



Annual General Meeting

Sunday, June 25, 2017

3rd Floor Classroom, Sport Nova Scotia

5516 Spring Garden Road, Halifax, NS B3J 1G6

SPEED SKATE NOVA SCOTIA
Annual General Meeting
Sunday, June 25th, 2017
3rd Floor Classroom, Sport Nova Scotia

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• Northside Blades Speed Skating Club	
• Nova Scotia Masters Speed Skating Club	
• Speedy Kids Oval Program Society	
• Valley Speed Skating Club	

2016/2017 Board of Directors

President	Brent Thompson
Vice President	<i>Vacant</i>
Secretary	Kevin Goswell
Treasurer	<i>Vacant</i>
Director	Brad Holwell
Director	Darlene Petite
Director	Bev Ratchford
Director	Dawn Noakes
Director	Steve Raftery
Director	Craig Hillis
Director	Bonnie Whyte
Director	Pierre Clement
Director	Bert Losier

2016/2017 Membership

- Dartmouth Crossing Speed Skating Club
- Halifax Regional Speed Skating Club
- Northside Blades Speed Skating Club
- Nova Scotia Masters Speed Skating Club
- Speedy Kids Oval Program Society
- Valley Speed Skating Club

2017 Speed Skate Nova Scotia Annual General Meeting Agenda

June 25, 2017- 10:00am

3rd Floor Classroom, Sport Nova Scotia- 5516 Spring Garden Rd., 4th Floor, Halifax, NS B3J 1G6

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Approval of Minutes of 2016 AGM
- 3) Reports
 - a. President
 - b. 2017 SSC AGM Update
 - c. Treasurer
 - i. Treasurer's Report
 - ii. 2015-2016 Financial Statements
 - iii. 2016-2017 Budget
- 4) Committee Reports
 - a. Finance Committee
 - b. Coaching and Athlete Development Committee
 - c. Officials Committee
 - d. Competitions Committee
 - e. Club and Membership Development Committee
- 5) Club reports
 - a. Dartmouth Crossing Speed Skating Club
 - b. Halifax Regional Speed Skating Club
 - c. Northside Blades Speed Skating Club
 - d. Nova Scotia Masters Speed Skating Club
 - e. Speedy Kids Oval Program Society
 - f. Valley Speed Skating Club
- 6) New Business
 - a. Confirmation of ice time for the 2017-2018 season
 - b. Safety at the oval
- 7) Appointment of Directors

Immediately following the AGM there will be a meeting of the new Board of Directors to elect the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.
- 8) Adjournment of AGM



**Speed Skate Nova Scotia
Annual General Meeting
June 29th, 2016
7:00PM**

BMO Centre

Conference Line: 1-866-886-0869 Code: 2767432357

Meeting called to order by Troy Myers at 7:02PM

Present: Ryan Francis – Sport NS, John Hillis – NSMSCC, Michelle Aucoin – Province of Nova Scotia, Todd Landon – SSC, Brad Holwell HRSSC, Kevin Goswell – HRSSC, Merrell Moorhead – HRSSC, Sheila McGinn – NSMSSC, Stephen MacMurray – NSMSSC, Craig Hillis – NSMSSC, Greg Milton – NSMSSC, Dawn McInnis – HRSSC, Laura Channon – Speedy Kids, Maartje Stroink – Speedy Kids, Hilary Rankin – Speedy Kids, Troy Myers, Brett Thompson – Speedy Kids, Bert Losier – NSMSSC, Paula Aruda – HRSSC/Speedy Kids, Brian Cameron – HRSSC, Evan McInnis - CSCA

Present Via Conference Call: Steve Raferty – Valley, Dawn Noakes – Valley, Bev Ratchford - Northside Blades, Darlene Petite – Northside Blades

Troy welcomed and thanked everyone for attending.

1. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Motion: To approve the proposed Agenda and previous Minutes

Moved by: John Hillis

Seconded by: Hilary Rankin

Motion Carried

2. Roll Call

Completed

3. Business arising from minutes

No new business.

4. President's Report

Report submitted. Troy mentioned the growth of Speed Skating in Nova Scotia. Troy highlighted the transitions within the organization with Lainie Smith no longer in the PSO Administrative Coordinator position and with Ryan Francis stepping into the role. Troy commented that the board needs to work better and that there are opportunities available, specifically in regards to NSPPI. Troy noted the need to invest in athletes. Troy concluded by saying how great it had been to work with SSNS and wished the best for the future.

5. Treasurer's Report

No report submitted due to vacancy in position. It is suggested that the books are audited professionally.

6. Committee Reports

I. Finance Committee

No report submitted.

II. Coaching Committee

No report submitted.

III. Officials Committee

Report submitted and circulated.

IV. Competitions Committee

No report submitted.

V. Club and Membership Development Committee

Report submitted and circulated with no further questions.

7. Club Reports

I. Halifax Regional Speed Skating Club

Club report submitted.

II. Northside Blades Speed Skating Club

Club report submitted.

III. Nova Scotia Masters Speed Skating Club

Club Report submitted

IV. Speed Kids Oval Program Society

Club Report submitted. Hilary notes Melt Down was hosted, and was a successful, collaborative event.

V. Valley Speed Skating Club

Club report submitted.

Motion: to approve all presented reports.

Moved by: Craig Hillier

Seconded by: Brad Holwell

Motion Carried

8. Report from the Long Track Coach and Regional Development Mentor

Report submitted and circulated. Todd notes that his role was clarified but requires further clarification. Todd meets with Ryan on a weekly basis.

