



Canterbury Masters

Figure Skating Club Inc.

Newsletter August 2007

Winter Training Camp

A glittering hoar frost greeted the 80 participants of the club's Winter Training Camp in Lake Tekapo on July 13th and the sun obligingly shone for all three days.

Our first taste of the ice was on Friday evening where we were delighted to discover an excellent surface – the ice hard and fast – perfect for us to test out our free skate and dance skills.

Our grateful thanks go to Karl Burtscher and Karen Croucher and their team at Lake Tekapo's Winter Park for accommodating the needs of our large party so flexibly. Our admiration to you too for the creation of such a splendid facility. With the hot pools, spa and sauna coming on line soon and with snow tubing and tobogganing to boot we won't need to look past the Winter Park for a venue for next year's camp.

The focal point of the weekend was the club subsidized BBQ, held in the sunny grounds of the Lakeside Lodge, thanks to the



forbearance and generosity of the Lodge staff. This was an opportunity to greet our colleagues from Dunedin Ice Skating Club and to welcome the former NZ champs who graced the weekend with their presence (*see page 2 for more about these grande dames of figure skating*)

Day two's workshop, deftly organised by Jeanne Begej, offered the opportunity for both dancing and technical skills practice.

But it was curling in the evening that was a clear highlight for many. This was a great opportunity to learn the basics of the game. As well as the expertise of our instructor we had the benefit of Bryn Lewis'

experience and enthusiasm which quickly led his team to victory. This despite Graham's all out attempts at sabotage of his own team and Deirdre's generous gift – a little tippie of Limoncello straight from Italy - which immediately increased the hilarity on ice while possibly decreasing the accuracy of our curls!

Kim Lewis, always a snappy dresser, hit upon the expedient of using a black plastic rubbish bag as a shoe cover to ensure she could flow effortlessly behind her stone after hurling it. Or is that curling it? The jargon we have yet to learn.

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the
Southern
trust

We are indebted to the Southern Trust for its generous grant which covered all of our ice and curling time for the Winter Training Camp, and contributed significantly to our accommodation. The weekend offered benefits far beyond those of improving our skating skills – it contributed to the camaraderie and cohesion of the club – and has even led to an increased number of entries in the South Island Masters Games. Our heartfelt thanks to the Southern Trust!

The Champs come out of the Woodwork



The Champs strut their stuff on the Winter Park's ice

The ice at Tekapo was buzzing with past NZ Champs. Who are they? From Dunedin Ice Skating Club come Sue Hoseit and Val Wesseling – still regular rivals of ours in the Masters Games events. Auckland sent us Lynne Riley (McDonald) who claimed to be too dizzy to spin but delighted us with her warmth and humour. Our own club champs are Jeanne Begej, still awing us with her hallmark sit spin and Wendy Clucas whom we see often judging in ChCh as well as joining us at coffee club. Then there's Lesley Ward, skilled ice and ballroom dancer. Coach Ann Campbell (Brennock) was there with Alan Brennock (sorry about the “grande

dames” comment, Alan). Youngest of them all is Jill Borland, well known for her marketing role at Alpine Ice and her skill as a synchro skater. Kath Craven, who with her late husband Bert travelled the world in ice shows, was also coach to some of the former champs who were at Tekapo that weekend. It was a pleasure to see local Tekapo resident, Diane White who is a former Nationals competitor and South Canterbury champion. We look forward to meeting more skaters from your area, Diane.

We were honoured to have such a wealth of talent on the ice – thanks champs for joining in the weekend.

Hélène the Wren

Fresh from Quebec and lacking nothing but an aspirated “H” comes our new Coffee Club coach, Hélène Wren. Kim's coaching boots were always going to be hard ones to fill but Hélène's blend of energy and humour strikes just the right note for coffee clubbers - inspiration, encouragement, and a good laugh!

And there is such charm in a French accent. Our swing rolls must now be “eld for the loooooongest!”, we anxiously struggle to perfect our *bête noir* - the dreaded mo-auk and the cry of “Allez Allez!” rings across the ice as we stand about like penguins reluctant to take the plunge.

Hélène's special strength as a coach lies in her ability to deconstruct movements to their component parts but more than that is her superb skill at mimicking our own attempts - with great comic effect. And yes, we see ourselves in these caricatures. But they're not

just hilarious – they really help!

Hélène thinks we should take comfort in the fact that she herself did not begin ice dancing until she was an adult. Could there be hope for us yet?



After 15 years in Toronto Hélène moved with her kiwi husband Steve and their 3 children to Ottawa where their anticipated quiet life style was rather more hectic than expected. The move to NZ has been chosen with the children in mind – an opportunity for them to experience antipodean life. The family has now expanded to include Moana, a little button of a puppy. It's a good thing coffee clubbers come already house trained

as Hélène has proved herself better at teaching mo-auks and “tree” turns than how to pee outside!

