



The Nova Scotia Masters Speed Skating Club



2016 Annual General Meeting President's Report

This was the third year of operation for the Nova Scotia Masters Speed Skating club. Total membership dropped from a high of 129 at the end of the previous season to a total of 88 by the end of this season. The decline was due to the fact that the club had hosted the Learn to Speed Skate program at the oval last year, with a total of 51 participants, as the Halifax Regional club was unable to host due to their coaches' involvement in the Canada Games. Overall, participation in the club's regular programs increased.

The club organized a third Get Ready for the Oval program at the Centennial Arena on Thursday mornings in the fall, with 16 participants registered for the full session, and additional drop in participants. Safety padding was borrowed from the Halifax Regional Speed Skating Club for this program. Centennial Arena made arrangements for the pads to be stored inside the arena, which reduced the program costs and greatly facilitated the setup and takedown of the pads.

The long track season at the Emera Oval, with its new pavilion building, started in mid-December. Coached programs on the oval were introduced this year, with a total uptake of 31 participants. Members of the club participated in the provincially sanctioned Atlantic Cup Long Track #1 in January, as well as Sunday Racing throughout the season, and an unsanctioned meet at the end of the season, with most skaters achieving personal bests in their times. The season ended suddenly and unexpectedly due to adverse weather conditions at the end of February.

Members of the club volunteered in many capacities during the year, helping with the installation and operation of the chip timing system, assisting HRSSC to run the Learn to Speed Skate program on the oval, hosting one session of Sunday Racing, working as officials at both short track and long track events, showing up with picks and shovels to break down and shape the snow banks at the oval to ensure the safety of skaters at the Atlantic Cup event, running the February Fitness Fridays event for public skaters at the oval, and serving on the board and committees of Speed Skate Nova Scotia.

The club held an end-of-season party in March. In the coming year, the club will be looking to organize additional social events, as well as group trips, possibly to Quebec City for the marathon, and Calgary for the Olympic Oval Grand Prix.