



# THE SKATING CLUB OF BOSTON

# CHIPS

May 2009

## It's Coming ...

A look at our future revealed at Annual Meeting



At the Annual Meeting on Friday, May 8, Club President Joe Blount presented the updated details of the Long Range Plan for the Skating Club's future. As all members know, our current facility is well-used, and the Ice Committee works hard to juggle the needs of the various disciplines. Still, we all know, a second ice surface would be welcome! Our land at 1240 Soldiers Field Road is valuable, and well-located for our membership, but doesn't allow us expansion opportunities here.

Joe gave members the background: discussion of possibilities for a new facility to replace our present one goes back prior to 2000. In that year, the Club was contacted by Harvard University, interested in our land for the University's planned Allston development. The two parties entered into a confidential agreement to explore possibilities around proposing a turnkey development for the Skating Club. Harvard hired and paid for architectural and engineering consultants to study the Club's needs and develop a new facility, searched with the Club for a new piece of

*continued on page 3*

## President's Letter

President's Letter, May 17, 2009

We had many things to report on at the Annual Meeting, and in particular the Board's Vision for a future facility and discussions on the process we have been through for the last nine years to get us to this point. The Long Range Plan report appears in other sections of the Chips and there is no need to repeat the information except to thank all of the members who have been on the Board of the last nine years, and participated in bring the Vision to this point. There is much work that needs to be done, but with your continued support we will be successful.

One of the major goals this year's Board has been focused on is the present and future development for all of our programs. This year established the Program Task Force to review each program to see what can be improved, what needs to be done, and what resources are necessary to accomplish the goals we set. We are still developing information, however the Skate with US Program know as Basic Skills is the base on which all of our programs are built --it is one of the most important programs we have. The Basic Skills program has something for every discipline and provides the base from which a skater starts their journey in Dance, Synchro, Theater on Ice, Singles and Pairs, and if we have the opportunity: hockey.

### Also Inside This Edition of 'CHIPS' ...

**Tom McGinnis named to PSA Coaches' Hall of Fame**

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**Long Range Planning : a new home for the SCOB?**

**p.1-2**

**Governing Council Report**

**p. 8**

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# President's Letter

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We have a strong program at this time but we need to be vigilant in keeping it that way. We have many skaters joining the club from this program and the Bridge Program which provides a natural progression to the Club. The Bridge Program offers individual lessons and teaches the skater how to work in a club environment before they become club members.

The coming months will require the Board's attention on key issues:

Boston Open – Diligence as always, and focus on our new June dates  
Marlborough – Monitor the sessions we have at this facility and develop them to our advantage

Synchro – Continue to develop our affiliation with Team Excel and provide support as needed; they will be representing our club

Possible Bid for the 2012 U S Figure Skating Championships

Start planning for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 1961 plane crash, which took the lives of the entire US Team and many of this club's skaters, parents, coaches and friends

Start planning for the Club's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2012

Continue the efforts on the Long Range Plan and keep members informed of

our progress

Make a strong effort to improve our Dance Program

The Board's Vision for a future facility was presented at the Annual Meeting, the Presentation Drawings and Model will be on display in the Club Lounge and also for the Annual Awards Banquet June 5, 2009. Check the web site for more information.

We are trying to complete our data base of information on club members so we can better communicate with everyone, to that end, if you have not provided an email address, please do and if you do not have an email address let us know what the best way is to communicate with you. Thank you for your assistance in completing the information necessary for us to provide information without consuming paper, ink and resources on postage.

Thank you to the Board Members, Committee Chairs and the many members who volunteer for their time and talent in support of The Skating Club of Boston.

Joe

## Got News?

**CHIPS** loves feedback and articles from our readers. Items of interest (including your photographs or illustrations, preferably in digital format) and assorted notes may be delivered to The Skating Club of Boston's main office or sent directly to the editor via:

- Email: [editor@chipsboston.com](mailto:editor@chipsboston.com) or;
- Fax: 617 . 782 . 7846 (Attn: **CHIPS**)

The deadline for submissions for the next issue is **July 10**. Items received after this date will be published in the following issue. The editor reserves the right to edit for length, clarity, and accuracy. Contributors are encouraged to include their name and contact information (telephone number and/or e-mail address).