Moving to ornithology, we do have wrens in New Zealand, though the bird is more commonly known in Europe. Our favorite here is the little tailless wren known as a rifleman or *Titi pounamu* which can be translated as *little green precious one*. Hélène has quickly endeared herself to us and when she appears in her lime green, very French trench jacket we wonder whether we might get away with calling her our *Titi pounamu*!

Or should we just have yet another attempt at executing that oh-so-elusive mo-auk and make the coach's day!

Want to see Hélène dance? She'll be competing in the South Island Masters Games with Chris Street in the Gold Partner Dance event on October 13th.

Hélène's blend of energy and humour strikes just the right note!

President's Column

Be at the rink to see our synchro team skate in the SI Champs on Sun 26 Aug at 7pm

Centaurus and CMFSC are jointly hosting both the SI and the National Champs. There's not much time now until the South Island Champs on the 26th -28th August. Thanks to those who have already filled in the volunteer sheet. We could use more help though. There are a range of simple tasks, and you'll be well directed. Some require strength – like dismantling staging - others need no special skills. If you can help, even for just a short time, please contact Muriel Wheatley on 9804228 or at brianandmuriel@paradise.net.nz. And only 2 weeks later it happens all over again for the National Champs, Sept 10th – 14th. We need your help for those too! Thanks.

But we'd also like your support to cheer along our competitors. Spectrum Synchro Team is skating in both events – they'd love to hear your enthusiastic shouts from the sidelines. Also in the South Islands you can support Trish Weir, Anna Douglas and David Busby in their freeskating events. In addition Mykaila Lewis, Ayesha Campbell, Chris Boyd, Verity Busby, Sophie Main, Crystal Campbell, Shaina

Greenwood and Nick Kokay who are members of both Centaurus and CMFSC would enjoy your support. Many of these competitors plus Kendra Wilkie will take to the ice again for the Nationals.

We would like to wish all club members the best for both of these championship events.

Remember that the club is running raffles at the champs and we'd like your help to fill the goodies basket. Please bring your contributions to the rink – make sure that items are fresh and not past their use by dates.

Test Passes

Congratulations to Charlotte Dawson who passed her Inter Gold Dance Test for Paso Doble and Westminster Waltz and to Andrew Aldridge, Debbie Gill-Fox and June Laird who passed their Adult Prelim Dance Test for Dutch Waltz, Canasta Tango and Baby Blues. Also to Kate Bell, Robin Scanes and June Laird who passed their Elementary Stroking Tests – Well done!

A big thank you to our Secretary June Laird for her fantastic organisation of the Winter Training Camp at Tekapo which so many members took part in. Many hours were spent organising ice time for our training program workshop activities, curling, accommodation, and funding through the Southern Trust. We are indebted to June for her expert organisation and planning skills. I am pleased that many of our members took the time to either email, send a note or thank June personally - I know June really appreciated this acknowledgement. June is already thinking about 2008 - bless her!!!!

Check the club website www.cmfsc.co.nz for details about the upcoming holiday workshop timetable – a great chance to practise for the South Island Masters Games.

Jeanne Begej



We're teaching each other as soon as we have a mere grain of understanding

Skipping the Light Fantastic

Samba, foxtrot, waltz and cha cha – we've nailed all of these and are looking forward to the rhumba next week. Well, maybe not nailed, but the group of 14 club members who are half way through a 6 week ball room dancing course at *Dance Club Canterbury* has made an enthusiastic start. All too enthusiastic at times as our teacher struggles with the coffee club mentality of vocal enjoyment and teaching each other as soon as we have a mere grain of understanding. But what fun! All praise and credit to Kath Craven for organising the class and keeping us on track with timely reminders and information.

Thanks also to Eleanor Stanbury who organised a group to attend the NZ Amateur and Professional Dancesport Champs. We were spellbound by the mastery and stylised aspects of the discipline. Demonstration dances by world champ finalists in both latin and ballroom dancing were the highlight.

Congratulations to Lesley Ward who made it into the semifinals in her grade at this prestigious national event. Lesley's expertise and help is also appreciated in our post dance class practice, as is that of budding ballroom dancer, Trish Weir.

With a broken leg Muriel drove off to do the shopping

The Stuff Australians are Made Of

They make those Aussies tough! Broken limbs at the rink are usually accompanied by groaning, stretchers, ambulances and even nitrous oxide. But for Muriel Wheatley it was business as usual – shattering her fibula while practising a daring freeskate lunge finalé, Muriel limped casually from the ice and drove home to put her foot up, but not before popping into the supermarket to do her

shopping. It was the following day before, still feeling something of a twinge, Muriel sought medical attention and was clapped into a plaster cast for six weeks.

Bad luck Muirs! You were very brave. Our sympathy and admiration goes out to you!

Centaurus Club Champs

Our members made a good showing at the Centaurus Club Champs last month. David Busby was placed 2nd in the Pre-elementary Mens, Shaina Greenwood 3rd in Elementary Ladies and

Ayesha Campbell 2nd and Mykaila Lewis 3rd in the Pre-primary Ladies event. Ayesha also won the Overall Musical Interpretation Award. Spectrum won the Synchronised Adult and

Silver Torque (which has some skaters with dual club membership) gave a fine display to win the Synchro Open.

