



The Nova Scotia Masters Speed Skating Club



Annual General Meeting 2014 Directors Report

This was the first year of operation for the Nova Scotia Masters Speed Skating club, which was established in May, 2013. From an initial membership consisting of the five persons that started up the organization, the membership grew to a total of 84 by the end of the season.

A number of start up activities preceded the skating season. The club was incorporated and registered with the Nova Scotia Registry of Joint Stocks. A website, Facebook page and Twitter account were created for the club. An application was submitted to the Support4Sport Canada Games Sport Equipment Fund for funding to establish a rental skate inventory. A grant of \$3,000 was approved, and with additional funding through a director's loan, ten pairs of skates were purchased.

The club's first skating program was the Get Ready for the Oval program at the Centennial Arena on Thursday mornings from September 26 to November 14, 2013. The program was coached by Todd Landon, the Atlantic Long Track Coach and Development Mentor, and the ice time was shared with skaters from the Atlantic Long Track Program.

The long track season at the Emera Oval started in mid-December. Members of the club participated in a number of different programs and events on the Emera Oval, including the Learn to Speed Skate Program, the Atlantic Long Track Camp, the Atlantic Long Track Championships, the 2014 Skate the Common Marathon, and the Sunday Racing Series. Members of the club also worked as volunteers organizing and running these events. The NSMSSC was the lead organizer for the marathon, which included 5K, 10K, and 25K races, and a 3K sledge race. The club also provided regular individual demos on a drop-in basis to people interested in trying speed skating.

Coaching was available for members during many of the afternoon and weekend ice times. Members took advantage of the morning ice times to do individual practice.

Volunteers from the club assisted Speed Skate Nova Scotia in the redevelopment of its website, and the development of its 2013-2015 Strategic Plan, 2013-2014 Committee Structure, and 2013-2015 Coaching Development Plan in conjunction with the preparation of its quadrennial block funding and participation development submissions to Sport Nova Scotia. The club collaborated with Speed Skate Nova Scotia and the Halifax Regional Speed Skating Club in the submission of three funding applications to obtain additional short track padding, to ensure the availability of Level 4 padding for high level short track meets held in the HRM area, and practice padding for the NSMSSC and Speedy Kids programs. One grant was unsuccessful, one was approved, and one is still pending. Two additional grant applications were submitted by the club to complete the MyLaps chip timing system. These grant applications are also still pending.

The club's first social event was the end-of-season get together at the Halifax Alehouse.

In the coming year, the club will be working to:

- acquire additional rental skates,
- complete the chip timing system, to allow chip-timed events to be run throughout the season at the Emera Oval,
- establish a sledge racing program,
- further develop its coaching program,
- run a longer Get Ready for the Oval program,
- organize an out-of-town trip to an event like the long track camp or marathon in Quebec City, and
- organize more frequent social events where members can get to know each other better, and learn more together about masters speed skating.