

November 2014 NEWSLETTER

Our sincere apologies for the delay getting this newsletter out to you. It's been a busy time behind the scenes and, as usual, we are all juggling work commitments as well as trying to meet our commitments to you, our members. Unfortunately, sometimes this means, we just don't manage to get everything done as soon as we had hoped to.

There is a lot to celebrate in this newsletter, and I am sure you will join us in congratulating our skaters who competed at the Junior Grand Prix competitions and at the New Zealand Ice Figure Skating Championships. We'd also like to extend our best wishes to all our skaters who will be competing in the Australian Figure Skating Championships in Brisbane 28 November – 5 December.

RESULTS FROM INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

Listed below are the results from the International Competitions that our skaters have competed at since our last newsletter.

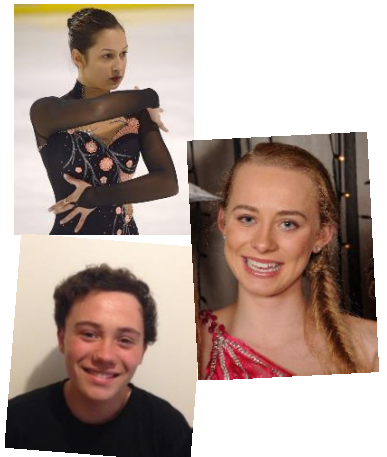
Junior Grand Prix, Courchevel, France, August 20-24

Junior Ladies	Preeya Laud	22 nd SP	22 nd FS	22 nd overall
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Junior Grand Prix, Aichi, Japan, September 10-14

Junior Ladies	Tracy Danbrook	25 th SP	25 th FS	25 th overall
Junior Men	Michael Durham	20 th SP	19 th FS	20 th overall

Sandra Williamson-Leadley attended the Junior Grand Prix in Japan as a Referee for the Junior Men's grade.



NEW ZEALAND ICE FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS DUNEDIN 9-12 OCTOBER

Our National championships are the pinnacle event of our skating calendar and were a great success, with much of the credit for this going to Sue Hoseit, Morgan & Chris Templeton and their small band of assistants. We'd like to extend a sincere thank you to the organisers, officials and volunteers for making it such a successful event.

Congratulations to all those who participated. While not everyone can come away with a medal, just getting to our National Championships is an achievement in itself and you should all be very proud of that achievement. All the results can be found on the Competitions section of the NZIFSA website <http://www.nzifsa.org.nz/competitions/>.

Next year the hosts are the North Island Ice Skating Sub Association. The proposed dates we are looking at are Thursday 24 September – Sunday 27 September. Confirmation of these dates is subject to there being sufficient ice time available on the days in question at Paradise Botany. We hope to be able to confirm those dates for you very soon.

SELECTIONS FROM THE 2014 NEW ZEALAND ICE FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Provisional announcement of selection of representative skaters and those that had made the development squads was made at the banquet following the completion of the standard grades at the National Championships and the confirmed selections are listed below.

Selection of International Representative Skaters

The following skaters have met the NZIFSA criteria to be eligible for selection to represent New Zealand at International Competitions

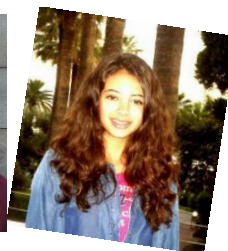
Senior Ladies

Allie Rout



Junior Dance

Claudia Riley & Patrick Costley



Selection of International B Team Representative Skaters

The International B Team provides an opportunity for a further group of skaters to gain experience at international competitions. Originally, when the idea of an unfunded B Team was introduced, it was only for international competitions held in New Zealand. Over the last few years the policy has been amended so that these skaters are eligible to attend any international competitions where the number of spaces available to New Zealand in any grade exceeds the number of selected International Representatives.

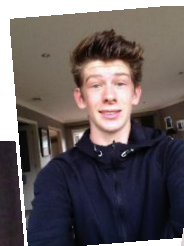
Novice Basic Ladies

Abbey Heale



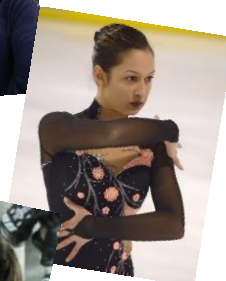
Novice Men

Harrison Bain



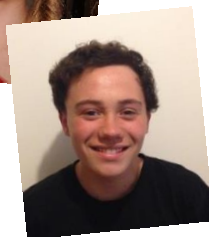
Junior Ladies

Tracy Danbrook
Brooke Tamepo
Preeya Laud



Junior Men

Michael Durham



Senior Ladies

Morgan Templeton



In addition to the above, the following two skaters have been named to the International B team subject to them getting medical clearance and monitoring by a suitably qualified judge to attest to them being able to achieve the required TES. Both these skaters had applied for an exemption under section 9 of the Selection policy to be considered for selections when they had been unable to compete at Nationals due to injury.