Congratulations to all.

Trusts Charitable Foundation

The subsidized skating sessions we have been making good use of to practise skills for the Masters Games and other competitions are possible because of the generous grant from the Trusts Charitable Foundation.

This funding will also help subsidize the ice time and the coaching in the workshop sessions planned for the Term 3 school holidays. There will opportunities to practise free style, dance and synchronised skills as well as stroking.

Club members wish to offer sincere thanks to the Trusts Charitable Foundation for its on going support that makes it possible for us to improve our skills and to prepare for these competitions.

Resource Library

It's great to see more use being made of the club's resource library. Currently there has been some interest in our dvd of last year's Alpine Ice Gala, *Ice in Motion*. Remember this one? – a chance to see Coffee Club's Olympic Tribute, Spectrum Synchro team and guest skater Cameron Hems. Or there's speed skating and hockey. Also all the cute little ones and the not so cute big ones

– did you miss Graham, Peter, Robin, Dean and Steven skating to *I don't care* in the item *Alpine Ice "Girls"?* choreographed by Kim Lewis. It's a scream!

Those competing in the Masters games for the first time this year may want to borrow our dvd of the 2006 NZ Masters Games in Dunedin to see how things work.

If your taste is for

something a little more sophisticated and at an international standard we have a treat for you. Robin Scanes has kindly spent many hours tailoring the televised parts of the Tokyo 2007 Figure Skating World Champs so that they fit onto just 3 dvds.

Gail Schat is our resource librarian. If you would like to borrow anything, contact Gail on 03-3027553 or schat@xtra.co.nz



Our many subsidized practice sessions are made possible by the Trusts Charitable Foundation

Competing in the Masters Games for the first time? You might want to borrow our dvd of last years Masters Games

Canterbury Masters Figure Skating Club

Your Committee

President

Jeanne Begej

Vice President

Muriel Wheatley

Secretary

June Laird

Treasurer

Graham Williams

Committee Members

Kath Craven
Jude Heeney
Gail Schat
Arnold Schmidt
Trish Weir
Linda White

Note our new website
address

<http://www.cmfdc.co.nz>

Newsletter editor
June Laird

Winter Training Camp - continued from page one

The curling hour finished all too soon for some so we are determined to have a curling session back home soon - to which end we have already unearthed some stones and will attempt to borrow others.

On Day Three competing interests for ice time were masterfully controlled by Jeanne's judicious use of her whistle so that we could all have a go at hockey briefly without detracting from the business of the day - synchro for all. From the tots to the totterers we all tried kicklines and pinwheels - thanks to our coaches and champs. It was clear that the over 60's kickline could outstrip all the others in every way - grace, poise, and synchronicity. Games were played to enhance balance and control - a favorite being the egg and spoon race. We trust the eggs were hard boiled!

Temperatures that were as low as minus 10 degrees did dismay the Spectrum synchro team as its members donned their flimsy organza outfits for a second public performance of the

new waltz routine - the first ever outside. Jeanne's zip chose this inopportune moment to burst but Captain Linda came to the rescue with a few well placed safety pins. Blue noses and fingertips toned perfectly with the dresses but were soon warmed up by the usual dazzling and desperate display of this mixed ability group.

Our photos record some frantic looks on faces at times - we wonder if these were also caught by the illicit video shot stealthily by the Miskell espionage contingent from Dunedin. Do send us a copy!

For some, rushing home on Sunday afternoon was not an option. The skifield beckoned as did the golf course. Look out

for some great photos of Jan, perfectly colour coordinated with the pink golf ball - it's pink so it can be seen on the snow. It could still be seen right there at Jan's feet long after her swing!

Special thanks to Kim Lewis for her coaching contribution during the weekend, especially of the synchronised practice. It is no mean feat to get spokes and circles of all ages twirling convincingly and safely at the same time.

Thanks also to Graham Williams, Gail Schat and Muriel Wheatley for their BBQ brilliance.

And thanks to all participants in the weekend - it was you who made it such a success!



New Members

We are very happy to welcome the following new members for 2007

Olivia Baken
Reihana Docherty
Andreas Gormack
Julian Gormack
Richard Hames
Julianna Hedley
Vaughan Hedley
Azwhayn Hedley
Xavier Hedley
Elysia Hedley
Arianne Hedley
Ethan Hedley
Carol Hunting
Adrian Hunting

Finn Hunting
Suzy Hunting
Jeanette King
Geoff Kennedy
Liam Kennedy
Monique Kennedy
Nick Kokay
Brian Lester
Jan Lester
Ralph Lester
Maree Lewington
Aly Lucas
Mike Lucas
Seth Lucas

Brooke Lucas
Ralph Lucas
Bailey Lucas
Chelsey Lucas
Grant Mclver
Connor Mclver
Liam Mclver
Lynne Riley
Chloe Sorensen
Hayley Sorensen
Anji Thompson
Darryn Ward
Joan Werner
Hélène Wren