9. Dartmouth Crossing Speed Skating Club

Bert commented on need for a club in Dartmouth, especially with the Dartmouth Crossing 4 Pad that has Olympic sized ice, coming in the near future. This is an opportunity to attract younger skaters. It will be a short track club, with access to a long track program. Learn to skate built up. The club is looking for 12 hours a week over 3-4 days in the week. Todd notes that there will be need a large capacity. High Performance athletes need more ice time. If High Performance athletes have more options to skate, there is greater opportunity for development. Having a club from learn to skate, to High Performance is great for growth for SSNS. Member registration key for money.

Learn to skate program in first year.

Merrell noted that it is easier to give back ice time than trying to find some.

Paula asks how learn to skate transitions into skate to speed skate. Pin program utilized to help transition. Once in higher levels there are speed skate elements.

Motion to approve new club:
Moved by: John Hillis
Seconded by: Craig Hillis
Motion Carried

10. Insurance

SSNS should have insurance to protect the board of directors as well as insurance to protect approximately \$200,000 in inventory and equipment. Also SSNS should be looking for Accidental Death and Dismemberment.

Action: Ryan to get quote on insurance for director's liability and insurance for assets.

11. Appointment of Club Representatives to Committees

I. Finance

New Treasurer (chair), signing authorities

Action: Signing authorities to be sorted out.

II. Coaching

Vacant

III. Officials

Stephen MacMurray stepping away from responsibilities, although will stay on for level 2 clinics. Andrew from Speedy Kids expressed interest last year.

IV. Competitions

Craig Hillis and Mike Sullivan

V. Club and Membership

Steve Raftery remains as chair.

Todd recommends because of capacity, some committees should be combined. Should Competition and Officials committee be together? Athlete Development committee should be established and work with Coaching Committee.

Athlete Development committee was made of Todd, Lisa, and Lainie.

Craig Hillis mentioned that competitions committee is to look after how ice is allocated. Officials committee heavy workload. Hilary notes combining committees could help support and balance workload.

A lot of development necessary for officials in Nova Scotia.

Committees to remain the same for competitions/officials.

Todd proposes Coaching Committee, Athlete Development alignment. To be named Coaching/Athlete Development Committee. Important for board member to sit on this committee so they can relay information to board. John Hillis puts names forward to sit on committee.

Motion:
Moved by: Brad Holwell
Seconded by: Craig Hillis
Motion carried

12. Results of Strategic Planning Session June 4-5

Max Chauvin summarized and captured important information. Priorities identified: 1) safety (padding for Oval, and regional clubs, and safety protocol), 2) Recruitment, 3) Governance. Structured approach to policies. Document should be created into actual strategic plan.

The board needs to decide the next steps and how to interpret and implement them.

A question was raised that since transparency is one of the issues of concern, it was a concern that it was not clear how this session had been planned and paid for. This was an event in the planning since the fall but the NSPPI results were delayed. The fees for the two sessions were paid for by a Sport Nova Scotia Grant.

Transparency is important as is getting more family buy-in, which could ultimately lead to more involvement among skaters and their families in committees that require input and members and build more capacity for our organization.

Speed Skate NS last year decided to do strategic planning. SSNS received a Sport NS grant to reimburse the facilitator Max Chauvin. Troy signed off on the grant application.

13. Distribution of draft SSNS policy documents for consultation

Some policy statements were drafted for distribution to clubs for further development. They will be sent out for more feedback. No policy gaps were reported at the meeting.

Action: Policy frameworks to be re-distributed by Ryan

14. Appointment of Directors

Director: Brad Holwell
Director: Kevin Goswell
Director: Darlene Petite
Director: Bev Ratchford
Director: Craig Hillis
Director: John Hillis
Director: Brent Thompson
Director: Hilary Rankin
Director: Steve Raftery
Director: Dawn Noakes
Director: Bret Losier
Director: Pierre Clement

Motion to appoint:
Motioned by: John Hillis

Seconded by: Craig Hillis
Motion carried

Brent Thompson looked into safety pads for oval. Quotes provided by Holland and South Korea. Landscaping required around \$15000. Range from approximately \$75000 to \$175000.

Shelia noted they reached out to Dalhousie about a build and buy.

Hilary thanked Troy Myers for his work with Speed Skate Nova Scotia.

15. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn
Motioned by: Hilary Rankin
Seconded by: John Hillis
Motion carried

Meeting adjourned at 8:01PM



Speed Skate Nova Scotia 2016-2017 President's Report

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Speed Skate Nova Scotia (SSNS) underwent a formal strategic planning session in June 2016, with a professional facilitator. Three priority items were identified: 1) Safety, 2) Recruitment and 3) Governance.

Safety

Safety for speed skating at the Emera Oval has been identified as a priority by our member clubs. The process of trying to make safety upgrades to a HRM facility that must serve the public needs and speed skating needs and stay within the HRM budget restraints has proven to be a difficult process. After two meetings with the HRM Oval Coordinator and supervisor SSNS was given the assurance that the gravel adjoining the oval surface will be replaced by grass during the spring / summer of 2017. The 2017-2018 SSNS Board of Directors must follow-up with HRM to ensure this is carried out.

A Speed skating Canada safety expert was consulted and padding solutions were obtained. Quotes for padding were obtained from two different companies: 1) Airfence (Florida, US) and 2) Sidijk (Heereveen, Netherlands). The cost of padding solutions to upgrade the Emera oval to allow a nationally ranked skater to compete or host National speed skating competitions has been estimated at \$150,000 to \$200,000.