Senior Ladies

Madelaine Parker
Sarah MacGibbon



Selection of Skaters for the Australian Figure Skating Championships

The following skaters have met our selection criteria to compete at the 2014 Australian Figure Skating Championships. While Ice Skating Australia is not always able to accept all of our skaters to compete, we have received confirmation that they have places available for all those that met our selection criteria.

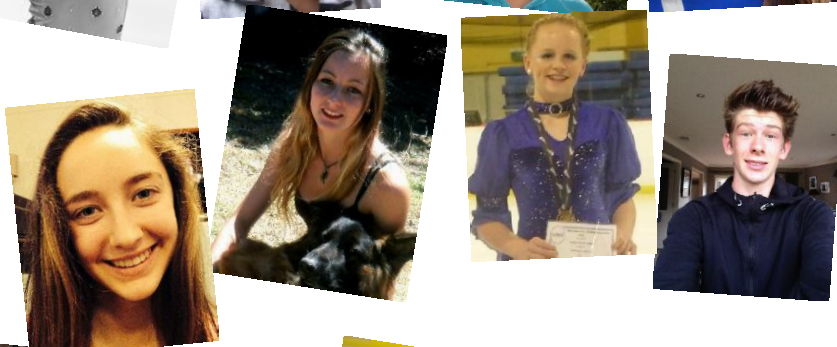
Primary Ladies

Abbey Heale
Pei-Lin Lee
Alicia Denis
Zara Anthony-Whigham



Intermediate Ladies

Sara Reynolds
Charlotte Van Uden



Novice Ladies

Zelda Ladefoged



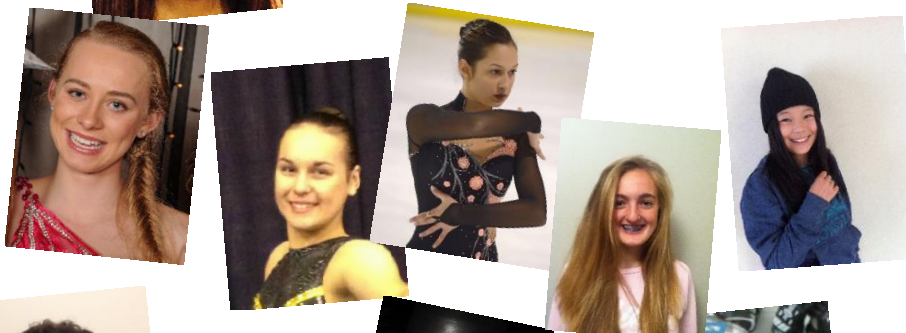
Novice Men

Harrison Bain



Junior Ladies

Tracy Danbrook
Brooke Tamepo
Preeya Laud*
Abbey Miller
Kaho Hirofune



Junior Men

Michael Durham



Senior Ladies

Allie Rout*
Morgan Templeton*



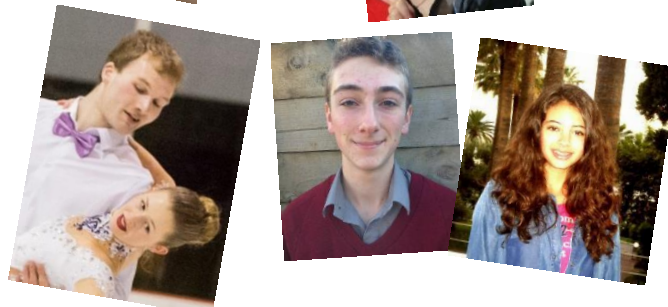
Novice Dance

Chahna Davis & Liam McIver



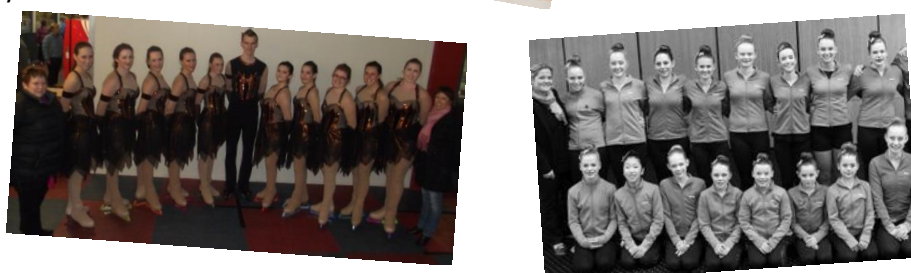
Junior Dance

Anja Noetzel-Hayward & Connor McIver
Claudia Riley & Patrick Costley



Open Synchro

Kia Kaha
Synergice*



*these skaters/teams have not entered the Australian Figure Skating Championships.

