

Wight Boots

Newsletter of the Isle of Wight Ice Dance & Figure Skating Club December 2007

Club trip to see Holiday on Ice's Romanza

Our club outing to see Holiday on Ice's Romanza show in Brighton is on 20 January 2008 and the coach is now booked.

The show stars former England rugby international Kyran Bracken, winner of the

last series of ITV's Dancing on Ice, and the skating show's champion of champions.

Places are still available on the coach, and the total cost of the trip is is £45.00 for an adult and £35.00 for children.

Anyone who is interested in coming should contact Carol Taverner as soon as possible (tel 883807).

The show begins at 1.30pm, so we will not arrive back too late on the Island. **CT**

Around the opens: Kent and Oxford

Island figure skaters took six podium places at the Kent Opens in Gillingham and two in Oxford.

Jemma Southwell collected her first mainland free skating medal, achieving a bronze in the group for beginner girls aged 9 to 10. Nikita Heathfield, competing for the first time at level one, took silver in the competition for girls aged 9 and under.

Maggie Read collected double silver medals, coming second in the Pauline Wood Trophy for level 2 girls and in the Joanna Conway Artistic Cup. This was an excellent result considering that

Maggie has just moved up two classes.

Also competing at a new level this season was Gemma Fishel, who collected a bronze medal at level 4. Gemma Marsh also won bronze at level 6

Adults' corner

With the Christmas show nearly upon us again, it's a shame that we couldn't get an adult number together this year. Never mind, I hope that everyone will come and support the cast by watching one of the shows.

Carol Taverner

with her new programme.

Tia Daley and Kirsty Atter finished in creditable fourth places, and Lucy Burns in fifth, completing a rewarding day for all Island skaters at Gillingham.

Archie Bicknell won at level 4 in Oxford. Maggie Read gained her third medal in one week collecting bronze in Oxford in the level 2 girls' competition.

"I am proud of all my skaters," says head coach Terri Fleming. "Many have just moved on to compete at higher levels, yet they continued to win medals and perform to a high standard."

Films and books for skaters

Christmas is coming, and it's time to think about books and films that will appeal to skaters.

Noel Streatfeild, the author of children's classic Ballet Shoes also penned skating tale White Boots, which inspired the title of our newsletter.

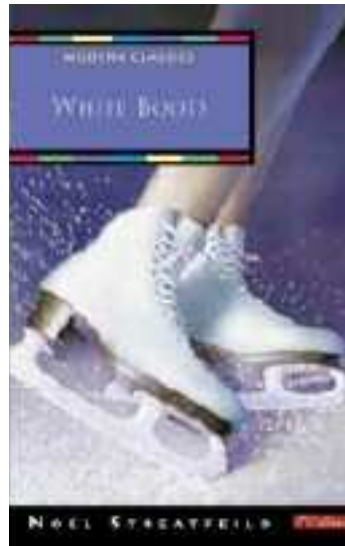
White Boots is an enchanting story about a girl called Harriet who begins skating to recover from an illness, and who befriends future potential champion Lalla Moore.

The book can be hard to find and you may need to order a copy.

Moving to films, Go Figure, a Disney Original Movie, regularly turns up on the Disney Channel. If you don't have cable or satellite TV the best option is to find a friend who does and ask them to record it for you.

The movie is about promising figure skater Kaitlin, who must take up an ice hockey scholarship to pursue her dreams of being instructed by a top Russian coach.

The classic three-handkerchief, weepie of a skating movie is Ice Castles (1978), starring Lynn-Holly Johnson as teenage Olympic hopeful Lexie. A freak accident destroys her skating career, but with the support of her childhood sweetheart she achieves a



new personal triumph.

Lynn-Holly Johnson also played perky skater Bibi Dahl in Bond movie For Your Eyes Only.

Ice Castles is available on VHS tape or a region 1 DVD (requires a multiregion DVD player).

1992 romantic comedy The Cutting Edge sees temperamental ice queen Kate Moseley (Moira Kelly) teamed up with brash hockey jock Doug Dorsey (D B Sweeney) with the aim of reaching the Olympics. It's a pairing of last resort, as no other skater has been able to meet Kate's exacting demands.

Loose sequel The Cutting Edge 2 (2005) stars Christy Carlson Romano – the voice of Disney's Kim Possible – and moves the story on a generation. Romano plays fiery skater Jackie, daughter of Kate and Doug from the original

movie (although different actors play the roles), who is forced to switch to pairs skating after an injury. Only extreme inline skater Alex is able to meet Jackie's demands in a partner, and both go on to compete for Olympic gold. The Cutting Edge and the Cutting Edge 2 are both available on DVD.

Disney's Ice Princess (2005) is still available on DVD. Michelle Trachtenberg stars as brainy schoolgirl Casey Carlyle, whose mother – played by Joan Cusack (the psychopathic Debbie in Addams Family Values!) – is determined she should follow an academic path rather than be a skater. But Casey puts her physics skills to good use to realise her skating dreams. Also features Sex and the City's Kim Cattrall as Casey's pushy coach.