The SSNS president and the Nustadia ice crew responsible for the ice maintenance had numerous meetings to discuss the impact of safety padding. Concerns were expressed regarding: snow removal, potential damage of pads by HRM equipment, the requirement of Nustadia to have snow blowing capability and the increased manpower costs.

The SSNS president met in person with the branch president Nicole Cooney and Mike Marshall from the Alberta Branch regarding the potential of obtaining pads from the Calgary Oval when they are replaced. Most of the pads have been promised to the Lethbridge Club and the Edmonton Club. The Calgary oval pads are not made of a material that has been recommended by Robert Tremblay of the FPVQ, with regards to longevity and would require recovering before use in an outdoor environment.

Padding alone will not ensure that the Emera Oval is safe for all levels of speed skating.

Padding placed at the edge of the ice on the curves must be accompanied by 3 metres of snow free plowed surface behind it. We have all seen soft fresh snow fall in the week leading up to a major event that is welcomed for safety reasons and we ask for the ice crew to leave it, to allow us to use the snowbanks to have Level III crash protection for our skaters. Then our weather turns to a heavy rainfall followed by a flash freeze which creates an oval that does not meet even Level I crash protection.

Improving Oval safety remains a priority for SSNS.

SSNS skate inventory at the oval were reviewed this season and unsafe skate tips were modified to comply with ISU rules for skate tips (refer to appendix I). As president, I logged 55-60 hours of time on the maintenance of the SSNS skate inventory focussing on the smaller sizes. The inventory was never more than 50% fit to skate on. Maintaining the SSNS skate inventory at the oval with regards to blade sharpness is a task for a team not an individual. The purpose and care of the SSNS skate inventory



Speed Skate Nova Scotia 2016-2017 President's Report

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should be an action item for the new board of directors.

Recruitment

SSNS membership is up by approximately 10% from 2015-2016 numbers. Most of the growth has been in the clubs focussed on youth programming and keeping costs low. A few SSNS member clubs have been involved in free or low cost speed skating programs to expose our sport to younger aged children. SSNS has had one new member club join our association in 2016-2017, the Dartmouth Crossing Speed Skating Club.

In the 2016-2017 season we had **152 skaters** registered with the PSO that are between the ages of 4-11 years of age. This is a substantial increase in sport participation of this age range. Most of the growth took place in the Speedy Kids Oval Program and the Dartmouth Crossing Speed Skating Club.

In the 2016-2017 season we have **139 skaters** registered with the PSO that are 12 years of age and older. This number of participants is relatively stable from the previous season. No formal oval recreational program was launched this year at the oval, due to lack of coaching resources. The NS Masters Speed Skating Club and the Speedy Kids Oval Program Society both have recreational programs at the oval that are cost effective and active.

Speed Skate Nova participated in the Milk Sport Fair on October 12-14 at the BMO Soccer Centre in Halifax. This was a fantastic opportunity for the sport to reach a large number of students in the Halifax region.

Governance

In the 2016-2017 season, SSNS developed and approved numerous provincial policies, some of which included:

- a) An officials policy that outlining requirements to obtain Level I and Level II certification as an official in Nova Scotia
- b) a sanctioning policy for provincial competitions,
- c) an annual competitions bulletin outlining athlete selection, performance criteria, appeals, PSO carding and funding criteria to represent Nova Scotia at National Competitions, and
- d) an athlete code of conduct for athletes representing SSNS

Competitions and Events

Thirteen competitions were hosted in Nova Scotia this season in both long track and short track. Two 2-day, and six mini-competitions were hosted on the Emera Oval. Both long track events offered a combination of Olympic Style and mass start racing for all ages. Sunday morning races were held on the Emera Oval again this season, which offer racing opportunities without participation fees. One 2-day short track event and numerous mini-meet short track events were hosted by members clubs.

Summary of SSNS President Activities:



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- Numerous meetings throughout the summer and fall of 2016 with Todd Landon (former Canadian Sport Centre Atlantic & Speed Skating Canada SSC Long Track Coach), Ian Moss (former CEO of SSC), Mark Smith (former Coaching Director SNS /CSCA), Michelle Aucoin (Active Living Consultant, Department of Health), Ken Bagnell (president of CSCA) and SSNS Board of Directors regarding creation of a NS speed skating technical director.
- Two formal meetings and numerous email correspondences with Oval Manager Marlo Barnes and HRM Supervisor Rhonda Dea regarding oval safety, oval schedule and special events.
- Email correspondence with SSNB Competitions Chair regarding SSNB Competition Schedule
- Submission of Block Funding Outcome Report (July 29th) and Final Block Funding Report (April 17th) for PSO Block Funding
- Participated in SSC Webinar on Member Management System (MMS) (Aug 18th)
- Creation of Sanctioning policy and Sanctioning request draft documents
- Creation of Competitions Bulletin and Athlete Code of Conduct draft
- Creation and submission of support4sport coaching employment grant (Sept 15th)
- Attended Competitions Committee Meeting (Sept 16th)
- Submission of support4sport officials development grant (Dec 15th)
- Inventory and Repair of SSNS Skates at the oval
- Coached LT sessions for local and out-of-province athletes that wanted to attend LT camp
- Numerous meetings with Nustadia ice crew regarding oval safety, snow removal and logistics of safety padding.
- Interviewed by newspaper reporter for promotion of Atlantic Cup LT competition (Jan 2017)
- Interviewed on CTV Morning Live to promote speed skating and oval events
- Collated HRM Club data and submitted HRM Ice Allocation Report (Feb 13th)
- Participated in Participation Funding Interview for PSO Participation Funding (Mar 2016)
- Completed grant application for PSO Athlete Carding Fund (March 13th)
- Chaired five SSNS Board Meetings
- Participated in four Branch President's Conference Calls
- Attended AGMs for HRSSC and Speedy Kids Oval Program Society
- Attended NSPPI Year II Reporting Meeting with Evan MacInnis and Michelle Aucoin (May 16th)
- Completed Branch Presidents Report for SSC AGM in English and French (May 30th)
- Attended SSC AGM in Toronto, ONT (June 8-10th, 2017)

