

New Zealand Ice Skating Association (Inc.)

Communication 025

March 2006

The Council of the NZISA has met twice since our last Communication was issued in October 2005. Although the summer months are traditionally the quiet season for most skaters, there has been some activity behind the scenes. In addition, planning is well under way for a number of major happenings in April and May.

Selection competition and policies

Last year the Council announced its policies relating to selection to compete in the Australian Championships this year. Named skaters were invited to take part in a selection competition. Additional applications were invited, and those whose application was accepted have been advised.

The competition is to be held on April 22 in Christchurch. The selection policy is as already circulated:

In selecting the team to represent New Zealand at the Australian Championships the Council will take into account the performance of each skater at the April selection competition, but will reserve the right to exercise discretion in the making of final selections. Such discretion may be based on their observation of performances at other times and will also take due consideration of other factors that they consider relevant.

The Council wishes to see a strong representation from New Zealand at this year's Australian National championships and is hoping that the quality of performances at the selection competition will enable us to enter as many skaters as Australia can accept.

The Council has exempted the following skaters from attendance at the selection competition:

- Morgan Figgins (training and competing in Canada)
- Mathieu Wilson (form to be assessed in Hollins or Australian State competitions)
- Allie Rout (competing in Europe)
- Tristan Thode (has competed internationally this year)
- Joel Watson (training in US and has competed internationally this year).

International Judging System

As all skaters and officials will know by now, the International Judging System (IJS) is firmly established on the world scene. For small skating nations like New Zealand it is an enormous step forward to introduce the new system. Not only judges but also other

officials – technical specialists, data entry operators and others – need to be specifically trained in the new system.

A major seminar is being conducted in Christchurch in the week immediately preceding the selection competition, starting on the evening of Tuesday 18 April. We are fortunate to have received grants from the International Skating Union and from the New Zealand Community Trust for this seminar, and we will have the input of three highly qualified Canadian specialists to assist us. We have also received an ISU grant for the computer and video equipment that is needed to run competitions under IJS conditions.

There will also be a series of regional seminars for those who could not attend the Christchurch seminar. These are being organised by Sandra Williamson-Leadley. Sandra welcomes contact from interested persons.

International skating

While those at home have been quietly training and preparing for the new season, we were represented at Four Continents (in Colorado) by Tristan Thode and Joel Watson. Following Four Continents Tristan was selected by the NZISA Council to compete at the World Championships in Calgary, where he achieved a personal best score. Well done!

Congratulations also to two New Zealanders selected to skate for Australian Synchronised teams - Caitlin Haynes in the Junior World Challenge and Aleisha Haselmore in the World Championships.

Morgan Figgins is currently training in Vancouver and achieved gold medal successes in the North Shore International competition earlier this month – congratulations to you too, Morgan.

Allie Rout travels to Europe in April to contest the Mladost and Triglav competitions – good luck to you, Allie.

Sue Hoseit (Dunedin) is competing in a number of Masters (Adult) events in Europe, from 19 May to 3 June, and is keen to find out if there are any other NZ Masters skaters wanting to compete.

And at home

The next major event on the domestic calendar is the Annual General Meeting of the Association, set for 2 p.m. on 8 April in Auckland (University of Otago building, 385 Queen St). The new Council will meet the following day in the same venue.

My thanks to the other members of the outgoing Council, who have worked hard and effectively for skating in New Zealand in the last 12 months. They are Sandra Williamson-Leadley (Vice-President, and Secretary of Technical Committee), Jan Howie (Secretary), Larree Simm-Nicol (Treasurer), Jeanne Begej, Wendy Clucas, Robyn Morris

and Scott Thode. Eric Apperley was also a member until his recent resignation – thank you, Eric, for your hard work over many years. Your skills, knowledge and wisdom are missed.

Most of the nine clubs in New Zealand report that they are up and running for the new season. The North Island Sub-Association (comprising Glenburn, Auckland and Allegro clubs) is off to a flying start with a training seminar scheduled for 24 April – 5 May with world-renowned Viktor Kudryavtsev. Dunedin reports that it is starting a speed skating section, and is looking forward to the early June arrival of its second coach, Fanis Shakirzianau, formerly from South Africa and at present overseeing the Slovakian national team. Centaurus and Ice Sports Southland are both skating strongly, while Alexandra and Queenstown are eagerly awaiting the winter weather!

Warwick Johnson
NZISA President
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