

June 2011

CMFSC

Newsletter
of the
Canterbury
Masters Figure
Skating Club



Earthquake!

Spectrum is engaged in a number of projects to raise funds for their expenses. One of these is selling the Press' new book **Earthquake! ChCh 22 Feb 2011**. Powerfully and movingly written by a number of *Press* staffers and illustrated with striking images, it includes a dvd with footage taken 10 minutes after the quake, many personal stories plus the footage that screened at the Day of Remembrance. These books retail for a minimum of \$39.99. You can buy from *Spectrum* for \$35.00 with proceeds going to both the team *Spectrum* and ChCh EQ recovery. Offer ends June 20th. To purchase contact [Jeanne Begej](mailto:Jeanne.Begej@cmfsc.org.nz)

TEAM SPECTRUM

The Club's signature synchronized team, *Spectrum*, had a successful year in 2010 under the the direction of its highly skilled coach Kim Lewis, assisted for the last 2 terms of 2010 by coach Kim Gormack

Spectrum won gold at the South Island Champs in Queenstown and the NZ Nationals in Dunedin. It was exciting to see our closest competition skate, Auckland's new adult team, The Icy Chicks. We all had a fantastic time at our own club champs in October, half the team competing in solo, pair or mini synchro events too.

Then there was Australian National Champs in Melbourne in late November. This was at a new facility in Docklands with 2 ice rinks in the same building. What an exciting event! There were 7 adult teams, and 22 synchro team in total! We skated our absolute best and came 3rd. It was a great finish to a very successful year. You can see this performance by linking to Youtube [here](#).

2011 started with the sad news that Kim Lewis was no longer available to coach us, a huge loss as she has coached us for 6 years now and has helped us progress so far! Thank you so much Kim. Fortunately Kim Gormack was prepared to take us on as

coach and she has some fun ideas for the team. We also have 5 new people interested in joining the team.

We have had a very disrupted first term with the earthquake affecting us all in different ways. Some have moved houses, one still has her skates in town, one has been commuting to Wellington to work, some with injuries, illness, and bereavements of close family.

Our plans this year include South Island champs in Dunedin (August), Nationals in Gore (October), CMFSC Champs (October), and if we qualify, Australian Nationals late in the year.

A huge thank you to the club and club members who support our team in so many ways!

Linda White
Team Captain

Sponsors

Spectrum's successful year in 2010 rests upon the generous support the team had from its sponsors.

NZ Community Trust's grant covered much of the coaching. Pelorus Trust's grant paid for accommodation at South Island Champs and the Mainland Trust covered Nationals. The generous donation of Southern Trust for ice time for all club members also gave *Spectrum* precious extra time to practice.

Our warm thanks go to these sponsors.

Earthquake impacts

Our sympathy and support go to all those adversely affected by the events of 22 February. The rink itself was quickly up and operating again and we were pleased to see that despite the turmoil many members were soon back on the ice. We are conscious however that the earthquake has had a significant financial impact on many members and this may affect their ability to participate in regular sessions and in competition. The committee is responding to this by making applications for funding to charitable bodies in an attempt to subsidize ice time and to support our competitors. It's a bit of a double whammy though! Funds are usually distributed in the area in which they are collected and for Christchurch, with so many gaming venues affected by the quake, far fewer funds are available. It was heartening to see at a recent committee meeting huge enthusiasm for fundraising for amongst Spectrum members.

2010 Test Results

Jeanette King reports that we held six test sessions throughout the year and are very pleased with 20 test passes by our members at these test days. The range of ages and abilities of our club members is well reflected in the results with both adult and standard tests being sat, from elementary to gold level. Our youngest member to pass a medal test this year was 10, and our oldest was 75.

I'm sure you'll all join in celebrating the following results from our test days

Std Elementary Stoking:	Bronwen Frayle, Michaela George
Adult Preliminary Stoking:	Arnold Schmidt, Trish Weir, Eleanor Stanbury, Tash Forsberg, Linda White
Std Inter-Bronze Stoking:	Hayley Bykerk* and Debbie Corbett
Adult Bronze Stoking:	Shirley Low and Trish Weir
Std Elementary Freeskating:	Hayley Bykerk* and Bronwen Frayle
Adult Prelim Pairs Freeskating:	Shirley Low and Stephen Codd
Adult Bronze Freeskating:	Trish Weir
Std Elem Compulsory Dance:	Reihana Dougherty
Std Prelim Compulsory Dance:	Hayley Bykerk* and Connor McIver*
Adult Gold Compulsory Dance:	Cass Guignon

* denotes skaters also registered with another club.