Summary of Branch successes for the 2016-17 season:

- Cooper Emin, a NS junior long track skater had a breakthrough 2016-2017 season.
- Special Olympic skaters were included in SSNS events. Integration of SO athletes within SSNS events have proven beneficial for all.
- A Fundamentals NCCP coaching clinic was put on during "National Coaches Week". The course was held on September 17-18th at Dalhousie University and at the Emera Oval.



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- I believe that we had the most opportunities to experience speed skating racing this season within our province than ever in the history of Speed Skate Nova Scotia.
- Hosting a level II official's course for Meet Coordinators, Recorders, Timers, and Clerk of the Course. Have two of our Level II Starters attend a Level III Starters Clinic in Quebec.
- Developing some policies to assist in governance of official's credentialing, athlete selection and athlete funding

Summary of Branch challenges for the 2016-17 season

- Safety for speed skating at the Emera Oval has been identified as a priority by our member clubs. Making safety upgrades to a city owned facility has proven to be a difficult process.
- Retention of skaters in the 14 to 20 years of age range has been a challenge. Too many short track and long track athletes in this age range drop out of skating altogether.
- Fulfilling the target outcomes of the Year II NSPPI without adequate coaching capacity and SSNS committee capacity
- Unsuccessful grant application to the support4sport coaching employment program to develop a paid NS technical director / provincial coach position
- SSNS Board of Directors did not formalize the draft strategic plan document into a new finalized strategic plan.
- SSNS Board of Directors were not able to recruit a new treasurer after our treasurer stepped down on October 21st, 2016
- SSNS Board of Directors were not able to recruit new members to the Athlete and Coaching Development Committee after losing two initial members, leaving the original committee of three members with one administrative support person.

Respectively submitted,

Brent Thompson
President of SSNS

Speed Skate Nova Scotia Skate Inventory

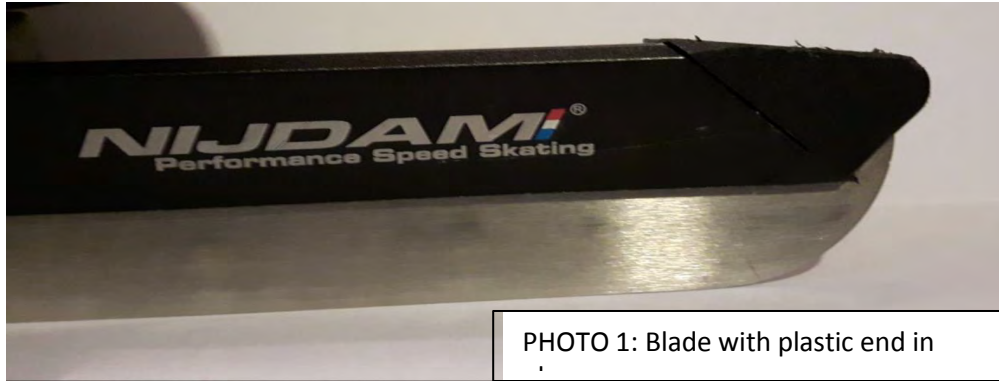


PHOTO 1: Blade with plastic end in



PHOTO 2: Blade with plastic end missing

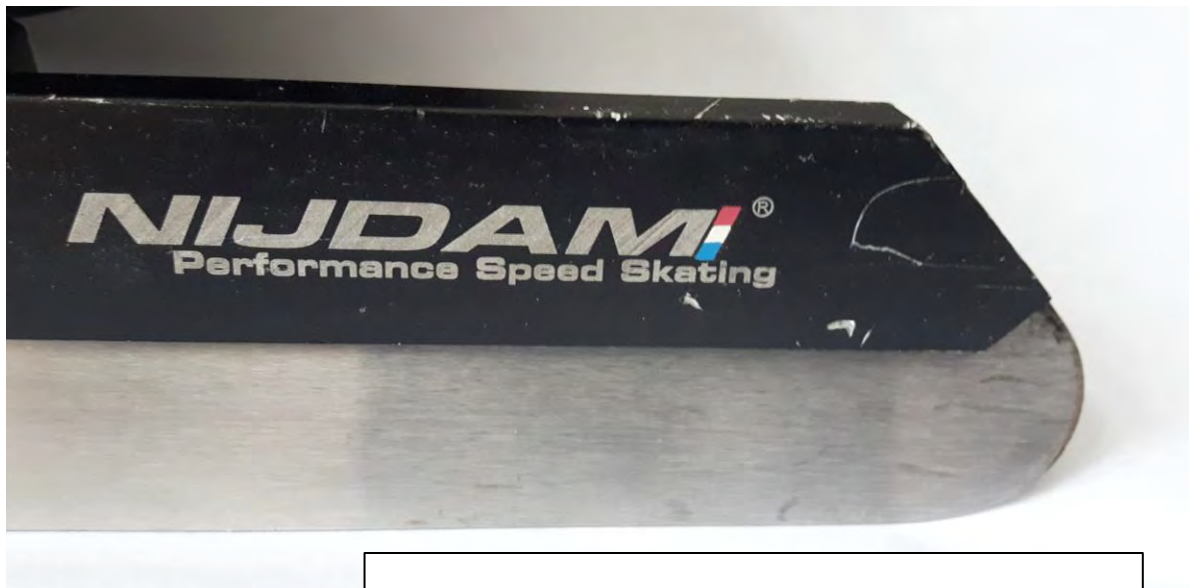


PHOTO 3: Blade ground off to ISU specs (radius = 10mm)

Financial Report

Please see standalone documents for these reports.

