

SPIRAL

Newsletter of the
Canterbury Masters
Figure Skating Club

M A Y 2 0 2 3

Hello again everyone

The year is marching on, we've turned the clocks back, daylight saving is over for now, April has been and gone and we are into May—it all happens so quick. The weather is feeling decidedly cooler too. Let's look back on what has happened over the last few weeks. Our February workshop was great success with 37 skaters registering for one or both of the two sessions on offer. Thanks to our principal coach Michelle Russell for leading the charge, ably assisted by our volunteers Jeanne & Connor. Easter has been and gone, Coffee Clubbers all "put on their ears" to celebrate the occasion. We had a few "bunnies" at our 1st holiday family session where we also shared in some mini easter egg treats. Great to see so many of our skaters and friends coming along to our discounted holiday family sessions. Our next family session is on **Saturday 27th May 6—7pm** so make sure you save that date on your phones or calendars now.



A pretty impressive line-up at our February Workshop

February Workshop Report:

There was a great flurry of activity on the weekend of Feb 25 and 26 as many members gathered together taking part in some pre-season skills under the guidance of Coach Michelle Russell, ably assisted by Connor and Jeanne.

Meeting in the car park for 30 mins of stretching and warm-up exercises prior to getting on this ice as this was the first time back to the ice for quite a few of the skaters.

Everyone hit the ice running with great enthusiasm and much chatter. Michelle took charge and it was down to work! Exercises zipping up and down the ice and few laps of inside and outside, forward and backward edges and Russian stroking New Zealand style! Then splitting into 3 groups and working on turns and elements relevant to the ability of the skaters in each group. Yes, on day two there were a few stiff and sore bodies and one or two absent skaters. Never mind those that came back for the second session, pushed on through the pain and tested themselves to learn and achieve new skills. Lots of jumping, spinning, spirals, drags and a few bodies splayed over the ice. At the end of the session there were definitely some weary looking skaters. No doubt with a good nights sleep they would all bounce back. Let's do this again next year!



Andy, Nicky, Mike, Jeanne, Karyn, Bridget & Katie

Meet your Committee for 2023 elected at our AGM on 7th March.

Patron: Arnold Schmidt
President: Linda White
Vice President: Jeanne Begej ONZM
Secretary & Treasurer: Vanessa Anderson
Test & Comp Secretary: Jeanette King
Committee: Kirsty Cox
 Emma Hodgson
 Alastair Christie
Hon Solicitor: Peter Woods

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President no more!

It's official. After 18 years at the helm, Jeanne Begej and her offsideer Jacko have calmly stepped sideways off their presidential perch. It was as usual a highly contested election at this year's AGM and Linda White toppled Jeanne by a feather. Not true! Linda has certainly taken on the role of head chook (and very well equipped she is to do that) but Jeanne has always been concerned to have a strong succession plan and has welcomed new members to both learning and executive posts on the CMFSC Committee since its inception. But Jeanne is not quite ready to fly the coop – she will continue on the committee to support the new president and other members in the role of Vice-President.

In those very full years as president Jeanne has shepherded the club through it's many triumphs and challenges. She has helped with funding applications, supported the treasurers to navigate the changing world of the now Charities Commission and has put long hours into preparing and running competitions alongside the Test & Competition Secretary.

After the earthquakes Jeanne sought ways to support affected members and during Covid lockdowns she kept members in touch with regular emails and opportunities to communicate remotely and skatelessly. She has negotiated ice time, liaised with the national association and latterly become the newsletter editor, whilst also managing the Clubs website. There is nothing Jeanne hasn't turned her hand to as president and always with a smile.

But when asked what the highlight of her presidency was, Jeanne will only say that the pleasure and reward of this time is the fabulous group of people who are the club members – their camaraderie, support of each other and the excitement at watching and helping them learn new skills, growing in confidence as they progress.

It is those same members who now want to express their gratitude to Jeanne for her many years of leadership and for her enormous contribution to creating the vigorous and thriving club that we all enjoy.

Thank you Jeanne. (Squawking is heard in background). Yes Jacko – you too!

June Laird



The Alpine Village of Oberstdorf nestles in the heart of the Allgau Region of Bavaria underneath the mighty Nebelhorn Mountain, itself part of the Bavarian Alps. If you think of Heidi, or Maria from the Sound of Music, you are on the right track. In fact, when I was there last, in June 2016, I discovered why the hills ARE alive with the sound of music....it's the cows....their bells ring out for all to hear, on their daily walk through town, as they head to their grazing pasture. Oberstdorf is really called "Cow Village" by the locals, and it is just one part of it's charm.

