah Norris ISCB

Adult Ladies

1. Xenia Shaw OFDC



Again Docklands Winter Wonderland was a great success. Again skating's profile was raised and thanks to all those skaters who did demonstrations and participated in the television coverages. If anyone has recorded any of the TV coverages, the club would appreciate getting a copy. The aim would be to edit it and then put in on Youtube for everyone to see.

Please email me if you can help with this.

Below is a photo of the Kinetix team with the Lord Mayor of Melbourne, John So. Mayor So really got into the spirit of the occasion, even becoming friends with Mark the Moose.



Victorian Competition and Test Calendar for 2007

Skate Bendigo is the next competition. This will be a final chance for National Representative Skaters to run through their programmes in a competition environment so we would encourage all skaters who are going to Nationals to take advantage of this opportunity.

Date & Time	EVENT	RINK	DIVISIONS/SPECIAL FEATURES	ENTRY TO
Sunday August 5 th at 11am	SKATE BENDIGO - ISV National Squad	Bendigo	Standard ISV Competition Format ** Note 1	ISCB
August 17 th -26 th	Aust National Championship	NSW	See Announcement	ISV
Saturday, 6 th October	OFDC Fun Skate	Oakleigh	Standard ISV Competition 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 Competition 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 Competition 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.

Test Sessions

There have been quite a number of tests with many skaters earning passes. It showed that all the hard work paid off. The club congratulates:

- Andrew Taylor - Primary
- Nicole Bateson – Elementary 1 Pattern and Elements
- Jacinta Adams – Elementary 1 Pattern and Elements
- Nicole Adams – Elementary 1 Elements
- Sarah Field – Preliminary
- Tory Brewster – Preliminary
- Dawn Teh – Preliminary
- Stephen Walden – Preliminary
- Linda Lancaster – Tango (Novice Dance) – 2 dances to complete test
- Wendy Meik – European Waltz (Primary Dance) – 1 dance to complete test
- Kim Wilson – European Waltz, Foxtrot (Primary Dance) – 2 dances to complete test
- Justine Browne – Elementary 2 Dance (Fiesta Tango and Swing Dance)

Results of OFDC Fun Skate 9th June 2007

Aussie-Skate - Tiny Tots

1. Dorina Zeltsman

Aussie-Skate - Basic - U9

1. Elana Ganieva
2. Indigo Erez

Aussie-Skate - Basic - U10

1. Tremayne Bevan
2. Alexandra Mozhyna

Aussie-Skate - Basic - 10+

1. Lana Callaway
2. Stephanie Grant
3. Hannah O'Brien

Aussie-Skate - Novice - U7

1. Natasha Jeffrey

Aussie-Skate - Novice - U10 Group 1

1. Zack O'Grady
2. Grace Han
3. Alexandra Szuster

Aussie-Skate - Novice - U10 Group 2

1. Tava Hazan
2. Taylah Page
3. Gabriella Szuster

Aussie-Skate - Novice - 10+

1. Veronica Levedev
2. Jessika D;Ambra
3. Anita Zeltsman

Aussie-Skate - Intermediate

1. Maria Severin
2. Stephanie Orn
3. Annabelle Chin Quan

Aussie-Skate - Stroking

1. Jasmine Thompson
2. Claudia Lau
3. Eliza Sabbatucci

Aussie-Skate - Freeskating Level 1 - U12

1. Remi Meleka
2. Tiffani Jeffrey
3. Bailey McKenzie

Aussie-Skate - Freeskating Level 1 - 12+

1. Jenni McLaren
2. Daisy Masterman
3. Anna Moore

Aussie-Skate - Freeskating Level 2

1. Anne Sophie Schlegel
2. Casey Evans

Pre-Primary Ladies - Short

1. Alice Stephenson

Adult Silver

1. Stewart Marshall

Adult Gold

1. Xenia Shaw
2. Jason Yu

Solo Dance – Dutch Waltz & Canasta Tango

1. Kim Wilson

Pre-Preliminary

1. Aimee Le Fevre
2. Roman Zethovan

Preliminary

1. Yasmin Ghanam
2. Annabelle Freeman

Pre-Primary Ladies - Long

1. Alice Stephenson

Adult Proficiency

1. Tonia Walker
2. Michelle Barry

Adult Bronze

1. Linda Nierhoff

Artistic D - Adult

1. Kim Wilson
2. Nathan Young
3. Stewart Marshall
4. Julie Champion

Artistic A

1. Annabelle Freeman
2. Summer Carlson
3. Maneka Ladharam
4. Juniper Rogers

Artistic B

1. Alice Stephenson

Artistic Duo

1. Abba – Nobby Doi & Jasmine Humphreys

National Calendar

Here is the current National Calendar for your interest. The most important event comes up in August – the Australian National Championships. But the other events listed are open for interstate skaters to compete.