Speed Skate Nova Scotia

2016-2017 Officials Committee Report

A provincial competition sanctioning process and policy were set in place for the 2016-2017 season. The policy and procedure are available for review and access by member clubs through the SSNS website.

On October 26th, 2016, prior to the first Atlantic short track event I participated in an Atlantic Region Officials Conference Call chaired by Rodger Cole of SSC ODC to review the ISU rule changes and discuss implications for regional and national competitions this season.

Speed Skate Nova Scotia with the dedicated volunteer work of Stephen MacMurray put on a Level 2 Meet Coordinator, Recorder, Clerk of Course, and Timers course on Jan 20, 21st 2017 in conjunction with the Atlantic Long Track Championships. Sandra Chenard was brought in from Ottawa to facilitate the course and offer mentoring during the competition.

SSNS have had a number of officials certify as Level 2 officials this season. SSNS would like to acknowledge the following officials would have completed the requirements of certification in the following areas:

- Dawn Noakes – Level II Recorder
- Paula Arruda – Level II Clerk of the Course
- James MacMillin – Level II Starter
- Roland Pothier – Level II Manual Timer
- Bert Losier – Level II Meet Coordinator

SSNS sent two Level II Starters, Stephen MacMurray and Don Mosher to a Level III Starters Clinic in Quebec City on Jan 28th and 29th.

SSNS continues to make continued improvements with regards to becoming self-sufficient with regarding to officiating sanctioned competitions within the provincial without requiring assistance. Continued work on achieving this goal will be continued next year.

Post-competition debrief sessions to officials after each event to improve knowledge of inter-dependent team officiating were attempting this season. Due to the hectic competition schedule including most weekends in the winter, formal debriefing sessions were not possible to be completed as separate meetings, but individual debriefing sessions with small groups of chief officials did occur. After the first day of the Atlantic Long Track Championships a formal review was completed as part of the Level 2 Officials Course.

At the SSC AGM, on June 10, 2017 the SSC Officials Development Chair and the HP Committee announced proposed rule changes for the upcoming season. Implementation strategy of rule changes to follow by end of June 2017.

Respectively submitted,



Brent Thompson
President of SSNS / Level II Chief Referee

Speed Skate Nova Scotia

2016-2017

Coaching and Athlete Development Committee Report

In July of 2016, Todd Landon, John Hillis and Ryan Francis were named to the Coaching and Athlete Development Committee. On October 2016 John Hillis stepped down from the committee for personal reasons and in December 2016 Todd Landon stepped down from the committee. In January 2017, the SSNS Board of Directors assumed the responsibilities of the committee.

On January 3rd, 2017 the SSNS Board of Directors approved the Competition Bulletin SSNS2016.01, an athlete code of conduct for all athletes representing SSNS at nationally sanctioned events.

Athlete Development

We had four athletes qualify for the 2017 Canadian Junior Long Track Championships in Saskatoon, SK. January 27-29, 2017. Only one athlete, Cooper Emin attended the event and received the maximum funding allowed per athlete of \$500 from the SSNS National Competition Travel Fund.

We had one athlete, Luke Sullivan qualify for the 2017 Canadian Age-Class Long Track Championships in Junior Long Track Championships in Edmonton, AB on February 4-5, 2017. Luke received the maximum allowed per athlete of \$300 from the SSNS National Competition Travel Fund.

This season, the Valley Regional Speed Skating Club ran two local club mini-meets, the Halifax Regional Club ran one mini-meet, and the Dartmouth Crossing Club ran two mini-meets. Sunday morning racing series continued this season at the Emera Oval. The events were run on Jan. 15th, Feb 19th, Mar 12th with no fee to participate and open to all ages and abilities. A fourth event was scheduled for Jan. 7th, but was cancelled due to weather.

As well as the racing opportunities during the Sunday morning racing series (mentioned above), there were racing opportunities during the Polar Vortex Challenge on Jan 29th, Feb 5th and Feb 12th which included a 3km sledge event, a 5km event, a 10km event, a triathlon event and a 25km event. Along with these opportunities for racing, there were several provincially sanctioned speed skating events including: The Atlantic Cup Long Track event Jan 21-22, the Oval Meltdown Long Track event Feb 25-26 and the Citadel Cup Short Track event March 4-5. The 2016-2017 season, saw the most racing opportunities within the province in the history of SSNS.

With the 2019 Canada Winter Games in Lethbridge, Alberta only 19 months away, a 2019 CWG SSNS Athlete Selection Document will need to be developed and approved by the SSNS Board of Directors within the next 7-10 months.

Coaching Development


A FUNdamentals NCCP coaching clinic was put on during "National Coaches Week". The course was held on September 17-18th at Dalhousie University and at the Emera Oval. SSNS waived the course fee for all female coach participants in the FUNdamentals NCCP coaching course.

