

# **SPEED SKATE NOVA SCOTIA**

Annual General Meeting Minutes  
May 26, 2012

## **Opening:**

The annual general meeting of Speed Skate Nova Scotia was called to order by Troy Myers at 9:00 AM on May 26, 2012 in Halifax, NS.

## **Present:**

Troy Myers  
Meredith Clayden  
David McDonald  
Brent Thompson  
Todd Landon  
Stephen MacMurray  
Lisa Gannett  
Nancy Devison  
Sheila McGinn

## **Regrets:**

Bernard Crane  
Laurolea Crane  
Charlie Clements  
Shirley Dalton  
Bailey Hynes

## **A. President's welcome**

Troy welcomed the participants to the meeting.

## **B. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the last AGM were not available for approval. Sheila McGinn will track down the minutes for approval at the next AGM.

**Action: Sheila McGinn**

## **C. Directors reports**

### **1.) President:**

Troy Myers reported on the two objectives established for his first term as President.

- The first was to help HRM with the development of the permanent oval as a high level speed skating venue, including both the technical issues related to construction, and programming. The relationship with HRM has been very good. They want the oval to be a home for speed skating, and support the objective of hosting national and international events. He and Todd Landon are currently

working with HRM on the specifications for the permanent facilities, to ensure that they will meet SSC standards for hosting high level events. Our current bid to host the 2013 Masters International Canadian Open was not successful as the venue currently does not meet the required standards.

- The second objective was the establishment of professional capacity to support the sport. This was met with the creation of the Long Track Coach & Regional Development Mentor position through a partnership between Speed Skating Canada and Canadian Sport Centre Atlantic, and the hiring of Todd Landon to fill that position. Todd has brought great enthusiasm and energy to the sport and has reached out to all of the associations in the Atlantic Region.

He also asked Todd Landon to update the group on the status of the development of the **Valley Speed Skating Club**, which has registered its name, and will be doing some promotion of the new club during the Apple Blossom Festival, and are planning a summer day camp on August 17<sup>th</sup>. They are looking for 24 weeks of ice, and would be focusing on Learn to Speed Skate during their first year.

## **2.) Treasurer:**

Troy Myers presented the Financial Reports submitted by Laurolea Crane, as she was unable to attend the meeting. He noted that we had received an additional grant this year, for the purchase of skates and sharpening equipment for the oval. There was a discussion of other potential funding sources. Troy noted that we should place more emphasis on the Olympic success of our sport, which is the largest contributor to the medal total at the winter Olympics, when applying for funding. There was also a discussion of funding sources for supporting high performance athlete development, including funding for attending meets. Troy will follow up regarding some potential funding to send kids to Easterns.

**Action: Troy Myers**

Todd Landon mentioned a list of grant opportunities that he has received, and will forward to the board and the club executives.

**Action: Todd Landon**

It was noted that we should be ensuring that **clubs register parents as associates**, in addition to registering skaters. This will affect the participation levels for our provincial block funding, which is due to be recalculated. It is also important as parents are frequently involved in activities such as setting up safety paddling and other volunteer activities, and should be brought in under the association's insurance coverage, both liability and accident, and it gives them a vote in club and SSNS affairs, which the skaters may be too young to take advantage of. It was noted that while there is a fee for the membership, it is well worthwhile.

**Action: All club registrars**

The attendees noted that we do not have enough information about our insurance coverage to know whether our coverage is adequate. Sheila McGinn will follow up to obtain copies of the policies under which we are covered.

**Action: Sheila McGinn**

### **3.) Director, Athlete Development**

See attached written report by Brent Thompson.

### **4.) Director, Coaching**

See attached written report by Brent Thompson. In addition to the formal report, there was a discussion of the 2015 Canada Games. It was noted that the upper age limit is very restrictive in terms of our opportunities to develop athletes for the next Games, and that in particular, it seems very low for long track, where athletes do not usually reach their full potential until there are in their twenties. Troy Myers will raise this issue at the next SSC AGM.

**Action: Troy Myers**

### **5.) Director, Officials**

See attached written report by David MacDonald. **(to be provided)**

There was discussion of the need for a Level One Officials Clinic this fall.

**Action: David MacDonald**

### **6.) Director, Competitions**

No report

### **7.) Director, Domestic Development**

No report

## **D. New Business**

### **1.) Tri County Speed Skating Club**

An email was received during the meeting from Charlie Clements about the conference call arrangements. As the Sydney representatives were unable to attend, and confirmation had not been received from Yarmouth, no arrangements had been made, and it was not possible to link him into the meeting. Troy Myers indicated he would call him after the meeting to debrief him. The following information was passed along in a brief telephone call with Sheila McGinn during the meeting:

- The Yarmouth club plans to start up this fall, and is currently attempting to make arrangements with their venue for the storage of their safety padding.
- They would like to have a speed skating demonstration session in the fall, as was done in the Annapolis Valley last year. Troy Myers and Todd Landon will follow up.

