



**NEW ZEALAND ICE FIGURE SKATING ASSOCIATION
SEPTEMBER 2015 NEWSLETTER**

SELECTIONS TO THE NZIFSA DEVELOPMENT SQUAD

Last year we extended the selections for the NZIFSA Development Squad to include Pre-Elementary and Elementary skaters, with their selections being made at the North Island or South Island Figure Skating Championships. The rest of the development squad members were selected based on their performance at our National Championships. Earlier this year, after consultation with members, we revised the policy so that, in addition to the development squad selections that took place at our National Championships, all grades were also eligible for selection at the North Island or South Island Figure Skating Championships. These championships were held over the last two weekends, and it gives us great pleasure to announce that the following skaters have been selected to the NZIFSA Development Squad to date.

Elementary Ladies	Isabella Smith (CISC)
Juvenile Ladies	Claudia Clarke (CISC) Rivers Richens (CISC) Natasha Woodacre (WAISC)
Juvenile Men	Star Richens (CISC)
Pre Primary Ladies	Laila Bekhit (DISC)
Pre Primary Men	Douglas Gerber (GFSC)
Primary Ladies	Pei-Lin Lee (WAISC)
Novice Ladies	Anastasia Kuznetsova (WAISC)
Novice Men	Harrison Bain (AIFSC)
Junior Ladies	Brooke Tamepo (WAISC) Tracy Danbrook (AIFSC)
Junior Men	Brian Lee (WAISC) Michael Durham (GFSC)
Senior Ladies	Allie Rout (AIFSC)

We look forward to being able to add further names to this list of skaters after the New Zealand Ice Figure Skating Championships at the end of this month

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS, AUCKLAND, 24-27 SEPTEMBER

Entries have now closed for the New Zealand Ice Figure Skating Championships and entries are posted on the competitions section of the NZIFSA website, along with all the other relevant information about this pinnacle event in our skating calendar. Please make sure you read the information in the various newsletters that the organising committee have been sending out, and respond as per the deadlines they have given for banquet tickets, music and unofficial practice ice bookings etc. A reminder also that a lot of volunteers are needed to run any competition, so please put your hand up to help

Forums at Nationals

There will be a series of forums to be held on the Saturday starting at 12.30pm – and running till approx. 4pm. These forums will all be held next door to the rink at the St Columba Church.

Anti-Doping Forum – we have an education officer from Drug Free Sport NZ giving a presentation, and skaters and coaches will have a chance to meet our own Anti-Doping Officer – Wendy Thompson.

Stroking Forum – we've had some useful feedback which has been taken on board, and the plan is to finalise the new stroking patterns at this forum.

Rules and Regulations Forum – this is an opportunity for the Technical Director to present, and for members to discuss, the proposed changes to the Rules and Regulations. The proposed changes are posted in the member's forum on the NZIFSA website - nzifsa.org.nz

Problems and Solutions Forum – what are the big challenges we face as a sport, at the individual as well as the organisational level, and what can we do to address those problems.

Club administration Forum – the CEO and President are seeking ideas on how Clubs and the Association can better support each other's activities.

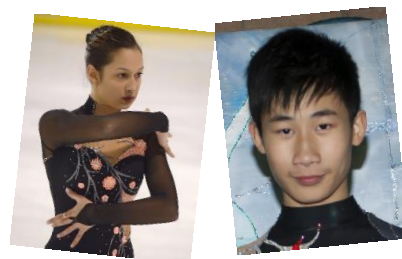
In addition to the above forums, there will also be a **Program Component Seminar for Judges**. The time and location of this seminar have still to be confirmed.

