

SIFC Newsletter

May - June 2008



Swindon Ice
Figure Club

Special Interest Articles:

- Competitions.
- West Swindon Forum Meeting
- Ask the Coach
- Ask the Parent

Hello and welcome,

I have been asked to say a few words to all our members as the new chair. As the new chair I am still learning what it is I'm supposed to be doing and rely heavily on my fellow committee members to guide me - (which they do beautifully).

I would like to take this opportunity to say a warm welcome to the many new members and hope you are all settling in well. You all look as if you are enjoying yourselves and working hard.

Congratulations must also be said to all those members who have taken part in competitions at club level and at recent open competitions. This will continue to be a busy period with further tests and competitions at home and away. Good luck to you all

As the saying goes 'work hard and play hard' so a social event away from the ice for all members and families will take place on the 12th July 2008. We look forward to seeing you all there. Further news of that will follow later.

Finally just to remind everyone we always welcome new ideas and strive to iron out any problems so please come and talk to us at the table on club night or email us. I promise we really are not as scary as we might look!

Kathy Porter (Chair).

Highlights From The Past 2 Months

A Competitors View of the Summer Olympics Night

The Summer Olympics fun night was really good. I think we should have it more often, it was different to having lessons and we had some extra fun!

The groups were good because they had even skaters in them and it gave a chance for people to meet other skaters. The best game was when we had the ball and had to play football but use our hands to catch it! While using the hockey goals for the scores! The part where we got to lie on the ice and mats was fun as well!

Next time if we do it again, we should do it for a bit longer!

by Gemma Lorains!



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A Spectators View of the Summer Olympics

by Sam Cole - parent / committee member

The Summer Olympics event held on the 17th April proved a huge success and it appeared - from those of us watching - that a great time was had by all. We were able to fill 4 teams and these teams worked together well to produce a fun and lively event. It was great to see all members of club on the ice together irrespective of ability and each and everyone working together within their team to ensure as much success as possible. The teams all sporting their team colour took part in several different on ice events from ice netball to ice swimming!!!

The event was put together by Andrew who was assisted on the night by Chloe and between them they engineered several rounds of ice netball, in which the red team proved outstanding and different laps of other races. Overall I feel that the highlight of the event had to be the ice swimming!!! In which a mat was involved and the team had to pull a team member from one end of the ice to another. This provided the audience with several laughs and the only disappointment of the evening. Not seeing anyone trying to pull Andrew across the ice- (which personally I would have paid good money to see!!!)

Overall the event seemed to be one enjoyed by all who attended and provided a great opportunity for the club to come together as one and get to know one another a bit better.

A huge thank you to Andrew for his ideas and entertaining versions of well known sports on ice. We welcome any suggestions for further fun event nights and look forward to arranging the next.



West Swindon Forum Meeting - Sam Cole

You may have heard about the recent West Swindon forum meeting that was held at the Link Centre on Monday the 12th May. I did my best to contact all members with an email informing you of the meeting and for anyone I was unable to reach then my apologies.

Just to update you on the events of the meeting for those of you unable to attend. There was a good turnout from skaters, parents & representatives and I feel that we put forward a good case for the positive development of the rink. We have been assured by the panel that the ice is safe and will remain at the Link Centre. The next stage will be discussions as to how they develop what we have and the finances available to do this and the skating fraternity have requested that we should be informed when this is to begin. The feeling I got was that -as with most things- those that make the most noise emerge victorious.



Club Competition - Elements



The club recently held its own extremely successful elements competition. With the recent influx of new members to the club we were overwhelmed with entrants and our previously tried and tested competition entry process experienced some hiccups! As a result we had to close entry to the competition early and put some skaters on a reserve list.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of the supportive parents (and skaters) who were understanding at our predicament and agreed for their children to be put on the reserve list. However, can I say an even bigger thank you to the club members, who when approached, gave up their places in the competition to allow all of the reserve skaters to skate.

Needless to say we will be introducing a new entry system for the next club competition which will tie up any loose ends. We live and learn and as the club moves forward from strength to strength we will adapt accordingly.

