

2018 Annual Report
Chair of Synchronized Skating Committee
Ice Skating Australia Incorporated

International Selection

Expressions of Interest were received from teams for International Competitions Neuchatel Trophy, Leon Lurje Trophy, Mozart Cup and French Cup. Preliminary Entries were put in for all these events plus the World Junior Synchronized Skating Championships and World Synchronized Skating Championships.

After the results of the 2017 Australian Figure Skating Championships were known, the selections all fell into place quite neatly. The main problem this season was the relatively early closing date for some of those competitions. Fortunately, all the Organising Committees were most understanding and willing to wait until after AFSC to receive confirmation and entry fees. I would like to thank them and all the team managers who ensured they had all the required paperwork to me in time and were ready at a moment's notice to transfer funds.

This year for the first time, online entries were required for WJSSC and WSSC. While in some respects is a good thing, it did considerably add to my workload as the login is for ISA and not for Teams. There is no facility for a mass upload of data so each team, skater, coach and official had to be registered individually. Then I had to wait for ISU to approve them. After that, I could add skaters and officials to the team, and wait for them to be accepted. Then I could enter travel and accommodation details (in that order) for each individual. One of the most annoying things were the photographs. There are strict requirements for file size, pixel numbers and ratios which you don't find out until you upload a photo that does not fit. I had to individually adjust every photo to fit then upload them separately.

This season eight teams represented Australia in six events:

- **Neuchatel Trophy, Neuchatel, Switzerland**
 - Senior **Ice Storm**(Qld) 8th, Junior **Iceskateers Elite** (Qld) 6th, **Southern Sky Junior** (NSW) 8th, **Southern Sky Basic Novice** (2nd) and Mixed Age **Eclipse** (Vic) 4th .
 - This well and truly broke last year's record of the largest Australian team ever at an international event. A huge thank you to Team Leader Peter Marcovich and Team Managers Susan Lane, Cynthia O'Neill, Susanne Bragge and Shiralee Poed for all your efforts. 73 skaters all up plus the support crew!
 - Coaches Hayley Marcovich, Adele Leghorn, Christine Leghorn, Amber Williams, Michelle Coetzee

- **Leon Lurje Trophy, Gothenburg, Sweden**
 - Senior **Ice Storm** (Qld) 6th and Junior **Iceskateers Elite** (Qld) 12th
 - Team Leader: Peter Marcovich
 - Team Managers: Susan Lane and Cynthia O'Neill
 - Coach: Hayley Marcovich

- **Mozart Cup, Salzburg, Austria**
 - Senior **Nova** (Qld) 9th, **Southern Sky Junior** (NSW) 12th, **Southern Sky Basic Novice** (NSW) 6th, Mixed Age **Eclipse** (Vic) 9th
 - Team Leader: Bev Donaghey
 - Team Managers: Margaret Bartlett, Susanne Bragge, Shiralee Poed

- Coaches: Natalie Bartlett, Adele Leghorn, Christine Leghorn, Amber Williams, Michelle Coetzee
- **French Cup, Rouen, France**
 - Senior **Nova** (Qld) 10th
 - Team Leader: Bev Donaghey
 - Team Manager: Margaret Bartlett
 - Coach: Natalie Bartlett
- **World Junior Synchronized Skating Championships, Zagreb, Croatia**
 - **Majestic Ice Junior** (NSW) 17th from 21
 - Team Leader: Amanda Da Pra
 - Team Manager: Robyn Herbert
 - Coaches: Madonna Randall, Louise Woodward
- **World Synchronized Skating Championships, Stockholm, Sweden**
 - **Team Unity** (NSW) 21st from 25
 - Team Leader: Andrea Lawrence
 - Team Manager: Virginia Lynch
 - Coaches: Madonna Randall, Georgina Williams

Well done to all teams on your selection to these international events and for your great skating and scores. I am very proud of you all and what wonderful Australian Representatives you were.

Uniforms

The ISA Uniform Policy includes Synchronized Teams and probably needs a review on some aspects, particularly with respect to the choice of design and logos for teams who make their own arrangements. There is some concern that teams may copying the ISA logos without permission and that also the Australian Coat of Arms is being worn at competitions where it is not permitted. I would like to give a big thank you to Kate Rotondo who tirelessly manages the orders and dispatch of the jackets in the huge numbers and often short deadlines that are part and parcel of Synchronized Skating.

International Teams

Once again, clearances were given to Megan Ramsey (Qld) who skated in Czech team Olympia and Blaise Pearce (NSW) for Team Berlin. Both girls were team members at the World Synchronized Skating Championships. It is a great experience for our skaters to have these opportunities and hopefully bring back their expertise to Australia to further develop teams here either as skaters in teams, or through coaching.