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

Junior Grand Prix, Colorado Springs, USA, 2-6 September

Congratulations to both Preeya Laud and Brian Lee who competed at this event, accompanied by Heather McDonald as Team Leader. This is Preeya's second JGP, and Brian's first. They can both be very proud of themselves. You can watch them compete via the International Skating Union's youtube site

<https://www.youtube.com/user/ISUJGP2011/videos>



Preeya Laud (Junior Ladies)	26 th SP	25 th FS	25 th /29 overall
Brian Lee (Junior Men)	20 th SP	20 th FS	20 th /22 overall

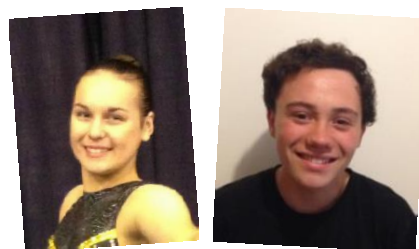
UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

Junior Grand Prix, Zagreb, Croatia, 7-11 October

The second of the two Junior Grand Prix competitions we were allocated by the ISU is to be held in Zagreb, Croatia. The following two skaters will be representing us at this event and we wish them all the very best for this:

Brooke Tamepo
Michael Durham

Heather McDonald will be the Team Leader for this event, and Sue Petricevic will be attending as an ISU judge.



Cup of Nice, Nice, France 15-18 October

Michael Durham will be competing in Junior Mens at this event, and Sue Petricevic will also be attending this event as a judge.

Other International Judging Assignments

Sandra Williamson-Leadley will be judging at the US International in Salt Lake City in September and at the Skate Canada Senior Grand Prix event in Lethbridge, Canada in October.

ISU Development Trophy - Cape Town, South Africa, 21-27 November, 2015.

We've just had confirmation of the dates for the upcoming ISU Development Trophy to be held in Capetown, South Africa. A call for expressions of interest has been sent out to those skaters that have already met the NZIFSA Development Squad selection criteria and are age eligible for the Development Trophy. Unfortunately these dates don't necessarily work so well for our older skaters that will have end of year exams, or for those skaters that are planning to compete at the Australian Figure Skating Championships 27 Nov – 4 Dec, but we still hope to have some skaters attend this event.

ASIAN TROPHY REPORT

Last month we reported the results of the Asian Trophy. This month we include some details of the experience – many thanks to Suzanne Cunningham, the Team Leader for this event. The following is extracted from her Team Leaders report to the CEO and Board.



Skaters

Brooke Tamepo
Harrison Bain
Michael Durham
Brian Lee

Coaches

Rosie Armstrong
Slava Kuznetsov

Chaperones/Parents:

Graeme Durham
Greg Bain

Team Leader

Suzanne Cunningham

Tuesday 4th August

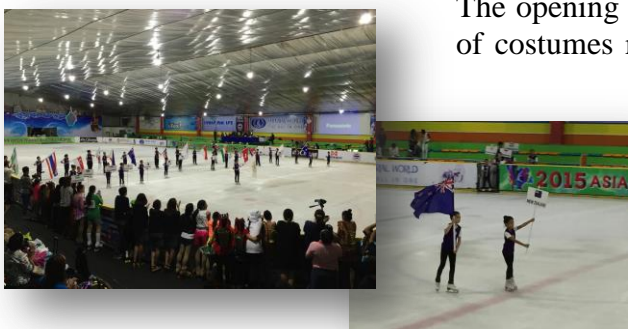
All team members were on the same flight from Auckland, and I met up with them in the departures hall at Sydney International Airport.

After a slight delay while Qantas replaced a dirty oven they deemed to be a fire hazard, we took off and had an uneventful flight, arriving safely into Bangkok. We regrouped after collecting our luggage, met the event representatives, and were transferred to the Brighton Hotel by shuttle vans.



Wednesday 5th August

Harrison was the first skater to have his official practice later in the morning. The other skaters went with coaches/chaperones to have a look around the local area, returning in time to attend the opening ceremony.



The opening ceremony consisted of local skaters in a range of costumes representing different regions and activities of Thailand, performing a group routine, plus flag and banner bearers for each country, a traditional puppet display and many speeches.

Junior Men and Ladies had their practice later that night, with Brooke finishing up after midnight.

Thursday 6th August

All skaters had another practice earlier today, and then competed in the Short Programme.

It could have been a long day at the rink for everyone, but with the rink-hotel shuttles running every hour, the coaches and chaperones were able to stay and travel with each skater as required in order to give the best preparation time and space possible. I went to the rink with the first skater, and remained there in order to time practices and be available as required until the last skater had finished.