The results were as follows:

Class 4			Class 1a	
1st	Gemma Lorains		1st	Francesca Moulton
2nd	Sean Stowe		2nd	Nicole Cox
3rd	Holly Heath		3rd	Alison Cook
Class 3			Class 1b	
1st	Lucie Cole		1st	Amie Roberts
2nd	Haydn Lee		2nd	Gemma Adams
3rd	Lauren Porter		3rd	Sammy Whittington
Class 2				
1st	Courtney Cole			
2nd	Ashlee-Rae Cleverly			
3rd	Lauren Hewitt			

Well done also to:

Jacob Frame	Caroline Bigby	Jennifer Martin
Natalie Lawless	Kathryn Bird	Chloe Purvis
Marcie Rapson	Katherine Hargreaves	Amanda Ball
Jemma Colyer	Jojo Moylett	Paige Smith
Rachel Lawrence	Natasha Snelham	Vikki Fairnie
Caitlan Bowles	Catherine Tansy	Lille Ogden
Ciaran Bowles	Chloe Willis	Jessica Caroll

Test Results

Congratulations to the following skaters who passed NISA tests in May.

L1 Dance Compulsory		Julie Cook	
L1 Field Moves	Amanda Ball	L2 Elements	Lucie Cole
L2 Field Moves	Haydn Lee	L2 Elements	Haydn Lee
L2 Field Moves	Lauren Porter	L3 Elements	Bliss Holland
L2 Field Moves	Amy Tregelles	L4 Elements	Vicky Jackson
L3 Field Moves	Sean Stowe	L1 Free	Sian Morris
L4 Field Moves	Gemma Lorains	L1 Free	Ashlee-Rae Cleverly
L8 Field Moves	Carmen Lee	L2 Free	Lucie Cole
L10 Field Moves	Isabella Larkin	L2 Free	Haydn Lee
L1 Elements	Sian Morris	L3 Free	Bliss Holland
L1 Elements	Ashlee-Rae Cleverly	L4 Free	Vicky Jackson

Skate UK and Star UK Badges

Well done to all the club members who have gained a badge recently through the Skate UK program. To pass any test from Badge 1 Skate UK through to level 10 Elements is a great achievement and shows commitment and hard work. Well done to:

	Skate UK Level
Jacob Frame	9
Gemma Adams	9
Natalie Lawless	9
Amie Roberts	8
Francesca Moulton	8
Alison Cook	7
Marcie Rapson	7
Rachel Lawrence	7
Ciaran Bowles	7
Caitlin Bowles	7
Caroline Bigley	6
Rachel Evans	5

Don't forget tell us if you pass any of the levels in the Skate UK program. Just let someone know on the desk at club night and we'll make sure your name appears in the next newsletter. Alternatively email us using the links at: <http://www.sifc.co.uk>

Open Competition Results

Bracknell proved to be a tough competition again this year and our skaters as usual gave their best performances. Their results were as follows:

Vicky Jackson level 3 - 1st place

Lucie Cole level 1 - 3rd place

Haydn Lee level 1 - 3rd place

Well done to:

Ashlee-Rae Cleverly

Courtney Cole

Hannah Godfrey

Bliss Holland

Carmen Lee

Gemma Lorain's

Lauren Porter

Chante Robinson

Sean Stowe

Amy Tregelles



The results for the Lee Valley

Opens were:

Sean Stowe Level 1 - 3rd place

Well done to:

Ashlee-Rae Cleverly



Off Ice Class - Friday 5 to 6pm - Lydiard Millicent Church Hall

If anyone would like to join the stretch class on Friday evenings then please ask any committee member on club night about it or phone 07775991700 or email: tanwood@tiscali.co.uk. The classes are run by Tanwood School for Performing Arts.