Finally, 2007's comic skating movie Blades of Glory is available on DVD and still in the shops. Will Ferrell and Jon Heder play bitter figure skating rivals who are banned for life from competing in men's events. The two team up to skate again in pairs competition. A movie for skating dads everywhere, who will shake in silent laughter and thus embarrass their children.

Insurer tightens requirements for show helpers

The club's Christmas Ice Gala, featuring live opera, takes place on 7 to 9 December. Helpers and volunteers should by now all have all been asked to sign self-declaration forms that state they have no criminal record.

The forms are required because the club's insurer requires us to follow NISA guidelines on child protection for events.

NISA's guidelines recommend that clubs follow, rather than enforce, its own good practice on child protection. Club members

are likely to find these guidelines put into practice at events run by other clubs across the UK, particularly with regard to photography at competitions.

Self declaration is not the same as a full Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) check, but is a minimum requirement of the insurer.

Club chairwoman Karen Bicknell and committee member Carol Taverner are the only club members that have been CRB checked through the club. Karen is also the

point of contact for child protection and welfare issues.

Island Volunteers was providing the necessary means to CRB check all committee members, but the collapse of this organisation means that the club is now in the process of finding other means of providing these checks.

Having CRB checks performed by the club means that we can quickly confirm that an individual has been CRB-checked and provide the necessary citations as required.

Your committee needs you

Sharon Buckman has joined the committee, replacing Wendy Fishel, who resigned earlier this year.

The committee has also received the resignation of Jeff Fishel, which means

there is still a vacant place on the team.

Anyone who can spare the time to attend one meeting a month, and who can take on other responsibilities should contact chairwoman

Karen Bicknell (07747 034314) or secretary Janet Marsh (07811 427318).

The remaining months of the club year are ideal for getting a taste of committee work before the AGM in May 2008.

Synchro teams get ready for nationals

The dates for the British Synchronized Skating Championships are 13 January 2008 for the IJS Nationals and 24 March 2008 for the RJS events.

The Wight Diamonds will compete at Novice level at the IJS event. The Gems and Crystals will compete at the RJS event.

Fundraising to get the teams to these events is now the responsibility of Sharon Buckman. Sharon has attended a meeting about getting funding from the Sports Council after learning that another team competing at Sk8 Scotland had received funding.

Sarah Danzig has contacted the council to apply for a gambling licence to let the club hold raffles that take place over more than one day. The licence would allow the club to hold a larger raffle for a mini-moto that Carol Taverner is willing to donate.

Don't forget the Christmas Ice Gala on 7 to 9 December

iSkate and the Chelmsford opens

November's iSkate magazine carried a report on Chelmsford Opens that said Isle of Wight skaters had boycotted the opens because of Chelmsford's ban on photography.

An iSkate reporter contacted the IW club before publication, and the club denied there was any truth in the story. None the less iSkate published the report without including any comment from the IW.

The committee has been in contact with iSkate to explain why the report is wrong. The magazine has agreed to publish both a retraction

and an apology.

Parents and skaters will know that head coach Terri Fleming decided not to attend the opens and instead focus on skating tests that were due to take place shortly afterwards, as well as IW's first synchro camp that took place shortly before them.

Chelmsford has sent the IW its original report to iSkate, which only comments on the absence of IW skater from the opens and suggests that the ban on photography was possibly the cause. Its original report does not use the word boycott.

Chelmsford had not contacted IW committee

members about the opens, and therefore the view it expressed about the absence of IW skaters is pure supposition.

Chelmsford opens organiser Nete Maczka confirms, however, that one IW parent or carer had written to question Chelmsford's policy on photography.

Individuals have every right to correspond with other clubs on matters of policy that affect them. Unfortunately, in this instance it resulted in the incorrect assumption that Chelmsford's ban on photography was the reason for the unusual absence of IW skaters.

Committee meetings in brief

Parents asked several questions about the artistic competition that were discussed at November's committee meeting.

First, why was Carol Taverner skating against children in the event for skaters of level 4 or greater?

Competition rules and classes are finalised in consultation with the coaches. Coach Terri Fleming gave Carol the option of skating in an adult class or in a class with skaters of her level.

She decided to skate at her level.

No comments had been made about Sian Edkins skating in the same class, although she is also an adult.

Second, why was there no one at the raffle table all the time?

This year we had to make last-minute changes to keep the results and music side running smoothly. The committee agrees that someone should be stationed on the raffle table. Volunteers are welcome.

Third, why was the programme free?

It had been agreed at the previous committee meeting not to charge for the programme and to absorb the cost in the entrance fees. When we charged last time, a large number of programmes went to waste.

What happened to the flower and teddy stall?

The decision not to allow the stall was made by Planet Ice. The committee will look at finding flowers and teddies to sell at the next event.