In addition to the above the following two skaters are eligible to compete at the Australian Figure Skating Championships subject to medical clearance and monitoring.

Senior Ladies

Madelaine Parker
Sarah MacGibbon*



International Development Squad

The International Development Squad is for the development of those skaters in the Novice, Junior and Senior levels who have met the required TES points. The focus of this development is to prepare the skaters for international competitions, either in the current season or in the future. These skaters are monitored as to their training and performances in order to assist them to achieve at this level. Internationally, age limits rather than test levels dictate the level skaters can compete at. It is for this reason that we include skaters who compete at Junior or Senior who do not make the TES for those grades but are still age eligible for Novice and make the TES for Novice.

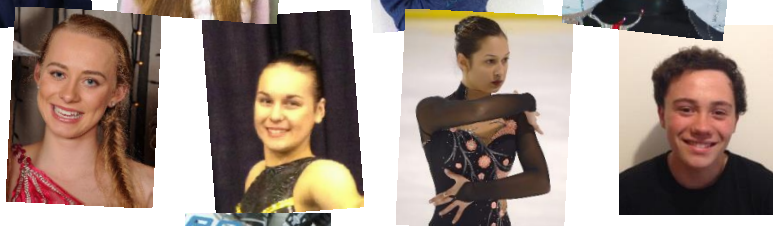
Novice

Harrison Bain
Abbey Miller
Kaho Hirufune
Brian Lee



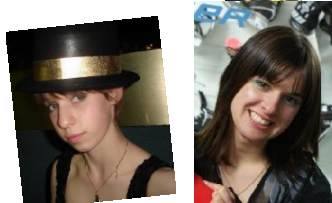
Junior

Tracy Danbrook
Brooke Tamepo
Preeya Laud
Michael Durham



Senior

Allie Rout
Morgan Templeton



Junior Dance

Claudia Riley & Patrick Costley



In addition to the above the following two skaters are named to the International Development Squad subject to medical clearance and monitoring.

Senior Ladies

Madelaine Parker
Sarah MacGibbon



Talent ID/ Age Development Squad

In order to identify and develop skaters who may represent NZ in Australia or internationally in the future, the Talent ID/Age Development Squad was formed. These skaters must meet the TES points and age requirement to be included. This year, for the first time, we have included Pre-Elementary and Elementary skaters in the Talent ID/Age Development Squad, with these skaters being selected at either the North Island or South Island Championships.

Pre-Elementary

Laiken Neaves
Star Richens
Cordelia Shi
Brooke Smith



Elementary

Mirika Armstrong
Grace Greenstreet
Stepan Kadlcik



Juvenile

Laila Bekhit



Primary

Abbey Heale



Novice

Harrison Bain



Congratulations to all skaters who have qualified for selections. Liudmila Kuznetsova, the NZIFSA Development Director, will be in touch regarding plans for the new season ahead.

OTHER IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS MADE AT THE NATIONALS BANQUET

ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR

There were only two nominees for the Administrator of the Year award this year, which was disappointing as we know we have some really great administrators out there in our clubs, but the quality of the two nominees we did have was far from disappointing. The nominees were **Sharyn Booth** (ISS) and **Sam Snoad** (AIFSC). From the applications supporting these nominations these are clearly two outstanding administrators and after much discussion the Board ended up jointly awarding the Administrator of the Year title.

Sharyn has been Test and Competition Secretary for Ice Sports Southland for the past 6 years, Secretary of the Otago-Southland Ice Skating Sub Association and past Secretary for the South Island Ice Skating Sub Association. She's always on hand to help and give advice, plays a key role in the smooth running of ice shows and other events and put her hand up as data replay operator when she realised there was a shortage of these skills in the area. She's friendly, approachable and has a can-do attitude that is a huge asset to the club as a whole. Even though her two daughters have stepped back from competitive skating, Sharyn has continued on in her roles.