Member:  
  
[usfigureskating.org](http://usfigureskating.org)



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Visit The Skating Club of Boston website at [www.scboston.org](http://www.scboston.org).

# The Club Plans for the Future

*Continued from page 1*

land, and agreed that if an appropriate solution were developed, it would be presented to the Club membership for vote. If the membership approved it, we could have gone ahead; if not, there would have been no financial penalty. This work with Harvard and their representatives, The Beal Companies, continued through 2004, and architectural plans for an initial site were developed through their consultant, Architectural Resources Cambridge (ARC) for the proposed facility.

At the same time, the Skating Club was working interally with Homer Hagedorn in our Long Range Planning Process. Members were interviewed in group sessions to understand their needs, what they felt most important about the Club and its facilities, how far they were willing to travel if the Club were to move, etc. Findings were documented and presented to the membership in 2003, and integrated into the building design project.

Harvard had a series of administrative and leadership changes beginning in 2004, and there were also some changes related to a site originally considered by their team for our project. Progress slowed considerably, but the Board's interest in the project, with increasing demand for our ice and programs, did not diminish.

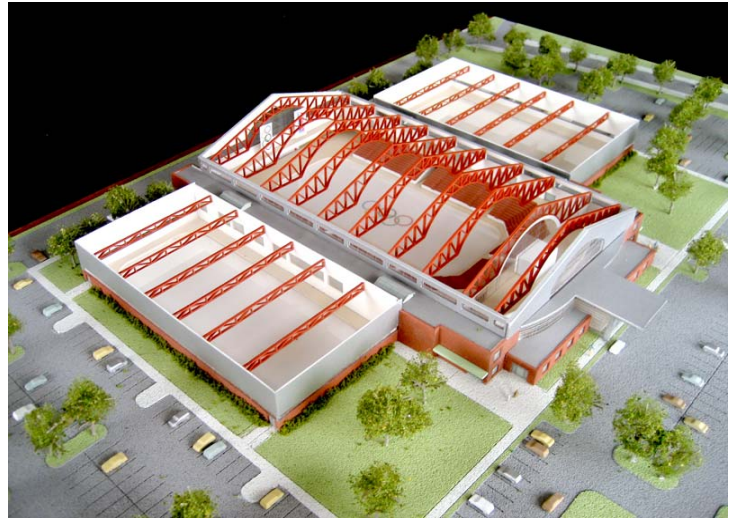
In the fall of 2008, things became more active. Several parties (including Harvard) are interested in our land. Joe and his Development Chair, Mary Ann Choate, have been aggressively looking at opportunities and seeking out possible sites, several of which are in consideration. The plan would still be to do a turnkey project in which a sale is negotiated with a buyer for our present facility concurrently with purchase of new land; construction would commence and the Club would stay in operation here until the new facility opens. At that time, the new owner would take over our Soldiers Field facility.

Joe showed the members a beautiful 1/32 scale architectural model of the proposed new facility (pictured), which would feature three ice surfaces, off-ice training and meeting spaces, locker and coaches' rooms. One surface would be 100' x 200', which is the Olympic figure skating rink size specified by the ISU. The center rink would have seating for 2200 people, so events like Ice Chips could be run at our Club. There are several presentation boards which show building elevations and floor plans illustration placement of the facility elements. They will be on display until the Awards Banquet on June 5.

Between the ice availability and added seating, the Club would be able to bid successfully for almost any USFS event (other than Nationals), Joe said. This brings important revenue to the Club as well as allowing our competitors the ease of competing on home ice.

The SCOB would use two of the three ice sheets for its programs, and the third would be available for community outreach, hockey programs, and other skating programs. Having two sheets of ice for Club use will allow us to build our Dance and Pairs programs, add Basic Skills classes, and bring our newly expanded Synchronized Skating program under our roof. Our coaches will be able to plan their teaching schedules more flexibly.