ISU Development Seminar

In May 2017, coaches Amber Williams and Michelle Coetzee from Victoria and Adele and Christine Leghorn from NSW together with eight junior skaters participate in this Seminar in Vierumaki, Finland. All these skaters and coaches were then part of teams who represented Australia internationally this season which demonstrates how worthwhile this experience is.

This year, Adele and Stacey Leghorn will be taking four different skaters with them to the same seminar.

Officials

Our SyS officials' activity this season:

Allie Flack (Qld)	Neuchatel Trophy Judge
Liz Alexandre (Qld)	Mozart Cup Judge
Rebecca Andrew (NSW)	French Cup Judge
Madonna Randall (NSW)	Shanghai Trophy Assistant Technical Specialist
Angelique Clyde-Smith (ACT)	World Junior and World Synchronized Skating Championships

ISU Synchronized Skating Judges Seminar

The ISU Synchronized Skating Seminar was held in conjunction with the 2017 Australian Figure Skating Championships in Brisbane and was a great success. The moderators Mika Saarelainen and Lois Long from the ISU Synchronized Skating Technical Committee were enthusiastic and knowledgeable and also acted as Referees for the Mixed Age, Junior and Senior divisions. The seminar was also attended by officials from other Federations who also helped out as Judges and Technical Controllers on the panels. Thank you to the ISU and to ISQ for all of your assistance with the organisation and running of this seminar.

Non-Australian Citizens

This season there were only 20 clearance requests (compared to 38 last year) from non-Australian citizens seeking clearance to skate in teams here from 8 Federations. Many from last year were given as permanent clearances which eased the workload this year but the difficulty remains with Federations who never reply. Fortunately, this time it did not affect skaters in International teams.

2017 Australian Figure Skating Championships

A new record of 38 teams across seven divisions competed in Brisbane last December. The trial division of Adult Basic had five teams enter, one more than 2016. We welcomed a Mixed Age team from New Zealand to make 11 in that division. Thank you to the Organising Committee in Brisbane and to Jackie Gold and Peter Marcovich for undertaking the scheduling of practices and the events, especially with the ISU Seminar to also factor in.

Discussions at the SyS meeting held during the 2017 AFSC brought up the following items to consider going forward.

- Permanently include a second Adult Division in the ISA By-Laws and AFSC with the following structure.
 - One to be known as Adult as per ISU except for ages which will remain as currently in the ISA By-Laws.
 - One to be the Advanced Adult division for 18 and over, with the greater age range and more challenge in the required elements.

The Synchronized Teams which were included in the National Squad were Senior Champions Team Unity (NSW) and Junior Champions Majestic Ice Junior (NSWISA) who were presented with medals at the SyS Banquet. Congratulations to both teams!

Forms and Policies

The benchmark scores for international teams in the Advanced and Basic Novice divisions were lowered to be more realistic and achievable and this proved to be the right thing to do. The benchmark scores for the 2018/19 season will need to be carefully considered to take into account the major changes being proposed to synchronized elements and programs but still be achievable. The number of ways to achieve the benchmark score and the timeline also needs to be increased to ease the selection process for international competition.

Other Tasks

One of my other task was to write numerous letters for skaters to pass onto their schools or employers as well as for supporting information for grant and scholarship applications.

On a few occasions, I stepped outside my SyS portfolio to assist other Chairs with some of their tasks. Jackie Gold (Technical and Regulations) and I spent several weeks via email and telephone last July preparing the drafts of the reformatted ISA By-Laws and then another two full days at our own expense, creating the supporting documentation the assist the Board with making the final approval. I am grateful to Jackie for taking the time to drive to Canberra which saved me a road trip in the short window between two international journeys. Susan Lynch (Judges and Officials) was a great help here too and supported the change proposals that needed to be put forward in conjunction with the reformatting. Hopefully all is in order and with some minor corrections and incorporation of the ISU initiated changes, the new look and easier to understand By-Laws will be on the website very soon.

With the blessing of Robi Chalmers (Sport Development) and Jackie, I also undertook the updating of the TOI and Ice Dance pages on the ISA website and thank you to Judith Sivasubramaniam for your assistance here. And just in the last week I have initiated a discussion on reviewing Ice Dance test and competition structure following the latest ISU communication and Congress change proposals. The group involved in this includes coaches and international judges and is already proving to be productive.

Thank you

- Liz Alexandre, Rebecca Andrew and Allie Flack for your continued support which I very much appreciate.
- All the SyS judges and officials in Australia for the time you give to Synchronized Skating.
- Jackie and Susan for your continued assistance and advice.
- Jenny Houlahan (ISA Administration) for your back up as always.
- ISA Board who let me get on with what I need to do and who now only occasionally forget Synchronized Skating instead of all the time!
- And finally to all the skaters and coaches who work hard, love the discipline and make my job a challenge but rewarding at the same time.

Angelique Clyde-Smith

**Chair, Synchronized Skating Committee
Ice Skating Australia Inc.
April 2018**