In the stretch class we do some modern exercises and then do some stretches. We also do dances involving - yes you guessed it - stretches! We like the class because it is only for ice skaters and it teaches us how to be more flexible. You may even be able to do the splits by the end of it!

by Vicky Jackson and Hannah Frame (club members)

Ask the Coach - 5 Questions

We have a slightly different format this month to the 'Ask the Coach' section. Lesley Norfolk Pearce, SIFC's head coach, agreed to be interviewed by Isabella Larkin and Carmen Lee for the newsletter.

1. *Lesley how long have you been involved in ice- skating?*

Lesley answering 'Oh my Goodness' 59 years.

2. *What have been the highlights of your career?*

Probably winning the British Junior Pairs Championship and winning the World Professional Pair Championships. Also coaching Haig Oundjain (President of NISA) when he came 3rd in Europeans and 4th in the Worlds. But it is always a highlight to see my pupils winning a competition and achieving new levels.

3. *What qualities should a skater have?*

I think he/she must be dedicated, have self belief, determination and must enjoy the sport.

4. *What advice would you give to any skaters who want to develop their skating through Figure Club?*

I'd advise them to listen to their coaches, watch better skaters than themselves and to keep fit and healthy.

5. *What developments would you like to see happen in the Figure Club over the next few years?*

I'd like to see skaters develop as competitors, maybe try the British Championships and even Inter Competitions.



Ask the Parent



This month the article has been written by Karen Jackson

COMPETITIONS

I remember as a parent of a child just starting out that it took a while to understand the world of competing. Basically there are our very own club competitions and the open competitions.

CLUB COMPETITIONS are open to all Swindon Ice Figure Club members at all levels and are held during club on Thursdays. During the year competitions include: field moves, elements, free (programme - choreographed by coach and usually Gold star and above) and hot ice (exhibition/artistic - music can have vocals, choreographed by skaters).

OPEN COMPETITIONS are run by the various ice skating clubs throughout the country on an annual basis. At these, competitors skate their programme, choreographed by their coach, to non-vocal music (1 ½ mins +/-5secs for beginners to Level 3). They are open to all members of NISA (National Ice Skating Association - www.iceskating.org.uk) who are gold star level and above. Marking is 'open' and results are posted up regularly throughout the day/s.

Skaters and coaches from Swindon usually attend the opens at Bristol (March), Bracknell (April), Lee Valley (May), Basingstoke (June), Guildford (July), Oxford (October) and Coventry (November). We also host our own Swindon Open in October.

More information on upcoming competitions can be found on the NISA website and the various club websites.

A last word!

I would like use this opportunity to ask you to keep checking our website at: www.sifc.co.uk for the latest club information. It is updated on a regular basis and is our main point of contact if we need to let you know of any changes to club nights or forthcoming events.

Also you will notice as you read thorough this newsletter that various skaters, coaches, parents and committee members have contributed articles for inclusion. I would like to thank all of them for this and ask for more 'volunteers' to come forward and contribute to the newsletter. Any ideas are most welcome!

Diary Dates - What, when, where



Club Dates

10/7/8	Hot Ice / Field Moves
12th July	BBQ
2/10/8	Free Competition
tbc	Elements Competition
4/12/8	AGM

Swindon Ice Figure Club

MEMBERS AND FAMILIES
COME AND JOIN IN THE FUN
AND GAMES AT OUR SUMMER

BAR-B-Q

ON: SATURDAY 12TH JULY
AT: LYDIARD PARK
FROM: 2 PM onwards



Choose either a tasty beefburger or a delicious hot dog served up by our very own 'Chef' Andrew from 4-5pm, at a family ticket price of £5.



BRING YOUR OWN drinks and cold food.



Tickets will be on sale on club nights from Thursday 12th June.



We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.sifc.co.uk

useful links

contact details

dates for club

newsletters

and much more...

* A family ticket is for up to 5 people.

Figure Skating Word Scramble

Unscramble the letters, some may make two words. Words from this month's newsletter are also included.

WAHKMO
GDEE
SOULMYMMEPRICS
AIPRSL

TLZU
OSROEVRC
MGLIYECALFN
LOHAWCS

SVMLIFEDOE
SSALCHCTERTS
MPTEITSNOIOC
IEDGL