There are numerous options for the third ice sheet: Mary Ann added that some facilities are being built to have the third ice sheet convert to indoor lacrosse or field hockey. Joe also stressed that each of the land sites currently under consideration will bring slightly different opportunities forward; he gave the example that one is with an entity which would like to use the third sheet for a hockey program. The proposed building design is early in the development process and would be modified to meet the specific requirements of the selected site and municipality.



*Architects' Model*

Why bring this to the membership now, when there is still so much to be done, and when no buyer has been finalized nor site chosen? Joe told the membership that his team and the Board felt it was important to bring the members up to date on what the progress is. We have new members who were not a part of the Long Range Planning Process; copies of the report were made available.

We've signed an agreement with commercial real estate consultants Colliers, Meredith & Grew to help us maximize competition among the entities interested in purchasing our land, and help us realize the best purchase price possible. He also said that there is still a good deal of information that remains confidential, such as which parcels of land the Club is looking at. He did tell the members that the areas we are looking at include nearby Belmont, Waltham, Watertown and other areas very close to the Club, taking into account the demographic information from the Long Range Planning report. Again, nothing will be committed to without the membership's positive vote.

When asked about timeline, Joe committed that he would keep the membership informed of developments on a regular basis. The Skating Club is set to celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2012, and Joe said he and the Board would love to see the new ice facility under construction by then. It's an exciting time, and **Chips** looks forward to keeping you informed of our progress.

# Summer Exchange

This summer, the ice will be buzzing with new ideas and new sounds – voices speaking Italian and Japanese, that is! The Skating Club will be welcoming guest skating students from Italy, Canada and Japan, and with them, new ideas and training methods. Coach Peter Johansson told **Chips** about the students who will be coming over to spend time with us.

“The Japanese skaters don’t have ice in the summer, so they always (have to) travel,” he said, noting that the group of 12 skaters coming this summer is the same one that visited the SCOB last summer. They travel with their coaches, and work with them while they are here, and also take lessons from Peter and Mark Mitchell when their coaching schedules allow. Last summer, the group rented a house so that they could stay together, and Peter helped them to arrange for additional ice time at the Fessenden School’s rink.

“It’s nice for our kids. They’re able to mix with the skaters who come in from other cultures, and see different training styles. Other coaches use more of a group coaching style.” Peter added that our skaters help to make the international guests feel welcome. Last year, a bulletin board displayed pictures of the Japanese group.

This summer, two Canadian skaters will be coming in, as well as two groups at separate times from Italy. How are all these international connections made? Peter said the Japanese coaches have known Peter and Mark for years; frequent guest choreographer Jamie Isley was even on her way to Japan to choreograph new programs for them. The Italian skaters’ coach had skated with Mark when he was a competitive skater training in Milan. (Skaters: this is a good reason to maintain all of the connections you make as a young competitor. You never know when you might be part of a skating exchange program in the future!) The skaters from Italy will come later in the summer, and this part of the program is a true exchange; Peter and Mark spent a week in early May teaching them at their rink in Milan.

Last summer, the Skating Club hosted skaters from the Chicago area, Finland, Japan and Canada. When guests are here, they participate in both on-ice and off-ice training activities. “Everyone has heard of our programs, and they want to know what it’s like to skate in Boston,” said Peter. “It used to be that our kids would sometimes travel in the summers to other programs, but now we have everything they need for great training under one roof: off-ice, dance, the coaching. There isn’t a reason for our skaters to go elsewhere.”