Again it is worthwhile mentioning the Reg Park Artistic Trophy and Federation Challenge, which will be held on the last weekend of September and 1st October. It would be great if this year we could get a team of skaters together to attend this event. Having been to the event the previous two years, if you have any questions about it I am more than happy to answer them.

If you plan to compete in an interstate event that you need to put your entries through ISV. Carmel Morrison is the person to see about this. She is at the rink quite a bit but also here email address is listed in this newsletter.

Dates	State	Event
18 th -25 th August	NSW	Australian National Championships
Sat & Sun, 29 th & 30 th Sept	ACT	National Federation Challenge - Aussie Skate to Pre-Primary (Open to Interstate Competitors)
Monday 1 st October	ACT	Reg Park Artistic (Open to Interstate Competitors)
Sun & Mon, 21 st & 22 nd October	NSW	MIRA (Artistic Competition) (Open to Interstate Competitors)
Sun & Mon, 27 th & 28 th October	NSW	M J S Trophy (Open to Interstate Competitors)
Sunday 11 th November	NSW	Rubina Doolan Trophy & NSW Artistic Comp
Sunday 25 th November	WA	Les Latham Trophy
January 21 st -25 th 2008	QLD	Summer Trophy(Open to Interstate Competitors)

Just some bits and pieces of useful stuff

Ice Skating Australia

If you are looking for information about our National skating scene, then check out the Ice Skating Australia website. It importantly has information about the technical requirements for the various divisions and also tests.

The website is at www.isa.org

SkateWeb – a Reference website for Figure Skating

This website has been running for many years now and is one of the most comprehensive reference sites on the internet. It does not so much provide information as point you in the right direction with plenty of links, from forthcoming and past events, links to your favourite skater's websites to online skating shops.

www.jalie.com/catalog/sports/figureskating.html

Forum for Australian skaters

There is a forum for Australian skating. It covers a wide range of skating issues and anyone is welcome to join. Go to the website at:

<http://ozskas.forumsplace.com/index.html>

The Agony and the Ecstasy!

After her dance test last December, Linda Lancaster underwent surgery on her ankle. She has written up something in the newsletter about her experience.

Following an arthroscopy on my left ankle on 4th Dec 06, I've been through many ups and downs. It's been an amazing journey (so hard at times, but worthwhile) ...

From this



to this in 6 months



Some special thanks are needed.

Firstly to my dear John who looked after me so well; helping me get about at the beginning, to helping me have a wash, cooking and cleaning. My friend Sandra kindly came and stayed for a couple of days the first week and it was so nice to have someone there when you can't put weight on the foot or get about very well. She did the washing and potted plants and kept me company when I was awake. The second week John was amazing - leaving me stocked with breakfast and lunch, water and coffee, before he rushed off to work in the mornings.

When I first came back to skating John Austin was such a great help in "holding me up", encouraging me and helping regain the strength, and trust in the ankle. It was a strange feeling to put weight on your leg and feel that it might not hold you up, or to push off with it and have no "push" as the muscle (and power) and withered away. He was so patient working with me on basic steps for so long, when he could have been off having "fun" (jumping, with Jonathan). Also, at the beginning of this year, Wendy Meik and Anna Moore helped by "holding my hand" and practising simple drills with me time and time again.

And to Duncan Smart & Russell Marshall – how can I thank them enough for getting me prepared so well for my Test in June. We pushed the ankle pretty hard at times and I'm sure Russell didn't believe me when I would say "I can't do that, it hurts". (I suppose I can't use that excuse so much any more). About five weeks before the Test the ankle "locked up" and wouldn't bend – rather a frightening occurrence when you need to bend to skate. To my horror the Physio instructed me to "ease back for a few weeks". "Ease back! How can I ease back, I've got a Test in five weeks!" I said. And his calm reply ... "Well, if you don't ease back, you won't be doing your Test".

So we eased back a bit (well Duncan & I, I'm not sure if Russell understands that notion) and we "managed" the ankle well enough to get through.

To have gone from not being able to walk in Dec 06, to dancing the Tango as well as I did in June 07, meant that all the pain and hard work was worthwhile.

So thanks to everyone for their encouragement, and sharing the highs and helping me through the lows. Now, after having a week off after the Test, the ankle settled right down and it's onwards and upwards. (But remember Russell it still needs some TLC, or was that, I need some TLC).