

Dartmouth Speed Skating Club Report 2010-2011 Season

This season the Dartmouth Club has seen membership grow to 42 competitive skaters and 34 recreational skaters. The recreational skaters are almost exclusively skaters that skated during dedicated speed skating times on the Canada Games Oval. The Club's coaching staff also grew to a five member coaching team.

This season we were unsuccessful in obtaining more short track ice time despite our growing interest. Our program was comprised of 4 hours of short track ice time twice weekly shared amongst three groups, three hours of dryland training and approximately 10 hours of recreational/ competitive long track skating on the CWG Oval. Our club offered a free one-hour learn to speed skate program on the oval on drop-in basis on both Saturday and Sunday mornings. This program was weather permitting and was not offered every weekend due to other scheduled events at the Oval.

Our club was also involved in the first competitive skating on the CWG oval by hosting the "Skate the Common Marathon" and the "2011 Canadian Open Masters Event" which also had a CWG age long-track component.

We have had a lot of special opportunity for our skaters this season. In April 2010, Francois Louis Tremblay fresh off the World Cup season participated in a one-hour on-ice practice session with our club skaters when he was down for a media event for Aliant. In September and again in December 2010, Andrew Godbout, worked with our skaters and coaches to share his experiences and technical expertise. Andrew is a former and current Dartmouth Club member, who holds the distinction of being the first Nova Scotian to represent Canada on the World Cup speed skating circuit when he skated a 10,000-metre race in Moscow in 2008. During the CWG some of our skaters had the opportunity to skate with past Olympian Susan Auch at the oval.

In summary the 2010-2011 season has been a high profile year for our club. We are hopeful that this momentum will carry into the 2011-12 season as our club changes location to the CWG facility of St. Margaret's Centre, increases our ice time to 7.5 hours per week, changes our name to the Halifax Regional Speed Skating Club and starts a long-track speed skating program on the CWG oval. Our challenges heading into the next season are having a sufficient numbers of coaches, sufficient level of coaching expertise with the loss of our only level III coach and sufficient funding / skaters to offer this ambitious program.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brent Thompson
SSNS Dartmouth Club Rep