## New Members

### *Family Memberships*

**Mr. John Farrell and Mrs. Carmen Bozic**

**(Ingrid, Dierdre (Farrell))**  
Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts  
*Farkas / Goodrich*

**Dr. Sheldon and Mrs. JoAnn Itzkowitz**

**(Jordana, Justin)**  
Needham, Massachusetts  
*B. Martin / Plazonja*

**Mr. Seokjin Kim and Ms Jeong Mi Oh (Christin, Brandon (Kim))**

Belmont, Massachusetts  
*L. Blount / J. Medico*

**Mrs. Rose-Marie McKenna (John)**

Boxborough, Massachusetts  
*B. Martin / Plazonja*

**Dr. Gerald and Dr. Delia Wolf (Amber)**

Westborough, Massachusetts  
*S. Murray / W. Naphtal*

**Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Cusack (Sydney)**

Carlisle, Massachusetts  
*B. Martin / Miner*

**Mr. Venu and Dr. Gautami Rao (Anupama)**

Hollis, New Hampshire  
*T. Gupta / S. Bianchi*

**Dr. and Mrs. C. Alan Sowa (Terri) (Morgan)**

Lincoln, Rhode Island  
*R. Martin / Choate*

### *MetroWest Memberhip*

**Mr. and Mrs. Tyne Kwan (Kim) (Caitlin)**

Westborough, Massachusetts  
*Naphtal / Choate*

### *Junior Membership*

**Mr. Andrew Speroff**

Colorado Springs, Colorado  
*Donlan / Foley*

### *Theater on Ice Membership*

**Miss Angel Bagnell-Charbonier**

Melrose, Massachusetts  
*McManus / Stevenson*

### *Synchronized Membership*

**Miss Alexandra N. Wolfe**

Franklin, Massachusetts  
*Naphtal / Choate*

### *Returning Family Members*

**Mr. Zhiyi Han and Mrs. Lan Wang (Kevin (Han))**



# Welcome Team Excel!

The Skating Club's legacy of championship skating will become even stronger in the upcoming competitive season, as we welcome our new affiliate, the synchronized skating Team Excel. Team Excel, led by director Merita Mullen, plans to field teams for Beginner, Preliminary, Juvenile, Intermediate, Novice, Junior, Collegiate and Adult levels for the 2009-2010 season.

The teams had skated at the Colonial FSC in prior years. They decided to move their training center to have more involvement in training and development of skaters, from the earliest levels of their training through competition practice. They will now represent the Skating Club, and their training home will be the Skating Club of Boston MetroWest facility in Marlborough.

At press time, rosters for each team were being finalized. Coach Merita Mullen said she was thrilled with the turnout at tryouts, and that new skaters were coming in from the western suburbs in addition to skaters who'd been part of one of the teams last year.

Team Excel has a real focus on training and volunteerism, with the more experienced skaters helping the newer skaters on its teams. Merita told **Chips** at a recent meeting the young skaters really love being able to look up to the "big girls" on the Junior line; seeing their success on a team gives the younger skaters attainable goals to work toward.

Team Boston will be integrated into Team Excel, and all of the Team Excel skaters will become members of the Skating Club of Boston. There are 100 skating families involved in the Team Excel organization. Over the next several months, we'll be looking at creative ways to introduce our families. One thing is certain, we're proud that Team Excel will now be calling the Skating Club "home"!

