

CENTAURUS ICE SKATING CLUB INC.

South Island Championships 2005.....

After an early start for some on Thursday morning, our contingent of skaters headed south with most skaters arriving on Thursday evening. One vehicle was fully equipped with chains, snow shovel and windscreen ice scraper after last years encounter with a polar blast.

The practice and competition schedule had had an extreme makeover this year and this meant that all those doing two programs began with a practice on Friday morning and the short programs on Friday afternoon.

Friday was brilliantly sunny and warm. At least one skater found themselves overheating on the ice.

At the end of the first day Centaurus skaters were doing well in all grades and those who had already skated got to have a day off on Saturday. The elementary and pre elementary grades, and synchro skated in the morning while the other grades had scheduled practices at night. Four in the novice grade got to practice at 10.30pm.

Next day it was all on beginning with a synchro practice at 7.15 and followed by competition. There were great performances in all grades with our skaters collecting medals in nearly all grades.

After a short presentation ceremony it was time to drive home, enjoying the increased petrol price and lack of snow flurries.

Thanks to Dunedin Ice Skating Club who did a great job of hosting and running the event. Our skaters enjoyed the greater ice area and the good condition of the ice.

Thanks also to the many judges who spent so much time there, and of course to the parents who got our skaters there at whatever time they were scheduled. The standard of coaching in Christchurch was well demonstrated by CISC members in all grades. We are certainly fortunate with our coaches.

Special congratulations to Sam Waugh who was awarded the Most Promising Skater. And for the fifth year in a row, Centaurus was again the top club.

..... and looking forward to Nationals 2005

All is very busy at the rink these days as our skaters are brushing up their routines in preparation for the first week of the holidays. Please be considerate of other skaters in these sessions whether they are senior or junior skaters.

The new tracksuits are being worn and should be taken to Dunedin. You are expected to have and wear your tracksuit if you are going to be included in the opening ceremony.

It will be the first nationals for some skaters and the seventh or eighth ? for others and we wish you all well. Remember that there is only one winner in every grade but lots of competitors. Good luck, good skating and enjoy the occasion.

Question..... Why are figure skaters like dentists?

Answer..... They are all good at filling holes...

BUT some skaters need more practice at this so please fill those holes that you made after doing those huge lutz jumps BEFORE you leave the ice.

AUSTRALIAN NATIONALS 2005

Report by Laura Mills

In 2005 I was selected to represent New Zealand in the Novice Ladies grade at the Australian National Championships in Perth.

I left Christchurch on 21 August bound for Perth, meeting up with most of the other New Zealand skaters at Auckland airport. It was a long trip of over 9 hours flying time – quite an ordeal for me as I am terrified of flying!!! Allie Rout from Auckland entertained me for some of the trip, watching films and chatting, so that helped take my mind off the scary turbulence!!

We arrived in Perth late evening, picked up a rental car, then spent nearly an hour getting lost in Fremantle trying to find our hotel. The next morning I had my first unofficial practice – this was also the morning I found out I was drawn to skate 23rd out of 23 skaters – a position which I’m not too fond of!!

The rink was situated in a light industrial area about a 20 minute drive from Fremantle. Although the rink was bigger than ours, I think the Alpine rink compared more favourably, with much nicer facilities and surroundings, but unfortunately just as cold inside.

I had some really good practice sessions, but unfortunately a disappointing competition and felt I could have done so much better. However, from watching the other skaters, I did learn heaps and gained some valuable experience. The standard of the top skaters in each grade was very high, not so much jump wise, but in spins, footwork, presentation, and speed. I felt from watching them that I needed to improve my speed, fitness, have more confidence in my own abilities, and not be fazed out by other skaters. I feel that my skating will improve because of this experience.

The new judging system was in use for the junior and senior grades. It was quite hard to comprehend at first, and some of the results took ages to appear. There were also a few mix ups with results, especially in the junior grade where the original rankings were wrong, and the final results were not available till the next day.

The highlight of the competition for me was the Senior Ladies grade, and the battle between their two top skaters – Joanne Carter and Miriam Manzano. Joanne Carter had an amazing technical programme, landing a triple lutz double loop combination, triple flip, coupled with outstanding spins and speed. However, in the freeskate, Miriam Manzano fought back with an awesome programme which included 2 really high triple lutztes and a great triple loop, narrowly winning 1st place overall.

In between watching all this great skating and supporting the other NZ team members, I managed to fit in a little sightseeing. Fremantle was a really interesting town with well preserved historic buildings. I had a tour through a submarine at the Maritime Museum, a visit to the historic Fremantle Prison, and a drive north via Perth’s beaches where I saw the Indian Ocean for the first time. And to top it all, my favourite occupation – shopping!!!

Thank you to all those skaters, parents, and coaches for their support, and to the club members who helped with my fundraising.



SILVER TORQUE REPORT

This is a very brief report, as the team are busy practicing on ice or admiring themselves in the mirrors at their new off-ice practice venue at Hagley High School. This year at Nationals, the synchronized skating is being held early in the competition (allowing plenty of time to visit the chocolate factory!) Good Luck, Good Skating and Good Eating in that order please.

CISC

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Contact at dbn@lincoln.school.nz. Contributions for the newsletter are welcome, (including skating items for sale.)

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- Club Handbooks. A reference file of sheets, forms and explanations for new club members has been •
- compiled. If any new members would like to borrow one to help their understanding of how the club and •
- ice-skating operate, ask a committee member. •
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