Sam just can't say no. She's known for her infectious laugh, the glint in her eye, and her "sure I can do that" response. Sam started out as team manager for her daughter's synchro team. She joined the AIFSC

committee in 2011 and took on the role of fundraising, at which she has been very successful, as well as continuing as team manager for the synchro team and taking on the coordination of the clubs synchronised skating activities. Sam is also there at competitions coordinating all the helpers, helping set up, in the music booth, marshalling timing keeping etc. She worked tirelessly preparing the Disney on Ice program event for the AIFSC skaters. She is also on the North Island Ice Skating Sub Association and turns her hand to any task she is allocated. To each of these roles she brings her fantastic energy and enthusiasm.

SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR

The Board received 5 nominations for this award which is great to see.

Tracy Danbrook (AIFSC) is a committed skate, role model and club member. In addition to her competitive skating she is committed to encouraging new members. She coaches KiwiSkate groups, assisted with the Juvenile sync team and always helps with fundraising activities.

While acknowledging that this award isn't about skating achievement, **Michael Durham** (GFSC) has progressed very quickly through the grades. He has a genuine enthusiasm for all things skating, and is happy to assist others with their skating and to share his knowledge. He is a great ambassador for the sport.

Since 1994, at the age of 3, **Melissa Morris** (ISS) has competed at every ISS club champs (except 2012 when injured). She is always ready to give back to the sport, and has volunteered at KiwiSkate and supervised countless public sessions. She put up her hand to help coach, even though that resulted in her having to forego her judging. She is an outstanding role model for younger skaters, and many of the ISS skaters have often said they want to be just like Melissa when they grow up.

Sasha Seatter (CISC) is relatively new to the sport, but skates singles, dance and synchro. She is described as a good role model and helps with KiwiSkate coaching in Dunedin, where she is currently skating, and brings a very positive attitude with her.

Sabrina Snoad (AIFSC) is an integral part of their Synchro team and is always willing and happy to help and readily volunteers at competitions. She is a fantastic mentor to younger skaters and always takes the time to talk and offer advice.

The Board had a very hard time deciding, but in the end were very pleased to be able to announce that Melissa Morris was appointed as Sportsperson of the Year.

THE ALLCHURCH SHIELD

The Shield is named after Sandy Allchurch and is awarded to the club that gets the highest number of points, based on where their members place in the various grades, at our New Zealand National and Adult Skating Championships. Sandy Allchurch was actively involved in the Association for many years and was at the inaugural meeting in June 1937 of what was, until 2011, the New Zealand Ice Skating Association. Sandy was also Patron for our Association for many years, and was very dedicated to supporting ice skating. Being able to present this award each year is a rather special acknowledgement to Sandy and the contribution that he, and others like him, have made to our sport.

This year it was a very close competition, with WAISC two points ahead of both AIFSC and CISC at the end of the championship events for the standard grades. The final results couldn't be announced at the banquet this year, as the adult grades were to be held the following day. When all the results had been included at the conclusion of the adult grades, the Allchurch Shield was won by Centaurus Ice Skating by a small margin over the West Auckland Ice Skating Club. Well done Centaurus.

Centaurus Ice Skating Club (CISC)	30
West Auckland Ice Skating Club (WAISC)	28
Dunedin Ice Skating Club (DISC)	22
Auckland Ice Figure Skating Club (AIFSC)	21.5
Glenfield Figure Skating Club (GFSC)	12
Allegro Ice Dance Club (AIDC)	8.5
Canterbury Masters Figure Skating Club (CMFSC)	3
Ice Sports Southland (ISS)	1
Alexandra Ice Skating Club (AISC)	0
Queenstown Ice Skating Club (QISC)	0

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

Those skaters named as International Representatives or as part of the International B Team are encouraged to plan ahead what international competitions they want to attend, and should consult with our Skater Development Director, Liudmila Kuznetsova, if they have questions about what competitions are appropriate.

In addition to the international competitions that cater for Advanced Novice to Senior skaters /couples, there are a number including the likes of The Challenge Cup 2015 – Netherlands 18-22 February 1-7 Cup and the Asian Open Figure Skating Trophy – Taipei (likely to be August 2015) that now include Basic Novice A & B which are suitable for our primary skaters that met the B Team criteria.

The International Skating Union (ISU) publishes a list of international competitions in May each year. The competitions for the 2014/15 season can be found in Communication 1864 on the ISU website www.isu.org. While the timing and location of the Junior Grand Prix and the Grand Prix events varies from year to year, many of the other competitions are annual events that are held at the same time each year. This knowledge will hopefully help you with your planning.