## Tests Passed

**Sabrinna M. Allen** – Bronze Dance

**Jin Baseman** – Juvenile Moves

**Gianna M. Beniers** – Novice Moves

**Alessandra Bianchi** – Pre-Preliminary Free

**Michael G. Bramante** – Novice Free Dance, Senior Moves

**Marissa M. Castelli** – Senior Pair

**Amy Chan** – Pre -Preliminary Moves, Pre-Preliminary Free

**Allister Chang** – Junior Free

**Brittany M. Chen** – Senior Free

**Valerie M. Chen** – Novice Moves

**Doniyel M. Cohen** – Senior Free, Senior Pair

**Sydney S. Cusack** – Junior Free

**Rochelle Y. Dost** – Junior Moves, Junior Free

**Anna F. D'Amico** – Senior Moves

**Paige D'Angelo** – Juvenile Moves

**Susan K. Enright** – Novice Free Dance

**Olivia A. Gibbons** – Junior Pair

**Elisa Glauber** – Preliminary Moves

**Talia I. Greene** – Juvenile Moves, Pre-Juvenile Free

**Tyler J. Harris** – Junior Pair

**Madison Hendrigan** – Juvenile Moves, Preliminary Free

**Jenelle T. Herman** - Novice Moves

**Adrian Huertas** – Intermediate Free

**Maryanne E. Hickey** – Pre-Juvenile

**David Everett Johansson** – Pre-Juvenile Free

**Katherine Lisa Johansson** – Pre-Juvenile Free, Juvenile Free

**Sebastian Kim** - Intermediate Moves

**Lauren N. Lampiasi** – Solo Pre Silver Dance

**Jessica Lin** – Junior Moves

**Huai-Li Lin** - Pre-Juvenile Moves

**Victoria E. LoRusso** – Senior Moves

**Christine E. Magill** - Junior Moves

**Carly B. Milden** – Pre-Juvenile Pair

**Heidi W. Munger** - Intermediate

Moves, Intermediate Free

**Mizuki Nitta** – Preliminary Moves

**Zoe L. Ongaro** - Pre-Juvenile Moves

**Anya Pforzheimer** – Pre-Juvenile Free

**Alexia Rogers** – Senior Moves, Intermediate Free

**Lara Teresa Shelton** – Senior Pair

**Jessica Sims** - Intermediate Moves

**Lindsey M. Stevenson** - Pre-Juvenile Moves

**Sarah Swalboski** - Pre-Juvenile Moves

**Calypso Tausig** – Preliminary Moves

**Kayla Thierwechter** – Novice Free

**Cindy Y. Yu** - Intermediate Moves

**Rachel A. Zeppi** – Intermediate Free

*Editor's Note: these Test Results are taken from the US Figure Skating website as of May 14. Subsequent Test Results will be announced in our next issue.*

# Remembering Ted Dyett

by Christie Allan-Piper

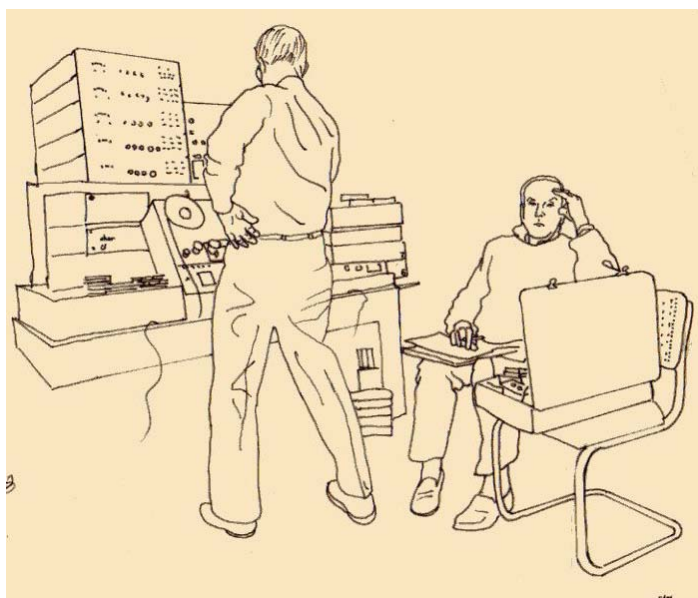
*Editor's note: On March 8, 2009, the Skating Club lost our dear friend Ted Dyett, 80, after a brave battle with heart disease. The following words and beautiful illustrations (from Ice Chips '94 and '94, showing Ted working with Tom McGinnis) are a wonderful tribute by Christie Allan-Piper, Ted's neighbor and frequent music collaborator.*

Until recently, for decades, whenever a skating competition was held in New England, long before other participants arrived, a van laden with sound equipment would pull up to the door of the rink. Skating Club member, Ted Dyett, would spring from the wheel and begin the long process of setting up the sound system for the event. Afterward, long after others were gone, Ted still would be making trips back to his van with the heavy equipment he'd brought for the occasion.

Year after year, Ted worked round the clock through Ice Chips run-through rehearsals, dress rehearsals, and performances, the first to arrive, the last to leave. He made constant efforts to improve and maintain the sound system at the Skating Club of Boston, unfailingly patient when the cold, the damp, or the careless hands of skaters damaged the equipment yet again and the club called him for remedy.