NZISA update

The NZISA held its AGM last month in Christchurch. It was hoped that the new governance structure (of a board, operations group and development group) could be put in place at this meeting but a lack of nominations meant that the existing council members will hold office for a little longer. There will be a Special General Meeting in August for the election of officers to these new positions. In the meantime the constitution has been tidied up and with some professional help will have a makeover when the new board takes office.

CMFSC Championships 2010

Sabina's impressions as a first timer at our champs

No one should miss the opportunity to become an 'Ice-Marshall' (or in fact an other volunteer) at our yearly Club Championships! You don't just get to stand beside the rink-door, pretending to control the ice, but you are made to look all important and official by a board with lists of times and skaters under your arm! You may even be able to delude yourself into thinking that the event couldn't run without you! It is also great to observe the enthusiastic, courageous, nervous and excited skaters go on the ice in their beautiful outfits, with lots of attention to detail, then to see them return off the ice after their programmes with relieved expressions and smiles on their faces! As an ice-marshall you can almost "touch" the tension and excitement of each skater as they are called onto the ice! The greatest of all experiences is, of course, to watch them all, to see the camaraderie, compassion, cheering (3C's!) and friendship that is so openly displayed during this great event, surely much more than any other times!

As a reward for your work you can take some of the awesome energy displayed home with you, a wonderful memory and inspiration that makes you look forward to the next club-champs (leaving you secretly wondering if maybe, one day, you are able to skate as beautifully as some of the winners of that event)! And if you are very lucky, like I was, there might be some loving people out there who will sponsor your cup of hot chocolate, which could never taste any better than on such an occasion!

CMFSC AGM March 2011

What was striking about this year's AGM was the willingness of club members to take on new roles in club administration. The committee now boasts 12 members and each has a designated area of responsibility which will help make sure that your club works for you. In future newsletters we will profile individual members of the committee. In the meantime here's an introduction to our new members: Sabina Crellin will take over responsibility for the newsletter, still with some help from the old editor. It's thanks to Sabina getting straight onto the job that you are reading this now. Jan Christieson is coordinating fundraising for Spectrum. Her energy in this area is huge and she is bursting with ideas. Daphne Morris has responsibility for new member recruitment and some aspects of correspondence. A change of role for existing committee member Jean Kennedy, who was our Frappe representative, sees her looking after poster and photo promotion.

Masters Kiwiskate Project

Thanks to the generous support of Christchurch City Council the club was able to undertake the Masters Kiwiskate Project. With sponsored ice time club members worked hard on kiwiskate skills and were tested on a range of these. Precision, dance, freeskate and figure badges ranging from level 1 to 4 could be earned. This was an excellent opportunity to ensure that many of the basic skills were covered and Alpine Ice coaches can now use the judges' records to help plan future coaching.

Your Committee

President

Jeanne Begej

Vice President

Linda White

Secretary

June Laird

Comp and Test Coordinator

Jeanette King

Treasurer

Arnold Schmidt

Committee Members

Jude Heaney

Gail Schat

Sabina Crellin

Daphne Morris

Jan Christieson

Graham Williams

Patron

Kath Craven

CMFSC NEWSLETTER

www.cmfsc.co.nz

Newsletter editors

Sabina Crellin

June Laird

HIGHLIGHTS 2010



Secretary bolts from hospital

An attempt to keep secretary June Laird in hospital for 10 days in January this year failed when she was swept up at the Riverside entrance in a convertible that accommodated both her and her intravenous drug stand. *Why don't they make an all terrain version of this thing?* complained June two days earlier when patron Kath had her humping it across rough open country to the nearest cafe in the botanic gardens.