**Action: Troy Myers / Todd Landon**

## **2.) Atlantic Coach Report**

See attached presentation by Todd Landon (to be provided)

## **3.) 2012-2013 SSNS Membership Fees**

Speed Skating Canada charges a “Special Event” membership fee, currently \$1 but rising to \$2 for the 2012-2013 season, for skaters or associates who participate in only one speed skating event during a season. SSNS has not collected a provincial fee in respect of this type of membership, but incurs additional insurance expenses in respect of these memberships, as the premiums are based on membership numbers regardless of membership category. A new fee was proposed starting in the 2012-2013 season to provide for these increased insurance costs.

### **Motion:**

**That Speed Skate Nova Scotia institute a fee of \$1 for Special Event membership starting in the 2012-2013 season**

**Moved by: Sheila McGinn**

**Seconded by: Brent Thompson**

**Approved unanimously**

## **4.) SSNS website**

It was noted that the current website is not meeting our needs. Different options for replacing the current site were discussed. This will be addressed by the Board.

**Action: SSNS Board of Directors**

## **5.) New Club**

Lisa Gannett indicated that The Speedy Kids Oval Program Society would like to establish itself as Speed Skating Club affiliated with Speed Skate Nova Scotia, in order to accommodate those are within the society’s mandate, but aren’t able to access the its services through one of the partner programs, such as the after school programs.

**Motion:**

**That the Speedy Kids Oval Program Society be accepted as an affiliated club of Speed Skate Nova Scotia**

**Moved by: Stephen MacMurray**

**Seconded by: David MacDonald**

**Approved unanimously**

**6.) 2015 Canada Winter Games**

A Canada Winter Games Committee needs to be established in order to access funding available for athlete and coach development, as well as to begin work on preparation of our coaches and athletes. This will be addressed at the next SSNS Board Meeting, to be scheduled for the third week of June.

**Action: SSNS Board of Directors**

**E. Election of Officers**

President	Troy Myers
Vice President	Vacant
Secretary	Sheila McGinn
Treasurer	Nancy Devison
Director of Athlete Development	Brent Thompson
Director of Coaching	Brent Thompson
Director of Officials	David MacDonald
Director of Competitions	Vacant
Director of Domestic Development	Vacant

Troy expressed the thanks of Speed Skate Nova Scotia to Bernard and Laurelea Crane for their many years of dedicated service on the board.

He also recognized the importance of filling the vacant positions on the Board, and indicated that the Board would work towards finding suitable candidates for the vacancies.

**Action: SSNS Board of Directors**

**F. Adjournment:**

Meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM by Troy Myers.

**Director of Athlete Development Report**  
**2011-2012**

In the 2011-2012 skating season we have experienced growth in our sport provincially in both programming and numbers, despite it being a non-Olympic year.

In the summer of 2011, numerous skaters attended training camps in Calgary, Ottawa, Saint John, Fredericton and Charlottetown. I organized dry land training sessions weekly throughout the summer with programming support from Andrew Godbout, a former NS skater that had recently retired from the long track skating in the Calgary Oval program. I made 16 elastic cord and 8 seatbelt turncables for fewer than three hundred dollars (which would have retailed at over \$2000) for use during these sessions. My philosophy is to spend money frugally and to reach as many skaters as possible with financial support.

In mid-December 2011 the Emera Oval opened, which was the first phase of converting the temporary Canada Winter Games Oval facility on the Halifax Commons into a permanent skating facility. This facility, in my opinion, is the most important advancement in speed skating in the history of our provincial organization. On December 31, 2011 Todd Landon started his valued role as Regional Development Mentor / Long Track Coach, to add coaching expertise, mentoring and programming to the long track facility.

Many involved in speed skating at a club level, provincially and nationally share the value that this facility will bring to developing our skaters. Some notable SSNS members were instrumental in getting resources, equipment and programming on the Oval. Special thanks must go out to:

- Stephen MacMurray, Sheila McGinn for starting an long track equipment inventory,
- Troy Myers for successfully obtaining a grant for payment of an long track equipment inventory,
- Lisa Gannett for starting an innovative **The Speedy Kids Oval Program Society**, an incorporated not-for-profit society to support opportunities for children, youth, and families from underserved groups within the Halifax Regional Municipality to learn to skate and participate in the sport of speed skating. Lisa also allowed her skate inventory to be used for Learn-to-speed-skate programming at the Oval.
- Sheila McGinn for her efforts in organizing the marathon and our first long track mass-start competition at the Emera Oval.