Skaters turned to him when they needed music cut, especially music difficult to cut. He numbered and saved every project, so that skaters could make emergency calls for duplicates, years after the original recordings had been made. In a pinch, we could leave our music in a basket on his front porch late in the evening on our way home from the rink. Before sunrise the next morning on our way back to the rink, we would find the finished recording waiting for us in the same basket on the porch of great old Victorian house where the large and talented Dyett Family lived.

Laura Dully, who created the Lace Up For Leukemia event, held first at the Skating Club and for many more years in Marlborough, said "I wanted to honor Ted for his generous giving to my event 'Lace Up'. He did the all equipment and music for nearly 12 years, for whatever my needs were. He would sit there at the side of the rink for the full event which was nearly 5 hours. I knew that was one facet of the event I didn't need to worry about, because I could count on Ted."



There was no reward for him other than the satisfaction of making the sound as good as possible. An MIT sound engineer and a musician, he was a sound perfectionist. Drawn into skating reluctantly, only because his family, not he, had become skating enthusiasts, he could not help himself. When sound needed improving, he could not rest until he tried his hand. The Skating Club became a habitual challenge and we happily took advantage of his generosity and tolerance of our neediness. Even after a near fatal heart attack some years ago, he returned whenever we called, much to the distress of his devoted wife, Adrienne.

At Ted's memorial service, all the different worlds to which he contributed, at last all came together. He had given just as generously to the Chorus pro Musica. The chorus lent its beautiful voice to the service, along with the soloist, his daughter, Lindsay, whose sound lifted our souls. The music, the moving poem written by his daughter, Kim, and remembrances of his family were sweet sounds to honor him and reminded us both of the loss and the gifts of this gentle man, Edmond Granger (Ted) Dyett Jr. Ted is survived by his beloved wife Adrienne, his 5 children: Edmond (Granger) III, Lindsay, Kimberly, Meredith and Jocelyn.



Illustrations by Christie Allan-Piper

# Tommy McGinnis: Hall of Fame Coach

Coach Tom McGinnis will receive one of the sport's most special honors this month, at the upcoming Professional Skaters Association (PSA) conference in Orlando, Florida to be held May 21-23, when he is inducted into the Figure Skating Coaches' Hall of Fame. The PSA selects a small group of noteworthy coaches each year based on their lifetime of accomplishment in coaching figure skating. This year's class of five inductees was not named at press time, but there are four other coaches in addition to Tommy, according to Carol Rossignol, PSA director of Education and Events.

Tommy first came to the Skating Club in 1961 as a coach and choreographer, and fellow coach, Christie Allan-Piper, then a young skater at the Club, remembers that he made a splash right away with his innovative choreography. He choreographed a program for Laurence Owen in 1961 to *Danse Macabre* that Christie remembers as "spellbinding." With it, Laurence won the National Senior Ladies Championship and would have performed it at the World Championship that year, had she not been among those in the plane crash that took the lives of the 1961 US World Team.

He had performed as a skater, dancer and actor on stage and television, and toured extensively with *Holiday on Ice* before becoming a coach. In the late 70's the *Ice Capades* brought him in as a coach to their star skaters, and he worked with Scott Hamilton, Tai Babilonia and Randy Gardner, Peggy Fleming and many others. His pairs teams, Betty Lewis and Richard Gilbert (late '60's) and Sheryl Franks and Michael Botticelli (late '70's and 1980) competed in the World Championships; Sheryl and Michael also competed at the Olympic Games in Lake Placid in 1980. He excelled with singles skaters as well; his student Lorraine Hanlon was the ladies' national champion in 1963. More recently, Tommy worked with national competitor Josh Figurido and adult national champion Stephanie Cooke.

Over the years, Tommy gave countless hours and creative talent to the Club as choreographer and artistic director of *Ice Chips* for more than 30 years. Thousands of new skaters, from young children through adult, have learned to skate in his Tom McGinnis Skating School, and now, the Monday night Basic Skills program. His reach has extended beyond the Club, to the professional skating community. He was one of a small group of coaches and judges selected to help create the Moves In the Field protocol, the skills and related tests which judge skaters' edge quality, power, extension and quickness. He organized three major conferences for the PSA, including the first combining US and Canadian coaches. He has judged professional championships and co-founded an international skating publication, *International Figure Skating Magazine*. He holds master ratings in eight disciplines by the PSA, and was awarded their "Lifetime Achievement" award several years ago.