"Cow Village" here we come!

by Trish Weir



Trish & Alastair are off to Oberstdorf, Germany in May to compete in the ISU International Adult Figure Skating Competition

I asked them if they would like to write a few words about this adventure they were both heading off on. Trish was very quick on the uptake and you can share her excitement on page 2 & 3.

Alastair was a little more succinct in his reply: **Kuchen und beir, what other reasons do you need....**

As soon as I heard about the really awesome cakes you can get in Oberstdorf it was a done deal! The adult ice skating competition there was added to my bucket list. My journey starts next Thursday, 4-May. I'm travelling with my Frau, Birgit, who is from Deutschland. Our first stop is with my sister and her family who live near London. From there travel is by train to Oberstdorf where I'm skating two programmes. My free skate is brand new for this competition. My artistic free skate has been around longer than Covid and this will be its last outing, I promise. Maybe I'll return with some bling.

Cheers Alastair.

Translation: **Kuchen und beir**, if you haven't already guessed it **Cake and Beer**.

I have been trying to get back to this gorgeous wee settlement (the southernmost village in Germany) since 2016. At the time, I skated in the Ladies Bronze III Freeski and Artistic, where I came 14th and 10th out of 31 and 32 other competitors in each event. That made me want to come back, and try to do better! The competition came from about 50 other countries, including the New Zealand "team" of 4.

Unfortunately a couple of ACL ruptures and COVID got in my way, but I'm finally going back. This time however, I'm in the older end of the Bronze Ladies IV Freeski and Artistic events, with a much smaller field of 15 and 16 in each. Competitors in my group come from Australia, Canada, Great Britain, Germany, Italy, Switzerland and Poland. You can see why many call it Adult World's! It's truly an international event.

Competitors come with the general goal to skate their best and maybe get on the podium. We all know how hard that is however, especially with such a large field of rivals chasing the same dream, but the Oberstdorf competition is much more than that. It's actually a huge reunion for an international skating family, coming together in the most supportive, encouraging way possible. Over the years, we have kept in touch mostly via facebook, and now, we are ready to give tossies and well wishes and much encouragement to every level of skater there.

It will be a busy time. I arrive on the 8th May, and meet with Frank, my "coach-away-from-home" on the 9th. There are daily skating workshops and practice ice each day, alongside private lessons if you have opted for that...that's just week one.

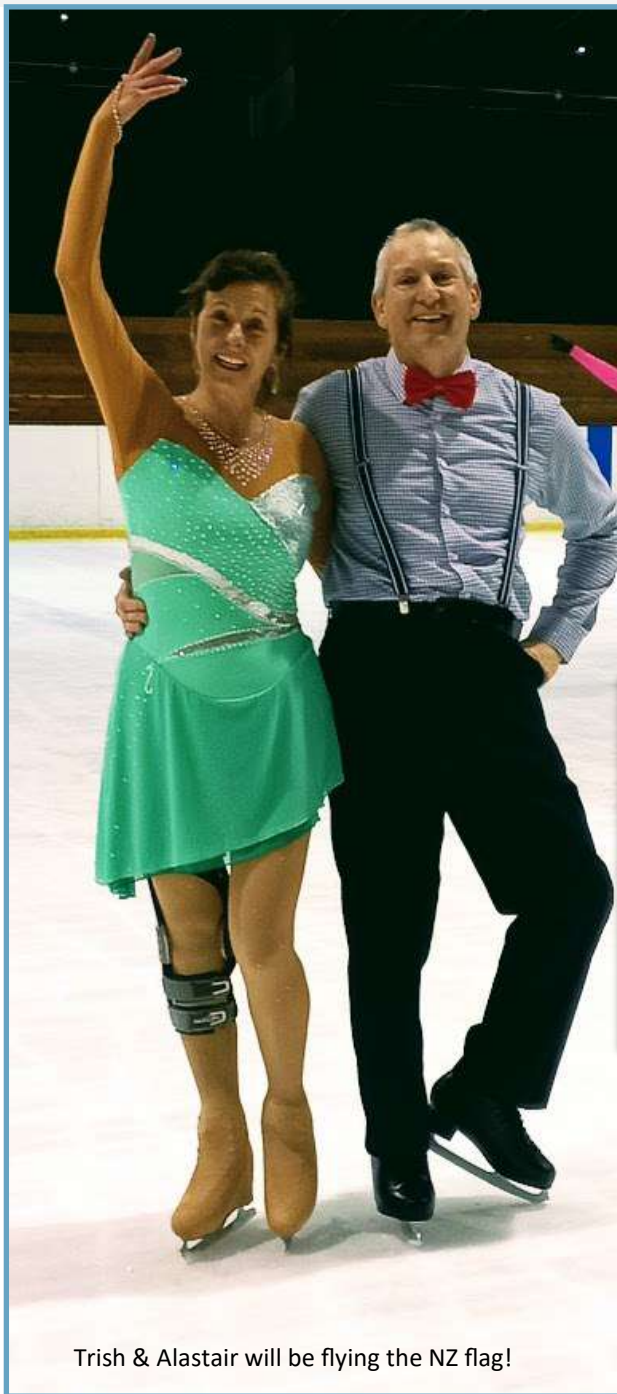
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Competition starts officially on the 15th May. I'm skating on the Tuesday (free skate) and Wednesday (artistic) after which I can enjoy the rest of the event with my friends, perhaps visit my German relatives near Stuttgart (depends on the trains!) and eat cake!! Did I mention the cake??

