



ICE NEWS



NO 24 OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR ICE SKATING IN THE WESTERN CAPE MAY 2008

FROM THE SAFSA DESK:

The skating year started slowly, but has suddenly accelerated with a bang.

Abigail, Justin and Oula attended the 4 **Continents Championships** in a very cold Seoul Korea in Feb, and our Junior Synchro, Team Rainbow the **French Cup in Rouen**, as well as the **Spring Trophy in Milan Italy**.



Justin and Oula then left again on 14th March for the **ISU World Senior championships in Gotenborg Sweden**, accompanied by Dawn and Leonard vd Riet from Cape Town.

Lejeanne Marais and coach Susan Marais from Gauteng make up the balance of this team. Both skaters performed well and did South Africa proud.

The very successful **Shulman course** held last year in conjunction with the coaches grading system, has been replicated this year during the March/April school holidays.

This time round, the Shulmans, were accompanied by an American synchronized skating coach, Jeannine Cullen, who worked with the teams on the ice, as well as initiating the synchronized division of the coaches grading system.

The course commenced on Mon 31st March, and ran daily, ending on Friday 11th April, and this year included off ice, gym, drama and ballet training (this supplementary training continues to be offered for your convenience at The Ice Station, please enquire at The Skate Shop).

Both solo and synchro skaters attended, and the course was enjoyed by all.

A bonus for the synchro teams – a visit by Anu trainer of the Finnish team.

Although a short visit, she worked intensively with all the teams.

The Junior Blades championships took place on Saturday 15th March and for the first time the new judging system was used for the non national sections. The competition ran well and was well attended.–

Gauteng InterProvincial:

Was held 18-20th April 2008 at Kolonade ice rink. With 2 very early starts (05:00am), the competition ran well and concluded on Sunday evening.

Our WP skaters once again did us proud and were placed, Ancio v Tonder,(1). Courney Kuhn (1) Michael Johnston(1), Johan Wilkinson (4), Jamie Robeck(4). Full results available on the SAFSA website: www.safsa.org.za

The Cape Inter-Provincial Championships will take place from 16th to 18th May 2008.

There will be a slight deviation from the previous years timetable inasmuch that the competition (non national sections plus National Senior Ladies & Men) will commence on Friday 1pm, short program sections on Saturday morning, with the free skating taking place on Sunday from 06:00 – 15:00.

Practice for upcountry skaters will take place on Friday morning.

We hope by changing these times to avoid the competition ending after midnight as it did last year, and to enable the up country skaters to leave on Sunday evening to be back at school on Monday am.

Black Panther Championships:

Watch the notice Board.

ISU Congress: June 2008:

This bi annual meeting of all skating countries takes place in Monaco during June 2008. All ISU constitutional and rule changes are voted on at this event. The SAFSA President, Mr Leonard vd Riet, National secretary Mrs Pat Norton, and Deputy President Dawn vd Riet will be representing South Africa at this meeting.



Kwa Zulu Natal Interprovincial:

Scheduled for 20 – 22 June 2008 at the Durban ice rink.

Nationals 2008: Cape Town.

Yes you have read correctly,.... The SA Nationals will be hosted in Cape Town this year. Due to the International event in October, Nationals has been brought forward to 17-19th August 2008.

Sunday 17th will be a practice day, Monday 18th morning – practice with short programs running from 13:00 – 22:00, repeated on Tuesday with free skating competition from 13:00 – 22:00. There will not be a gala.

These dates have been specially chosen to avoid all school exams, which appear to commence at the end of August, and carry on throughout September at the various educational institutions. Qualification date will still be Sun 3rd August, a deviation from the 6 week rule for this year only, due to the International.

WP Championships:

WP is being scheduled for 25/26 Oct. As this is unconventionally after our National championships, the WP team will be selected by our judges after the last qualifying tests. Skaters will be informed by means of the notice board.

ISU Junior Grand Prix:

Skate Safari : 08—12 October 2008

South Africa is proud to have been awarded the hosting of this most prestigious event by the ISU.



This event has to be run by strict ISU standards, and there will be an ISU official on site to ensure we have done everything correctly.

We are in the process of formulating the organizational charts, and will shortly be calling on our members for assistance in various areas.

We want to make this event the best Junior Grand Prix ever, and will be relying on you all to help make it just that.

The first thing that is needed is a logo, so put on your thinking caps and do some drawings and drop in the SAFSA box. Yours might not be the one chosen, but it could well contribute to the final picture.

The goodie bags are another. We estimate to have approx 60 skaters in this competition, and also 30 judges.

Should anyone have any nifty ideas, or can obtain donations for these bags, that would be much appreciated.

The bag itself is another thing needed – With limited budgets we need help in making these gifts presentable, so please see what you can do.

Catering during the event for both skaters and judges is also required for this event, so donations of food and your time to set up and keep replenished is needed.

A skaters area will be set up, probably in the skate hire well during the event, with on line computers etc, so the competing skaters will have an area to get together and inter-act.

TV coverage is being arranged for this event, which makes it a little easier to “sell” advertising. We will also by then have 2 large screens in the rink, and have been given permission by the icerink to run 24 hour advertising during the event, and on the final Saturday during the late night session.

Please try and see what you can do about getting advertisers for this timeslot.

For more information on costs contact Dawn vd Riet 083 303 4907.

What a privilege hosting an ISU event of this magnitude will mean as we will be spending time with some of the World’s greatest junior skaters. In fact our national skaters have already been privileged to spend time training with the Russian Imperial Ice Stars between their performances of **Swan Lake** on Ice performances at the Artscape.



The final competition for the year will be the **Sunday Nite Club gala** event to be held on Sunday 30th November 2008.

Medal tests:

1st Sunday of each month.

Websites:

The ISU website provides a host of information on the international skating scene and contains numerous skating video’s for you to watch: www.isu.org

The SAFSA website is your source of figure skating information in South Africa: www.safsa.org.za

The Ice Station website contains all information pertinent to our ice rink: www.icerink.co.za

Happy Skating.

WP Committee