Everyone had a solid skate, although the ice seemed to be difficult across the board - with many skaters, from all countries and across all grades, slipping and falling at unexpected times in their programmes, and struggling with elements that were usually strong. Our skaters were philosophical that all skaters were dealing with the same conditions, and therefore they were not using the ice condition as an excuse for any part of their performance they were not happy with. Instead they used the opportunity to take the time to reflect, adjust and focus on how to perform better in their Free Skates.

Friday 7th August

Harrison practiced and competed in his Free Skate, narrowly missing out on a Bronze medal. Although not achieving as well as he hoped, he was positive and upbeat about the lessons he had learnt, and what he wanted to do to improve on future performances.

Junior Ladies and Men had their practice later the same evening.

Saturday 8th August

Another practice for Junior Ladies and Men this morning, before competing in their Free Skate in the afternoon.

As with Harrison, although the final results were not as they would have liked, they performed well under the circumstances and gained insight into what they need to work on for the upcoming International Season.



We all waited to watch the Senior Ladies and Men compete, and to watch the final presentations afterwards.

After heading back to the hotel, most of the team joined several of the Australian Team for an evening out to celebrate. We caught the local Sky Train to a night market, however this was in the process of closing.

Sunday 9th August

After last minute sight-seeing in the morning by some of the team, we travelled to the airport to check in for the flight home. Rosie had some creative packing to do to at the airport with her cushions... Michael and Graeme stayed for an extra day, flying back on Monday.

Team Leaders Comment

I was very impressed with the maturity and commitment shown by all skaters. They all conducted themselves extremely well. I was proud to be there to support them, and would happily travel with any of them again.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CAITLIN JANNETT
Congratulations to Caitlin Janett (nee Haynes), one of our Auckland based coaches and an NZIFSA Technical Specialist, on the birth of her son, Cameron Scott Janett on 31 August 2015.



HAPPY 80TH BIRTHDAY JOHN HARRINGTON – LIFE MEMBER

John Harrington turns 80 on Wednesday 16th September. John and his wife Elvajean are life members. Although John was never a skater himself, he has been involved in and supporting ice skating for over 30 years and he and Elvajean continue to turn up and support any NZIFSA events if they possibly can. Happy Birthday John.

NEW ZEALAND MASTERS GAMES, DUNEDIN 30 JAN – 7 FEB 2016

It's that time again, the New Zealand Masters Games are back! The Games are scheduled in Dunedin 30 January – 7 February 2016 and they are expecting over 5000 people. The event line-up is huge, 60 sports from Badminton to Yachting and everything in between. Check out www.nzmg.com or visit the NZMG Facebook page for the latest games information and entertainment. Registrations are open now

You can also check out the Masters Games new promo video
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eQAqlsACu38>

As has happened in the past the three sports of Figure skating, Curling and Hockey will all be held at the Dunedin Ice Stadium. **Figure Skating will be held on January 30 -31.** Masters Skaters (ie skaters over 18) mark this on your calendar now. The announcement should be out in the not too distant future.

There is also a competition in Melbourne the week following the Dunedin Competition. This is to encourage skaters from the northern hemisphere to attend both as they holiday in their winter season. We are currently aware of skaters booked to come from UK (4), USA (2), Switzerland (1) and possibly Finland (2).

NZIFSA BOARD MEETING

The next meeting of the NZIFSA Board is on Tuesday 13 October. If you have any correspondence that you would like the Board to consider, please send it to the General Secretary (secretary@nzifsa.org.nz) by Tuesday 6 October at the latest. Any correspondence received after that date will be tabled at the following meeting which is to be held 7&8 November 2015.

ARTICLES FOR THE NEWSLETTER

If there are any happenings in your area that you would like to share with others in our skating community that you think may be of interest to others, please email to either Sandra Williamson-Leadley ceo@nzifsa.org.nz or Jeanette King president@nzifsa.org.nz and they will endeavour to include your news in the next newsletter.

All the best in skating,
Jeanette King and Sandra Williamson-Leadley