No new coaches were certified at the Intro to Competition level of the NCCP. The couple of coaches worked toward their certification, but at the time of this report no new coaches have completed certification.

One coach, Carolyn Jarock has completed all requirements for certification at the NCCP Comp-Dev level, except an evaluation while coaching at a National Championships. As president, I have worked with SSC to arrange a coaching evaluator to complete the process for Carolyn. I am unable at the time of this report to comment on the status of that evaluation.

For SSNS to send both a long track team and a short track team to the 2019 Canada Winter Games, one female coach and one male coach both certified at the NCCP Comp-Dev level will be required. Building both coaching capacity and expertise within the province is an ongoing challenge. Co-operation with the other Atlantic Provinces in pooling resources and providing different levels of NCCP Coaching courses and certification may be beneficial.

Respectively submitted,



Brent Thompson
President of SSNS



PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2016-2017 Annual General Meeting

The Dartmouth Crossing Speed Skating Club was incorporated in May 2016, with a mandate to establish a new short track speed skating program at the 4-pad arena being built on Commodore Drive in Dartmouth Crossing, and scheduled to open in September 2017. HRM had agreed to our request to include an Olympic-size ice surface in the facility, as well as dedicated storage for our safety padding. With the ideal location of the building site in the urban core of the municipality and close to hotels, restaurants and shopping, this presented a unique opportunity to strengthen the overall speed skating program in the area, adding full-season training opportunities and a strong short track program accessible to residents of the urban core and eastern areas of the municipality to the partial-season long track training available on the Emera Oval.

A four-year business development plan was established, with the first year to be focused on building a base of skaters to bring into the new facility when it opened, in order to be able to establish access to the full blocks of prime-time ice needed for ongoing core programs. Establishing a solid ongoing entry-level program, including learn-to-skate and learn-to-speed-skate elements, was a key priority. The Off to a Good Start program was developed, and ice time booked at the Dartmouth Sportsplex and Bowles arenas. This program includes the Active Start (under age 6) development level, a new focus for the sport in this area. Special Olympics and Newcomer elements were also included in our new programs. The programs are built on the fundamental principle that sport should be fun for the participants. While sessions focus on the development of specific skills, and skater progress is evaluated based on the Cutting Edge Pin program, much of the practice of skills occurs through games and activities that require the use of those skills.

Our business plan included a target of recruiting 60 to 90 new skaters in 2016-2017, based on our request for three hours of ice time between the two arenas. We were allocated only two and a half hours, but still had 62 registered skaters over the season. In addition to the regular training sessions, we held two in-house mini-meets, and some skaters from the club also participated in the Atlantic Long Track Championships on the Emera Oval in January, the Special Olympics Nova Scotia Provincial Winter Games in Kingston in February, and the Annapolis Valley Speed Skating Club's mini-meet in Kingston in March.

Coaching development is an important priority for the club. Over the season we had a total of thirteen youth and adult coaches. In April, Todd Landon joined us as Head Coach. A Certified and Chartered Professional Coach, Todd will lead our Competitive Program, and will oversee the development and certification of all our coaches.

Fundamentals, Development and Performance summer off-ice programs have been introduced and are currently in progress. In the fall, our on-ice programs will include a full range of recreational and competitive programs.

In 2017-2018, all our on-ice programs will move to the new Dartmouth Crossing arena. Ice time has been requested from Halifax Recreation and Parks. With the complexity of re-establishing users from four older arenas, the ice allocation process will take some additional time, but we hope to open registration for our fall programs by the end of June 2017.

We were fortunate to have outstanding advice and financial assistance from Sport Nova Scotia and the Nova Scotia Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage throughout the year as they helped us in building the club and its programs. The funding received enabled us to make significant investments in program development, skates and protective equipment, which was critical to our success. We would also like to express our thanks to the Immigrant Services Association of Nova Scotia for their help in establishing our Newcomer Program, to Special Olympics Nova Scotia for their assistance with our Special Olympics program, and to all the volunteers who helped out with our regular programming, our mini-meets, and the participation of our skaters in competitions.

Our immediate priorities for next season will be the development of skaters from entry level to high performance to recreational speed skating; acquisition of a full set of safety pads; promoting and marketing the club; and building our coaching capacity at all levels.

We're looking forward to welcoming back returning skaters and coaches from last season and to introducing many new participants to the fun of skating and speed skating at our new home in Dartmouth Crossing!

Respectfully Submitted
Bert Losier
President
Dartmouth Crossing Speed Skating Club

Halifax Regional Speed Skating Club

Report to SSNS, 17 June 2017

1. Review of the Season

Highlights from our season include:

- We welcomed a number of enthusiastic new skaters this year, and many first-time competitive meet participants
- Participated in a memorable and enriching exchange program with the Nunavut speed skating club – special thanks to Brad, as well as Roland and Anne, and all the parents who stepped up to make this such a triumph
- Hosted a successful Citadel Cup meet at the end of the season
- Launched a number of new promotional activities – that we hope to build on further next year – including the installation of a video monitor with HRSSC pictures and material at SMC, and a number of promotional events and small fundraiser
- Our partnership with SMC was smooth overall, and our representatives on the SMC board were effective ambassadors of our club
- Worked cooperatively with other groups, including Speed Skate NS, the Annapolis Valley Club, and others

We also addressed a number of challenges this year, including:

- Fewer returning skaters in the older age group
- We ran a deficit for the year
- Supporting an effective long-track program
 - Much of this was not our club's fault, and the coaches and volunteers did great work piecing together as much time and coverage as possible
 - Finding a good LT solution remains a goal and open issue for next year
- Resolving uncertainty regarding club location for 2017-2018, confirming that we will remain at SMC
 - The resulting decision should be a huge positive for the club, but it absorbed time and energy this year...and we should expect some continuing questions and de-confliction issues next year.
 - In the long run, there could be great potential for collaboration and mutual support with DCSSC
- We realized the need to build a more robust promotion and recruitment effort, and have invested budget and volunteer resources to accomplish this in the coming year.