THANK YOU TO OUR OUT-GOING ANTI-DOPING OFFICER AND APPOINTMENT OF A NEW ONE

A huge thank you to Jan Christieson for all her work since taking on the role as our Anti-Doping Officer in September 2011. Jan is moving overseas at the end of this week and so has had to step down from this role. We wish her all the very best for the future.



The Board have appointed Wendy Thompson to fill this role until the AGM in 2015. Wendy lives in Christchurch and is an adult skater. Wendy trained as a pharmacist, and although she is not currently practicing, she has a good understanding of the anti-doping requirements and where to find information if you have any questions.

ANTI-DOPING INFORMATION

Drug Free Sport NZ www.drugfreesport.org.nz has resources that we can order to provide you with quick reference guides to common medicines as well as more comprehensive guides. Please contact Wendy Thompson anti-doping@nzifsa.org.nz if you would like copies of any of these resources. The 2015 guides aren't available yet, but the 2014 guides will be relevant and copies of the wallet guides will be made available to skaters competing at the Australian Figure Skating Championships.

SANDRA WILLIAMSON-LEADLEY HAS PASSED HER ISU EXAM FOR SINGLES AND PAIRS

Sandra has been an International Judge since 2006 but in September this year she went to Oberstdorf, Germany to sit the ISU Exam required to become an ISU Judge. As an International Judge Sandra has been qualified to judge at most international competitions, however, only ISU Judges can judge at an ISU Junior Grand Prix or ISU Grand Prix finals, World Championships or the Olympic Winter Games or the qualifying competition for the Olympic Winter Games.

The ISU exam ran over the three days of the 2014 Nebelhorn Trophy International Competition and consisted of a written exam that required a thorough knowledge of the ISU Special Regulations and the Technical Rules for Singles and Pair Skating, and a practical exam, utilizing the competition and the DVDs of previous events. It's a very challenging exam, and quite a few of Sandra's peers did not pass, however, I am very pleased to be able to confirm that Sandra was successful in passing the ISU exam, and now joins Sue Petricevic as an ISU judge for Singles and Pairs. Congratulations Sandra. Notably, Sandra is also one of the few people in the world who is also an ISU judge for Dance and for Synchronised skating.

PASSING OF OLGA EROFEEVA

On the 13th June 2000 Olga arrived in New Zealand and soon after began coaching in Auckland at Paradise Skating Arenas, teaching skate school & development classes, as well as private tuition to figure skaters, and returned to Russia in April 2014. Sadly, Olga passed away from cancer on Saturday 6th September in her son's home, Moscow, Russia.

REVIEW OF THE SELECTION AND SKATER DEVELOPMENT POLICIES EARLY IN THE NEW YEAR

Over the weekend of 1 & 2 November the Operations Group, Development Group and Board had a 2 day meeting. While together we took the opportunity to have a discussion on the skater selections under both the Selection Policy and the Skater Development Policy. The big questions are i) what are we trying to achieve? and; ii) do the current policies help us achieve those aims? It was a really productive discussion and some great ideas came out of it. As a result of this we are looking to do a significant review of the Selection Policy and the Skater Development Policy. These policies would normally go up for review in April, with the aim of finalising them by the end of July. If we end up proposing some big changes to these policies we want to have the review process finalised before our competition season gets underway again, and so we're planning to get these policies out on the member's forum for review early in the new calendar year. We'll keep you posted on this and will be looking for your input.

UPCOMING COACHING COURSES

Kim Lewis, our Coaching Director, is busy organising coaching courses for 2015. Please make a note of these in your calendar now. She will be sending more information out about these courses a little closer to the time, so please keep an eye out for that if you are interested in attending. If you have any questions about your eligibility please contact Kim at coachingdirector@gmail.com

Intro to Coaching Course – Auckland February 14th & 16th

Level 1 – Coaching Course – Auckland March 7th & 8th

The course will start Saturday morning and not finish until approximately 7pm on the Sunday. Anyone attending from the South Island will need to plan to fly in on the Friday evening and leave on the Monday morning.

The dates for the following course have yet to be confirmed, but at this stage we are planning **Intro to Coaching Course – Christchurch (South Island Centres) April 17th & 18th (dates TBC).**

The course will start Friday afternoon and finish Saturday midday.

A **Level 2 & 3 seminar** is in the works and more details will be sent out as we know them.

All the best in Skating

Jeanette King and Sandra Williamson-Leadley