Vernon Speed Skating Club

Annual General Meeting minutes

Wednesday April 4, 2018

Squire’s Four Restaurant

In attendance: Karen Benn, Tony Benn, Trina Isobe, Kim Dow, Heather Benn, Katelyn Benn, AJ Devine, Ian Stewart, Eric Miller, Mike Hall, Diana Hall, Shannon Miller, Kevin Hillier

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm by Diana Hall

Adoption of agenda: motion to accept the agenda – Ian, 2nd Tony

Recognition of voting members present: Eric Miller, Mike Hall, Diana Hall, Tony Benn, Karen Benn,

Trina Isobe, Ian Stewart

Review minutes from previous AGM 2017: Motion to accept minutes – Mike, 2nd Trina

Presidents report: see attached report

Treasurer’s report: not a concrete report, but ending the season in the black. Money has been allotted to buy new equipment and skates at new executive’s discretion. Still waiting on final invoicing from BCSSA.

Motion to accept Treasurer’s report – Tony, 2nd Mike

Coaches report: see attached report

Acceptance of resignation of all past board members

Election of Officers for 2018-2019

President Karen Benn Motion to accept: Diana, 2nd Tony –All in favor, 0 opposed

Vice President Diana Hall Motion to accept: Eric, 2nd Ian - All in favor, 0 opposed

Treasurer Katie Benn Motion to accept: Trina, 2nd Ian – all in favor, 0 opposed

Secretary Paige McDicken Motion to accept: Karen, 2nd Trina – all in favor, 0 opposed

Meet Coordinator Eric Miller Motion to accept: Karen, 2nd Trina – all in favor, 0 opposed

Other appointments`

* + Ice bookings: Karen Benn
  + Track Surveyor: Trevor/Eric
  + Website manager: Diana
  + Contact/coordinator of media and website: Karen
  + Event reporter: Tony
  + Stock/equipment clerk: Tony
  + Registrar/MMS: Trina
  + Advertising/promotions (rec guide, community register, Carnival Guide, Hockey News, other media): Karen
  + Awards Coordinator: Trina
  + Registration Day: Diana
  + Competition registration organizer: Diana
  + Try it Day organizer: TBA
  + Grant Applications: Funtastic and Intact: Diana, Gaming, Mike, Ian and Katie
  + AMG/Award banquet organizer: TBA
  + Trophy case: Tony/Eric
  + Photographer: TBA

New Business:

* Eric is to look into getting ‘in kind’ donation from the guy who did ice surveying
* Returning member count: Confirmed: Benn, Hall x2, Miller, McDicken x2, McGinty

Maybe: Isobe, Stewart, Dow, Petrucci, Ozero

* Fee increase (due to cost of ice increase at KTP) of 3%. Works out to $5-10.
* Ice Dates: First Ice Sept 10 2018, Last Ice March 14 2019. Registration night Sept 5 or 6, to be confirmed. Interclub/FUNale TBA
* Membership Drive: Tony to do banner at MacDonald Park in August. Karen will do another ad in the paper in August as well. We will continue with Rec Guide and Community Guide. Need to start advertising on Facebook and Instagram (Karen, ?Shannon?)
* Fundscript – going to continue. If you keep purchases under $500 we don’t get charged for postage.
* Societies Act: Karen will get it updated
* We have purchased another locker for the equipment that is loose in the storage area. Looking into a rocker and bender, will be putting in order for skin suits in August. Tony will be changing the wheels on the carts before season resumes
* Policy and Procedure manual: Diana hopes to have completed by the time season resumes
* Coaches positions: Mike Hall, Head Coach. Tony will be getting his Level 1 over the summer and will be doing the Learn to Skate program. Karen will continue to assist as needed.
* Would like to see club continue to support the ORT in Kelowna. Will be determined by the ice times we aquire next season.
* Need to get Ian off as a signer on the bank account and Katie Benn on. Karen will arrange.

Meeting adjourned @ 7:45pm

President’s Report

2017-2018

First, I wish to welcome the new families to our club, and to thank everyone for their participation in club activities and competitions. I believe skaters really thrive in the sport of speed skating when they are given an opportunity to demonstrate their skill and speed at regional events, or at events that inspire them to work hard toward a goal, such as Provincial and National Championships.