Patron's Day

Patron Kath Craven had been bemoaning the fact that so many skaters were spurning skirts in favour of long warm pants on the ice. So to mollify our favourite member, Patron's Day was announced in September and attention to dress was compulsory. Kath pronounced herself delighted at the result and is pleased to note that wearing skirts has become a *la mode* for Tuesday and Thursday coffee club sessions. In the top photo you can see that Graham Williams scrubbed up surprisingly well for the event and was deemed an acceptable dance partner for Kath! Coaches took the opportunity to create an ad hoc synchro team of all the skaters so there was a chance for those who were strangers to synchro to learn some new skills.

Race Day

Christchurch's big Race Day in November was a perfect excuse for a competition and rivalry for the coveted prizes was stiff enough to send Gail to the extreme of body art. Yvonne had a more modest approach to that concept and was amongst the winners in her hand painted body suit but no one could deny that Gail's real flesh stole the day. Esther was in her cups with an imaginative and raunchy creation featured on the left while Linda backed a winner with her grandiose hat complemented by leopard skin tights. Boas, fascinators and plenty of bling gave a dazzling effect on the ice.

Swan Lake on Ice

In June Christchurch was visited by the Imperial Ice Stars who were performing Swan Lake on Ice. The stars offered masters classes to Centaurus' young skaters and were generous with free tickets to the show. Quick to see a chance for another competition Kim Lewis arranged a Swan Lake dress up event.

While the young skaters clearly had more beauty and swan like agility, it was the masters who shone in inventiveness and attitude. Jean Kennedy stole the show in an Odile costume made entirely from supermarket bags while Carol Hunting's cunningly contrived twin swan outfit had migraine sufferers wondering if they were seeing things. June's black and red Odette outfit was simple enough - her prize rewarded not the costume but instead her ability on the ice to be a very nasty swan indeed! Deirdre made a regal gliding queen and Michelle a graceful Odile in shimmering blue, if a little harried by the aforesaid nasty swan. Trish, Vicki and Eleanor added more black and threatening swans to the ice while Linda looked resplendent as a dancing guest in her period costume.

For more photos check out Alpine Ice's swan lake [gallery](#). Thanks to all participants who were willing to stick out their swan like necks for the entertainment of the rest of us.



Jean Kennedy wins free tickets to Swan Lake and saves the world with her reused supermarket bag confection of an outfit

CATCHING UP WITH HELENE IN OTTAWA



It's called skating skiing - we think. Where can we practise it in NZ?

It was the end of 2008 when Helene Wren left ChCh short of a fabulous ice dancing coach and returned to her homeland in Canada with her family. It was high time she had a visit from some club members and last November Michelle Carroll and June Laird put their hands up for that job.



Helene's home overlooks a pond that stretches more than rink's length and freezes fabulously in winter. Put on your skates in the dining room and head down

through the garden for hockey, figure skating, dog chasing or a glass of mulled wine beside a brightly burning brazier. Helene and Steve's children are on and off the ice constantly and the neighbours' kids whizz down the snowy hill above on toboggans that burst onto the pond at a startling speed.

But snow and ice fun doesn't end here. In the nearby woods there are little cabins, not unlike our tramping huts, but filled with tables in stead. The idea is to don snow shoes, cross country or skating skis and head on up at dusk with food and wine for an hilarious evening that only gets funnier when you try to ski down.

We thought that as skaters we'd be brilliant at skating skiing but it wasn't so. Closely examine June's first attempt above and you'll see her weight isn't where it should be. An outside edge is about to happen and that spells trouble. The plan is to practise this skill if we can in NZ and make a better showing next visit. Who wants to try this?



Michelle and Dominic fight it out on the ice

Helene is a consummate host, giving her guests a taste of all Ottawa's culinary delights as well as the area's museums, architecture, wildlife and winter delights. Thanks, Helene, for a magnificent holiday and reunion with your family. The club congratulates you on your birthday last month and we hope to see you again soon.

From the Newsletter Editors:

We hope you enjoyed reading our first Newsletter of this year. Please remember you are all playing a very important role in keeping it going. We will continue to need your submissions of articles, photos and ideas etc., to ensure we can move forward with our next edition. If you feel you could write a small (or bigger!) article, please let us know. Anything you can come up with is helpful. Pass it on to June or Sabina either in person at Coffee Club, or e-mail june.laird@slingshot.co.nz or sabina.email@gmail.com

Thank you for your support and Happy Skating everyone!