

Silver Blades Figure Skating Club Incorporated (SBFSC-AGM-3-20140324)

President's Report for the Year Ending 31st December 2013

I am pleased to present the President's report for the past year.

2013 was a busy year for the club and with a lot of hard work from the committee, club members and volunteers, a lot has been achieved.

- Skating camps – Two of the key events held in 2013 were the skating camps, and for each camp the club decided to invite an elite level coach. As both coaches needed to travel from interstate the club covered the costs associated with their travel as well as their coaching expenses. There were no accommodation costs as Richard Laidlaw very kindly offered his home as a place to stay. Although the camps were subsidised with the help of a grant from the City of West Torrens, the club did not expect to cover costs. The benefit to club members however, as well as to members of the Noarlunga Figure Skating Club (who were also invited), was considered more than worth the expense of drawing upon club funds. The details of each camp were:
 - The first camp was held in January and was provided for skaters of Aussie Skate levels up to Senior. The guest coach was Kyle Fennell who has coached at the Olympic level.
 - The second camp was held in October and extended on the first by providing for skaters of all levels. As well as a large number of our club members, it was good to see skaters from the "Learn to Skate" program attending also. The guest coach was Belinda Noonan, a former Australian champion skater, who has coached students to three Olympic games, and is currently Figure Skating Coordinator for the Olympic Winter Institute.
- Competitions -
 - **April Fun Skate & Artistic Exhibition** - This competition was organised by the club in partnership with the Ice Arena Skate School. It was open to skaters of all levels from Aussie Skate, up to and including Senior, and it was good to see that we had a number of Noarlunga skaters participating.
 - **The Panda Challenge & Artistic Trophy Competition** – This was held in November, and in addition to the many skaters from South Australia, was attended by a large number of skaters from Victoria and Queensland; amazingly just over half the competitors came from interstate. Although only in its second year, the competition exceeded all expectations by doubling in size, and the increase in numbers actually caused some scheduling problems. Buoyed by this enthusiasm, the club is already planning the 2014 event. It is currently scheduled for November, and instead of being a 2-day event, will now be a 3-day event to cater for the increase in numbers.

- Off-Ice Skill Development Programs – This was introduced in term three as a trial and proved to be very successful. The programs worked on strength, flexibility, jumps, dance and performance execution. The sessions were aimed at skaters in Aussie Skate up to Pre-Primary and Adult. Due to this initial success, the club is looking at bringing the program back in 2014.
- Silver Blades Synchronized Skating - The Panda Challenge also saw 16 skaters take to the ice as the Silver Blades Figure Skating Club's first Synchronized Ensemble Team. The club would like to take the opportunity to thank Coach Robi Chalmers who took on the task of bringing together a team of diverse ages and skills in such a very short time. The team had the opportunity to show off their skills at the end of year Ice Show and is looking forward to building on their program in the 2014 season.
- Social & Fundraising Dinner – This was held in October and was a new event for the club. It was well attended by members and their families and friends and with all of the positive feedback, we are hoping to make this a regular event each year.
- Ice Show – To celebrate the end of a very busy year, the club, along with the Thebarton Ice Arena Aussie Skate School, put on a show with the story line adapted from the iconic Tchaikovsky ballet "The Nutcracker". The 60+ cast members skated their way around the world to a variety of music, all the while looking for Clara's magic skates. A huge effort went into coordinating the production and a very big thank you goes to all those who contributed to making the event such a success.
- The Christmas Party – This was a follow up to the Ice Show and was a joint effort with the Ice Arena "Learn To Skate" program. It was well attended and it was nice to see club members and their families enjoying themselves.
- Competitions – In 2013 we had a large number of skaters who took part in competitions at club, state, interstate, national and international levels throughout the year. The numbers have increased when compared to those of the previous year. Congratulations to James Min who qualified and has been selected for 2014 National Squad.
- Competitor Support –
 - The club provided financial support to two skaters – James Min and Giuseppe Triulcio – who qualified to participate in **Skate Down Under**. This was a new competition which was recognised as an international level figure skating competition. The event was held in August in Sydney and both boys skated at the Advanced Novice level. They did very well with Giuseppe coming 4th and James coming 1st.
 - Club jackets were given to skaters who met the club funding policy and participated in the 2013 National Championships. Club jackets and T-Shirts were also subsidised to members throughout the year.
- Disney On Ice – Our members participated in the pre-show entertainment for the Disney On Ice show at the Adelaide Entertainment. The pre-show programme was co-ordinated by SAISA.

- The club website – The club website was created in 2011 and has provided skaters with a wide range of information on club activities, training, competitions (both local and interstate) along with procedures and guidelines. In 2013 the club extended the website with on-line forms to enable members and Interstate skaters to enrol in club activities. It has made the process of joining the club, renewing a membership or enrolling in a competition much easier, and has streamlined the administrative process for volunteers. Members can now pay for their memberships on-line as well.

The web site can be found at www.silverblades.org.au.

It has taken us a lot of time and effort to get to this point, and I would like to thank the committee and members for their contributions to helping the club achieve the above.

Recently there has been a significant effort by the committee and members to put together a strategic plan to promote the club over the next 2 years. It is apparent that we especially need to encourage young skaters and support new members. There have been ideas for new programs to help young skaters get started, and also to support our elite skaters pursue their goals.

We have had a number of people who have expressed interested in learning more about the IJS system and so we are considering holding a workshop in conjunction with SAISA during the skating camps this year. The idea is to provide a better understanding of various aspects of the sport and to encourage them to become involved.

The committee took on a lot in 2013 and as a result was rather stretched at times. It would be wonderful if we could have more assistance from members and supporters. If there are people would like to volunteer to assist with, or even run events such as those listed above then that would be most appreciated. Some events, such as the Social and Fund Raising dinner, don't even require experience with figure skating to put on.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge our hard working volunteers, club & state officials, judges and dedicated coaches for their support throughout the year. I would like to thank the out-going committee for their efforts and would especially like to thank our treasurer Chris for her dedication in supporting the financial side of club activities, Richard Laidlaw for his enthusiastic support as a Club Adviser, and Tracie for taking over the Club Secretary role when it was needed.

Finally, I would like to thank Bob Battersby for chairing the meeting and for his on going support of the club through out the year. Bob has been my mentoring with club matters since I commenced serving the club as a president. Thank you also to Bob's wife Teresita Sarmiento, our Honourary Auditor, for taking the time to audit the SBFSC books and provide guidance in financial matters.

Stephanie Huot

SBFSC President