2. Membership

There were approximately 28 athletes attending practice this season. The breakdown per group were; 10 athletes in Group C, 10 athletes in Group B and 8 athletes in Group A. Of these 28 athletes, 17 of them members who regularly attended practice both nights a week in Tantallon and 11 members attending only once a week or did not return at some point during the season or regularly

attending. Saturday morning practice on the Emera Oval will fairly well attending averaging 8-10 athletes per session and Wednesdays there were slightly less.

For the purpose of year over year comparison, there were only 22.5 full time memberships (where athletes registered for both short track practices a week are counted as 1 full membership and athletes who registered for 1 short track practice per week or who did not return is counted as 0.5 a full membership). This means that the full time membership of HRSSC has decreased by 48.9% decrease in membership (44 full memberships in 2015-16 versus 22.5 full memberships in 2016-17). This is an alarming trend, however, it was not unexpected as the distribution of athlete ages over the past few years was heavily weighted towards athletes aged 15+ in Group A versus younger athletes in group B or C. This year there were approximately 7 Group A athletes compared to 15+ in years past.

This season did see the addition of more Group C athletes, bring the size of the Group C to the same size (10 athletes) as Group B. This is a positive trend. The growth and success of HRSSC will be depend almost entirely on recruiting and retaining athletes in the age 5-12 range.

3. Competitions

HRSSC athletes competed in several competitions regionally and nationally. On the National level, we have one athlete attend the Long Track Age Class Championship in Edmonton, AB, as well as three athletes attend Canada Cup 1 in Quebec City, QC. Cooper Emin, a HRSSC alum, had a fantastic season training out of Calgary, AB and skating at the highest levels on the National stage.

Regionally, HRSSC athletes attended competitions in all three maritime provinces, as well as Quebec. The Citadel Cup was a great success and the competition was the best attended by HRSSC athletes with 19 participating in competition. The Atlantic Cup in Charlottetown, PE was also well attended with 16 athletes making the trip across the bridge. We had athletes compete regularly on the Emera Oval as part of the Atlantic Long Track Championship, Oval Melt Down and Sunday Racing Series. HRSSC athletes also travelled to Quebec City, QC to compete in competition.

4. Programming

HRSSC offered approximately 140 hours of Long and Short Track programs during the 2016-17 season.

Long Track: Wednesdays 4:45pm to 6:00pm and Saturdays 9:00am to 10:00am

Short Track: Tuesdays 6:30pm to 9:00pm and Thursdays 7:30pm to 9:30pm For Short Track practices,

Group C was allotted 45 minutes of ice time on both Tuesday and Thursday. Group B was allotted 60 minutes on Tuesdays and 55 minutes of Thursdays totaling 115 minutes per week. Group A was also allotted 115 minutes, with 70 minutes on Tuesdays and 45 minutes of Thursdays.

It took approximately 10 minutes to set the pads up at the beginning of each practice. Parents and Group A athletes took care of this. It took approximately 5 minutes to put the pads away after group

A's when there were 4 or more parents to assist off ice and upwards of 10-15 minutes when there were fewer than 4 parents to assist off ice. Both setting up and removing the pads should not take more than 5 minutes with plenty of help.

Throughout the season, HRSSC had the Zamboni clean the track for 5 minutes after Group B's practice before Group A's practice. This decreased the amount of time used during Group A's programming to repair the ice and help maintain a safe skating environment for those athletes.

HRSSC offered dryland training during the summer months on Tuesday evenings in 2016. The training was mostly aerobic with some drills and soccer included. Dryland is planned for summer 2017 with dates and times to be determined in June.

5. Coaches

Leading into the 2016-17 season, the coaches had big shoes to fill from CJ's departure. There were some challenges along the way and a steep learning curve, but the coaches had a successful season thank to the assistance and effort of the entire club.

Fiona Gouthro and Dax Conrad returned to coach short track and Jessica Taylor was recruited as well. Cassidy Bradley and Julia Loparco helped coach long track on Wednesdays and Saturdays. There is was also additional help from all of the Group A skaters when needed as well as several parents including Anne, Brad, Kevin, Paula and Merrell.

The coaches would like to extend their appreciation to all those who helped this season and a special thank you to Greg, Brad and Kevin for helping during every short track practice.

The Northside Blades Report

The Northside Blades had a good season we skated Thursday evening in Sydney Mines. We would have liked to have two nights a week but due to ice availability this wasn't possible. Ben Smith and Eric Power took their coaching course and Ben came out every week and Eric came when ever he was available. Also Travis Marnelli who was our coach for several years but had to go out west for work was able to do some coaching again from January until the end of the season. So the coaching really was not an issue this year. Our numbers were low but Ben and Eric didn't want too many as they were both getting used to things and some evenings it was just one coach out on the ice. We had about 10 skaters, overall the participants were happy to be back on the ice but would have liked to have two nights a week. At the Christmas break and the end of the year we had a little race night which the kids enjoyed. And for the final night we had bring a friend so maybe next year the numbers will improve.