At the same time, I wish to mention that we are a club in transition and, with the addition of our Learn-To-Skate/Recreation program, we have grown by introducing eight (8) new skaters to the sport. I believe that our kids are enjoying the participation, thrill, and the building of comradery amongst members. This positive influence has also carried over into the welcoming of new families, which we hope will create lasting friendships within our community.

At this time, I would like to thank Mike, our Competitive/Elite Coach; Tony, our Competitive Assistant Coach; and, Karen, our Learn-To-Skate and Recreation Coach, for their commitment and hard work toward making our skating programs fun and competitive. Please remember to take time to thank your coaches.

Also, thank you to the Board of Directors for their ideas, contributions, decisions, and work that has gone into the steering and development of this club. And, thank you to those volunteers who step-up above and beyond their obligations throughout the year to help this club succeed. Truly the heart of any club is in the commitments made by the volunteers who want to see the club move into the future. And finally, thank you to everyone who helped make our Funale another successful event.

In looking forward to the 2018/2019 season, we are confident that, as a unified group, we can continue as a successful non-profit organization. We have skaters that are competitive Provincially and Nationally in both Short Track and Long Track, making us a leading Club in speed skating circles.

Given that we are a small club, it is paramount that everyone contributes to the roles and responsibilities necessary to meet the functioning and success of the club. Each year, at this AGM, we are looking toward sharing the work, and asking families to step up into positions that either steer the direction, or support the activities that our children rely on, so that they may continue to skate. This club cannot operate without the support of parent participation. Our coaches have spent countless hours with your children. So please, think positively about how you can pitch in as we call out for help. Together let’s build a fantastic speed skating club for our children, and for others to join.

Here are the following Club highlights:

This year in review:

* New e-transfer option for payment of registration only.
* New website thanks to Sproing Creative
* Two new vinyl advertising signs for membership drives
* Continued registration into the Learn to Skate and Recreation programs – addition of 8 new skaters
* Purchase of Learn to Skate equipment
* Purchase of dryland training equipment and the continuation of dryland training for Elites
* Purchase of t-shirts for Learn to Skate kids
* New $50.00 rebate incentive for attending summer speed skating camps
* New skater subsidy of $75/day for recreation skaters to encourage their participation in competition outside the region
* Equipment organization in cabinets and purchase of 4 new pairs of skates, new jig and stone, and three new mats with sponsor logos
* Creation of a members manual that outlines club policies and information (in development -- ready for September 2018)
* $4000.00 from Gaming Grant, $1500 from Funtastic Sports, $2000 private donation from the Millers, plus money raised through the Funale and fundraising efforts.
* New sponsorship from Sproing Creative (subsidized website), Tolko ($1000), Sun FM (advertising), and continued sponsorship from Interior Savings ($500), Manulife ($500), Mackenzie Financial ($500)
* Successful hosting of the Funale 2018
* ORTC support for third ice time in Kelowna for Elites
* Super fun Silverstar family event
* Unfortunate passing of Peter Blokker – founder, mentor, skater, coach, --but a wonderful tribute at the Funale
* Fantastic skater accomplishments (Mike Hall)

Next Year:

* Renew Thursday ice time at Kaltire for Elites and Learn to Skate
* Coach training
* Officials training
* Continued membership drive

2018 Coaches Report

This was a very interesting year. Our move from a Thursday ice session to a Friday session was a failure for our advanced skaters as they couldn't attend many sessions due to travel requirements for meets but the addition of the Learn To Skate session on Fridays was a big positive step in the right direction and a much needed addition to our programming. Thank you Karen for stepping up and filling a void for our club and a thank you should also go out to Nate, Daniel and Mattias who volunteered to help with our learn to skate group when they could. Tova, Russell, Gwen and Zollie have all progressed well this year with participation in local meets, their future development will be fun to watch.

We were fortunate this year that the Kal Tire Place ice wasn't fully booked up, this allowed us the opportunity to place the crash mats well ahead of our allotted ice time and actually start skating early, extending the amount of time we had for practice. I am expecting that this luxury will not exist next year and that we will be pressed to be on and off right on time. A big challenge presented by strict adherence to allotted ice times is the placement and removal of the mats. Most often, Tony and I did the vast majority of the mat movement and with two people this simply takes too long, if this continues on into next season we will be reduced to a maximum of 25-30 minutes of the 45 minutes ice sessions, a colossal waste of valuable ice time, more hands are needed in helping to move the mats on and off the ice, this is a job that should take a maximum of ten minutes with participation.