I'd love to get all my elements counted in the Free skate. I'd love to achieve personal bests in my Component scores. I am however simply grateful, to once again have the opportunity to turn up. No small thanks to my coach, Marina, PT Michelle (and Blair from Total Fitness) and Physio Antony! At 60+, it takes a Village!...oh of course a shout out to my very supportive husband Tony!!

I hope you all get the opportunity to go some time.



Trish & Alastair will be flying the NZ flag!

Notice Board:

Congratulations to Emma Hodgson who passed her NZIFSA Elementary Stroking Test in March.

Welcome to our new Club Members.

Next Club Session: Saturday 27th May 6—7pm

Club Discount Days \$13 Coffee Club only or \$20 CC & Session Combo

Term 2 Club Discount Dates: 4 & 18 May, 1,15 & 29 June

Remember we have safety equipment for your use at Club sessions, kept in the room near Pro Shop. Helmets & Halos please be sure to return them to the cupboard after use.

Staveley Ice Rink is due to open mid June. Here is the link to follow Staveley Ice Rink

<https://www.facebook.com/StaveleyIceRink/>



Workshop



Available to purchase

Badges \$5 each

Monograms \$7.50ea

Replacement Keyrings \$3 each

Alpine Ice has been sold ... We recently received a letter from Alpine advising us that the business has been sold. Gerry Austin has been the owner of Alpine for almost 35 years. The new owners Simon Rotherham and Graham Woodham took over on 1st May. Finn continues as Manager as do the current staff members and our Club activities will continue as normal. We wish Gerry all the best and thank him for providing the opportunity for our members to enjoy the sport of figure skating for so many years.



Jeanne, Hélène June L, June H, & David

Look who turned up for our Club walk in the gardens! Showing some style are Jeanne, former Alpine Coach Hélène Wren all the way from Canada, June our former CMFSC Secretary & Life Member, June & David both former Club skaters and now hold Friends of CMFSC membership. It was a lovely leisurely walk and much reminiscing over years gone by, warming up with hot drinks and snacks at the Café on a somewhat coolish day.

Over on the Right: Back: Kanako, Yoko & Sarah, Front: Jeanne, Karen & Kirsty.

Karen hosted an evening at her home in March for Club friends. We all brought a dish and Paul made the cocktails for us.



Liz, Yukiyo & Katie looking mischevious



Workshop Fun L—R Jeanette, Michelle, Vanessa, Kanako, Nicole, Kirsty, Trish, Josie, Victoria & Jennie



Workshop magic —Mike, Nicky, Andy, Bridget Catie & Karyn



King Charles III is a multi-talented man, with prowess in everything from horse riding to fishing - but there's one skill he keeps hidden. Behind closed doors, the 74-year-old monarch is a proficient ice skater – and even has a certificate in the sport. The king reportedly learnt to ice skate at the Richmond Ice Rink, receiving a Certificate of Merit in March 1962 when he was 14. His late mother, Queen Elizabeth II enjoyed skating during childhood too, taking lessons at the Park Lane Ice Club. Following her death, British Ice Skating even released a statement, saying: "For those skaters who have been fortunate enough to have met her over the years, she conveyed warmth, passion and a genuine interest in our wonderful sport."

King Charles III
Coronation 6 May 2023

**MAINLAND
FOUNDATION**
Proud to Support Our Community

Our ability to subsidise ice time costs at family sessions, synchronised team trainings, and coffee club sessions for Club members is thanks to the continuing generous support from the Mainland Foundation.

Your Committee :

President: Linda White

Vice President: Jeanne Begej ONZM

Secretary & Treasurer:
Vanessa Anderson

Test & Competition Secretary:
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Patron: Arnold Schmidt

Committee Members :

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Spiral

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