2017 Annual General Meeting President's Report

This was the fourth year of operation for the Nova Scotia Masters Speed Skating club. Total membership dropped to 64, mainly because of the cancellation of the Learn to Speed Skate program, but the club had a strong regular presence on the oval.

A highlight of the season was the introduction of our outstanding new logo and club apparel. Greg Milton chaired the committee which oversaw both the development of the logo and the clothing items, and Matt Reynolds did the design work. A club tuque or headband was included in the registration for Get Ready for the Oval and the Coached Program on the Oval.

The club organized a fourth Get Ready for the Oval program at the Centennial Arena on Thursday mornings in the fall, with 13 participants registered for the full session. Safety padding was borrowed once again from the Halifax Regional Speed Skating Club for this program. An extra hour was added this year to work on the development of a recreational short track program. Many thanks to Todd Landon for helping once again to make this a great learning experience for the participants.

The long track season at the Emera Oval started in mid-December, and the ice lasted for the full planned season to the end of March break. The coached program was offered again, with a total uptake of 40 participants. The club hosted the Atlantic Long Track Championships in January with a total of 82 registered participants, and co-hosted the new Polar Vortex Challenge with the Tri-the-Oval organization over three weekends in February. Registration in the Polar Vortex series was light due to the late confirmation of our ice time. It is anticipated that with more lead time next year, this will become a popular annual event.

Members of the club participated in the provincially sanctioned Atlantic Long Track Championships in January, as well as Sunday Racing and the Polar Vortex Challenge. Ken Lane and Greg Milton skated in the Oval Grand Prix in Calgary, an exciting first for the club, and achieved a number of PBs there. This would be a good event for members looking for a new challenge next year.

Members of the club volunteered in many capacities during the year, helping with the installation and operation of the chip timing system, working as officials at both short track and long track events, organizing and participating in the Level 2 officials clinics, and serving on the club's board, and the board and committees of Speed Skate Nova Scotia.

The club held an end-of-season get together at Freemans in March, where we got to see pictures from the Oval Grand Prix, and talk about highlights of the season. In the coming year, the club will be looking to organize additional social events, as well as group trips.

www.NSMasters.ca



Report to Speed Skate Nova Scotia June 2017

The Speedy Kids Oval Program Society had another successful season during 2016-17. We celebrated our fifth birthday! Highlights include the record number of skaters from both after-school and club programs who participated in racing events at the oval, hosting the Second Annual Oval Meltdown, the purchase of team jackets, and participation by three of our skaters in the Nunavut exchange organized by the Halifax Regional SSC.

The Society would like to thank Brent Thompson for his tireless support of speed skating in the province over the past year: as SSNS president, as referee, as technical go-to person, as grinder of skate tips, as negotiator with government, as oval contact. No job was too big or too small. Brent's dedication to the sport and his generosity and good will toward everyone involved are unmatched. His leadership will be sorely missed.

Governance

The Society's end-of-year party and AGM were held on May 26th at the George Dixon Centre. The board of directors for 2017-18 is Lisa Gannett (President), Una Goggin (Vice-President), Christine Buckley (Secretary-Treasurer), Laura Channon (Member-at-Large), David Magloir (Member-at-Large), and Sheri Thomas (Member-at-Large). One or two additional board members may be appointed.

Membership

The Society's membership numbers during 2016-17 remained stable in comparison with the past two years. We had 165 members, which includes participants in the inline club program, the ice after-school and club programs, staff and volunteers from our partner organizations, parents, and volunteers from the community. There were 95 Speedy Kids members registered with SSNS and SSC: 23 parents and volunteers, 53 club program skaters, and 19 after-school program skaters. Skaters in our after-school and club programs ranged in age from 4 to 15. When combined with additional programming in partnership with Halifax Recreation (see below), during the past season, we put 500-600 children and youth on skates, whether inline or ice.

Programs

In spring, we partnered with Halifax Recreation to offer a 6-week "Introduction to Inline Skating" course at Needham Centre, we supported weekly inline skating sessions for after-school groups at George Dixon Centre, and we held club group practices at the oval and Dixon Centre. In summer, we supported weekly inline skating sessions for summer camp groups at George Dixon and Needham Centres, and we held club group practices at the oval and Dixon Centre. In fall, we partnered with Halifax Recreation to offer a 6-week "Inline to Ice Speed Skating" course at Needham Centre and Devonshire Arena, we supported weekly inline skating sessions for after-school groups at George Dixon Centre, and we held club group practices at the oval and Dixon Centre. During winter, we offered after-school and club programs at the oval: after-school participants were from the Community YMCA, George Dixon Centre, and St. George's YouthNet. Skaters from both programs, in record numbers, participated in the Atlantic Long Track Championships, the Second Annual Oval Meltdown, and the Sunday Morning Racing Series.

Events

We had three coaches attend the NCCP FUNDamentals Coach clinic hosted by SSNS in the fall. We had four officials attend the Level 2 clinic hosted by SSNS in January. We supported the Sunday Morning Racing Series, Atlantic Long Track Championships, and Citadel Cup by providing officials and equipment. We hosted a successful Second Annual Oval Meltdown, despite losing the second day of racing to weather. There were 73 skaters registered in the competition: the majority were from Speedy Kids, but there was also representation from Halifax Regional SSC, Nova Scotia Masters SSC, Annapolis Valley SSC, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island. Thanks to everyone who raced, joined the organizing committee, volunteered as officials, and lent equipment and expertise.

Valley Speed Skating Club

Report not submitted.