

Ayr Figure Skating Club Newsletter – April 2011

Skaters' news

Magnum Open

Congratulations to all our club skaters who competed in the Magnum Open & in particular to Ellie Somerville who achieved 2nd Place in the 11 years & under, Level 1 Ladies.

Club Competition

Well done to all the skaters who competed at the competition, and special congratulations to all those who made the podium. Pictures have been posted on the gallery at AFSC website and the DVD is available for sale. Order forms are available from Kevin Thomas.

NISA Tests

NISA tests were held on the Saturday 26th March. Congratulations to all the following skaters:

Free Programme: Jianghong Lucky Level 4

Field moves: Alison McLellan Level 3, Caroline Fowler Level 2, Rebecca Gowans Level 1,
Jenna Adams Level 1

Elements: Christian Martin Level 1

Forthcoming competitions

Best wishes to Aimee Moore and Ellie Holmes who are competing in the Blackpool Open. Best wishes also to Ayr Force who are competing at the Scottish Synchronized Skating Championships and Trophy D'Ecosse Club International.

Dates for your diary

28 th April	Mock Open performance for those competing at Kyle Open
12 th May	Gala Night
19 th May	Last skating session at Limekiln Road
20 - 22 May	Kyle Open Competition
Late May or early June	First session at Auchendarvie Ice rink
18 th June	Holy Fair fundraiser
25 th June	Coylton Gala fundraiser
2 nd August	Ayr Rink re-opens. Date to be confirmed.
6 th August	Dundonald Games fundraiser. Date to be confirmed
? August	Policy conference
September	AGM
23/24/25 Sept	Ayr Open Competition

AFSC Committee

The committee has changed considerably since the AGM due to a number of resignations. The present committee is as follows:

Acting President	Stacey Adams
Co-opted Vice President	Brian Alner
Co-opted Secretary	Pat McLellan
Treasurer	Susan Young
Members	Joyce Fowler (responsible for On & Off ice group classes)
	Ann Johnstone
	Audrey Barr
	Lynsey Dempsie

In addition, Ros and Kevin have volunteered to run the tuck shop and Maryanne has volunteered to organise Skate UK. Please approach any of these people directly if you can help to make our club run more smoothly. A suggestions box has been placed in the tuck shop so if you want to put your ideas in writing please feel free.

Club handbook

The club handbook has been updated to represent our current policies and practices. Every skater will be given a copy in April, but thereafter you can download the most up to date version from the website or order a copy from the tuck shop.

Kitchen Refurbishment

The kitchen has been measured and various people have been consulted about providing expertise and labour to refurbish the kitchen to modern standards. The committee proposes to proceed with a complete refit using IKEA units and sinks, with a new cooker, extractor fan, fridge freezer and floor tiles. A modest budget has been set. It is anticipated that work would start shortly after the rink closes at the end of May. The clubroom will also benefit from the addition of donated filing cabinets. Please ask Joyce or Pat if you want more details about what is proposed.

August Policy Conference

The committee proposes a conference in August, before the AGM, where we can discuss a number of proposals such as

1. Defining the aims and objectives of club.
2. The setting up and operation of a potential competitors fund.
3. A 'buddy scheme' where experienced skaters befriend and guide new members, with a particular reference to safety and awareness of other skaters.
4. Any other proposals from members put in writing 2 weeks before the conference.

Ayr Open Competition

The proposed dates are 23rd, 24th and 25th September. The committee unanimously decided that we should run an IJS Open Competition for all but beginners, after being made aware of the expense of running this system. This will reduce the profit from the Open substantially, and may even result in a loss, but is certainly the way forward for figure skating and greatly benefits the skaters.

The referee wants a guarantee of total commitment from the club for managing all the jobs required. It was agreed that we would ask people to volunteer for time slots on each of the three days. We need 15 - 20 people working at any one time and look to reassure the referee that this is achievable by consulting the membership before the end of April. We will then offer to provide details of the personnel appointed to each job 6 weeks before the competition. It is understood that the final job rota cannot be allocated until the referee produces the timetable.

Summer Ice

Negotiations are still underway about securing ice during June & July at the new Auchenharvie rink. We will update you as soon as details are finalised.

Membership

At present our membership stands at 41 full club members and 6 Stepping Stone members

Club Photos

Kevin has the technology to make magnetic photographs for sale to help raise club funds. He will also email you a photograph from the club competition if you make a request.

Please note that he is a busy man – running the website, the tuck shop, the photo gallery and the DVD production, so please be patient if he does not immediately respond to your request!

Fund raising

Well done to everyone who helped raise funds at the Club competition. We raised approximately **£380** from our raffle, tombola and coffee morning. Also, thanks to your generous donations we have many more tombola prizes so we can run another tombola at the Gala in May. Ann Johnston is still collecting raffle money and the draw won't take place until Easter. A special mention has to be made for the Malcolm family who made a fantastic contribution of tombola prizes and staffed both stalls on the day.

Thanks are due to all the parents who are helping make the Adult Skate UK classes a success, especially Maryanne. This is bringing welcome funds to the club and synchro squad.

We have secured a bag packing day at Sainsbury's in Prestwick (date to be confirmed) and have stalls at the Holy Fair and Coylton Gala. Last year these three fundraisers alone brought in over **£1740** to our club. To raise the same money from members would result in us having to ask every skater for an extra £40!

We also hope to get a stall at the Dundonald games again, which the Synchro parents will use to raise funds.

However ***we need donations of bottles***. If every skating family were to donate toiletries or soft drinks, beer, wine, spirits we could be well on our way to at least double our money. We will run a "pre – loved" soft toy tombola at the Coylton gala so we need donations of second hand soft toys in pristine condition.

We also need people to help fold the tickets, sell prize crossword puzzles, and staff the stalls and help set up in advance.

Fleeces

Fleeces can be personalised with the skater's name on the back and can, if their coach is in agreement, "coached by.....". Please see Lynsey for more details.

The feedback reaching the committee at present is that most skaters and parents are satisfied with the operation of the club, but please feel free to comment directly to a committee member, in writing to the secretary, or use the suggestion box to express your views.