Our skaters improved an average of 6.6% this year over last year. In the previous season they improved 3.8%, I had expected a similar rate of improvement as the rate of improvement becomes harder to maintain as the speeds increase. Our guys (and gals) did very well in improving their speed, its a reflection of the dedication and attention to detail that they applied to their craft. In the coming season we have two skaters that will be age eligible for the Canada Games. If they are able to duplicate this improvement, they both have a decent shot at making the team, this would be a huge accomplishment as they would both be considered under age and are comparatively lacking in access to ice time relative to their competition. I do think that with a good summer of training the goal is within range, its just a matter of the individuals having the commitment to the work that needs to be done. Entering the season in top shape will be mandatory as the trials will likely be in November.

Looking ahead to areas for future improvement, the gains will need to be made off the ice as we will likely never be able to skate 4-5 days a week as some clubs can. I would like to see Emma continue with the dry land work she has been doing with the Elite group, thank you for this, the gains from this type of work will come slowly, I think they were starting by the end of the season, lets keep that ball rolling and allow the efforts to compound. A big avenue for improvement is participation in summer camps, last year our club fell well short of where we should have been for participation, there are encouraging signs that this will be corrected for this season. Along with the summer camp participation, some of our guys are at the age where summer training is required to become or remain competitive, this isnt a full time training commitment thats required, just a few hours a week but if results are desired on the ice, work is required off the ice.

Our club sent three skaters to the Canadian Age Class Long Track Championships this year . Our travels there were crazy, it took us 30 hours to complete the trip one way. This travel schedule wasn't optimal for performance, despite the travel schedule, our skaters did well. Laura was tenth overall, seventh in the 500m. Nate was seventh overall with a fourth in the 300m and fifth in the 500m. Daniel was second overall with a second in the 3,000m and third in the 1500m.

We also sent two skaters to the Canada West Short Track Championships where Nate finished fifth overall and won the 200m. Daniel was fourth overall with a third place finish in the 400m.

In preparation for the Canada Games trials, Laura and Nate were competing in the Western Elite Circuit, of the BC skaters, Laura is in 5th position and Nate is currently in 11th. The top 5 will make the Canada Games team.

We had a good showing at the BC Championships. In short track we sent Charlie, Daniel, Nate, and Laura. Charlie was third overall in his first provincial championship, a great place to start. Daniel was third overall, Laura was fourth, taking a penalty in a strong distance, and Nate came back as the BC Champion.

In the BC Long track Championships we had three representatives, Daniel was third overall, placing second in the 3000m and 500m, Laura was second overall winning the 3000m and second in the 1500m, and Nate was the BC Champion, winning the 300m and 500m events.

For the first time in the 27 years of the club, we sent 3 skaters to the BC Winter Games, Daniel was 5th overall, Nate was 4th, coming second in the 400 and third in the 200, and Laura finished second overall with a second place finish in the 1000, 1500, and 3000. Having three skaters qualify for the Winter Games is a nice benchmark to set but I think we could have had five.

As our group ages, we should see more representation at the bigger meets, it was nice to watch Charlie compete at the BC Short Track this year, he certainly belongs at that level of competition and there's no reason to believe that the younger skaters coming up in the same system won't also become competitive at the provincial or national levels. The key to sustained success will be the development of the on ice program with programs such as the learn to skate sessions as well as the development of the coaching pool. I would like to have another parent coach available so that there is coverage when Tony or I need to be at competitions and to ensure the continuation of the program should either Tony or I become unavailable. Tony has been on a steep learning curve but is now a very capable coach, I believe that if someone had an interest , the sport could be taught to another, there isn't anything that is overly complicated, its just a matter of time on the ice and learning what to look for and what corrective measures might help.

The next step in the development of our athletes will be off season training. Anyone that would like an off season program should let me know. The biggest improvements can often come during the summer when the competition is relaxing.

For now lets enjoy the success that our skaters have had and look forward to seeing how far they can go. It takes a community to produce an athlete, we can all feel good about the success of our team.

Mike Hall