We had 28 Nova Scotia skaters skating at 7 Atlantic Short track competitions, 1 long track competition and 1 regional short track competition. On January 21-22, 2012 the first mass start long track competition in Nova Scotia took place on the Emera Oval. Participants ranging in age from 6 to adult participated. We also had many new special event SSNS members participate in the Skate the Common Marathon on February 18-19, 2012. Seventy-six skaters participate in a Learn-to-Speed-Skate on the Oval Program.

I visited three schools during the 2011-12 season to provide a class presentation to promote speed skating, and encourage students to participate in the learn-to-speed-skate on the oval program.

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Four Nova Scotia skaters obtained times during the 2011-12 short track season to meet Speed Skate Nova Scotia's minimal standard of 120% of the record to attend the Canada East Championships in Sherbrooke, Quebec (2 attended). The determination of who had qualifying times was complicated by the fact that records for the T2T ages are no longer going to be kept by Speed Skate Canada. To keep as close to the intent of the minimal standard that SSNS had set, I used the fastest times skated at the 2011 Canada East and Canada West Championships. We will have to re-establish a policy on the minimal standard because trying to track the fastest times skated in the competitions across Canada is too difficult.

In the 2011-2012 season we have some advancements in improving athlete development in the province: establishing a baseline dry land training program that will run independent of a Canada Games cycle, having four athletes qualify to compete in Regional competitions, the establishment of a permanent long track facility, the addition of Todd Landon's expertise and mentoring and increased exposure of speed skating to the public.

Some challenges that we face in the growth of the sport within the province is how do we promote growth of Clubs outside of Halifax. The Sydney Club appears to have folded; the Tri-County Club appears to be unsuccessful to date in starting. Our main communication link to distribute information, regarding training plans, competition results, etc. to the clubs through the SSNS website is non-existent. Capacity building within our executive, clubs and coaching to better promote our sport is essential.

Respectfully Submitted,



Brent Thompson  
Director of Athlete Development

**Director of Coaching Report**  
**2011-2012**

In the 2011-2012 skating season, we have had overall loss of coaching experience in the province with Neill Evans stepping away from coaching. We have also had some exciting new developments with regards to future development of coaches within the province.

Coaches were recruited from various contacts to start or re-enter coaching.

- Lisa Gannett, a former skater and former Level III coach re-entered coaching short track and long track
- Meredith Clayden, a skater from Saint John, now living in Halifax has started coaching long track
- Leigh van Drecht, a skater from Fredericton has started coaching long track
- Jean-Pierre Daigle, a former Halifax skater has started coaching short track
- Danielle Daigle, a former skater from Halifax has started coaching short track as well as her long-term involvement in Special Olympics
- Carolyn Jarock, a former skater from the West has started coaching short track and long track
- Nicky Clements, a former skater from Halifax has started coaching long-track
- Dawn Cyr, a parent from Dartmouth continues her coaching in short track
- Brent Thompson, a parent, former skater, former Level II coach continues coaching in short track and long track

Three coaches: Dawn Cyr, Charlie Clements and Brent Thompson attended the Introduction to Competition Coaching Course over two weekends in Sackville and Fredericton, NB. Full credentialing is dependent on portfolio review.

Todd Landon started his job as Regional Development Mentor / Long Track Coach on December 31, 2011. His coaching expertise, coach mentoring and long and short track expertise is a welcomed addition to our region. Todd hit the ground running and ran a Fundamentals Leaders and Fundamentals Coaching course.

Three coaches: Carolyn Jarock, Meredith Clayden, and Lindsay Devison attended the Fundamentals Coaching course and Paul Smith, Emma Galsworthy, Leigh van Drecht and Izzy Dilger attended a Fundamental Leaders Course.

With three years before the next Canada Winter Games and growing need for coaches in the Halifax region, Yarmouth region, North Sydney and potential in the Annapolis region coaching training is of paramount importance. Currently, Lisa Gannett and Todd Landon are the only active experienced coaches that do not have Canada Games eligible children. We need to develop more Level III coaches within the province to avoid potential conflict of interest on

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provincial teams. Encouragement of our Masters skaters and senior level skaters by providing financial resources for coaching certification may be an option.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brent Thompson".

Brent Thompson  
Director of Coaching