Students speak warmly of Tommy's coaching talent. "He made my skating style what it was, and he did that by getting to know me and allowing me to be creative and expressive," said Josh Figurido, who trained with Tommy and competed at the National level through 2001. "I'm a confident coach today, because of Tommy. And thanks to him, I love coaching!" Josh now works with skaters in the San Francisco area.



*At the Skating Club, with (l to r:) students Melanie Lambert and Fred Palascak, friends Oleg Protopopov, Cecilia Colledge and Ludmila Protopopov*



*As a performer in New York, Tommy demonstrated his flexibility*



*Backstage with Tai Babilonia and young student Kelly O'Grady*

# Governing Council Report

*April 29–May 2*

**Club Delegates attending: Joe Blount – President, Warren Naphtal – Treasurer, Ann Buckley, Jim McManus, Tammy Thierwechter, Paul Crugnola, Gloria Miner, Cindy Stevenson.**

Joining us in our Section was Ben Wright and Pat Soanes, which increased our party to 10.

I spent part of Wednesday April 29, 2009 attending the Club Leadership and Business Management School as an observer, listening to the many issues clubs across the country are having with member retention, securing ice for their members, dealing with rink management, developing programs and concerns with having qualified coaches on their staffs. Many of these issues we control since we own our ice surface, which most of the clubs do not. If a club had an issue that we have dealt with before we were asked to comment by the USFS team leaders; they know us well and look to us to help where we can.

**Thursday April 30, 2009 consisted of Seminars/Forums on the following topics:**

- Parents
- Synchro
- Club Bylaws
- Program Development
- Understanding the IJS
- Star – Serving the American Rinks
- Real Programs that Work
- MITF – Movies In The Field
- USFS Budget

We split up and had someone in all of the above Seminars which made a full day for everyone.

**Our Open House was one of the programs that was presented under Real Programs that Work. Tammy Theirwechter and Gloria Miner were the presenters and did an outstanding job. Thank you both.**

Each one of the sessions was informative for providing new ideas, modifications to existing programs or providing new programs, giving us a feel for what we are doing as a club, what we could do better and what we should stay away from.

**We also received two documents which show the basic format of our sport.**

- **Figure Skating Programs and Development/Pipeline of Figure Skating**
- **Basic Skills– Senior Non-Qualifying – Competitive Figure Skating Structure**

Number of Elite Skaters +/- 90-100

**Number of Members registered with USFS  
as of June 30, 2008**

- |                             |              |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| • Eastern Section           | 25,045       |
| • Midwestern Section        | 26,297       |
| • Pacific Coast Section     | 9,533        |
| • <u>Individual Members</u> | <u>2,812</u> |
| Totals                      | 63,686       |

Number of Registered Basic Skills Skaters	
Totals	179,049

## Our Club Membership Registered with USFS – 581

Friday May 1, 2009 Consisted of Sectional Meetings. The entire delegation of the club attended the Eastern Sectional Meeting which was scheduled from 8:30 am – 12:00 pm.

During the meeting Awards were presented to clubs for their 25, 50, and 75 year Anniversary. 75 year clubs: Hershey FSC, SC of San Francisco, Spokane FSC, St. Moritz ISC

Awards were also presented to Officials, 25, 40, 50 year judges, referees, and accountants; **our Club Member Patricia Soanes was recognized for her 40 years as an Accountant. Congratulations to Pat!**

The president of USFS Ron Hershberger and Executive Director David Raith spoke to the delegates and informed us that NBC had extended its agreement with US Figure Skating through 2012 which was good news for the organization and those who are contemplating bidding on events for the 2011 and 2012 years.

We reviewed the critical issues that would come before the entire Governing Council later in the day and Saturday and we reviewed the procedure for the Elections and Nominating.

**Governing Council 1:30 pm – 6:00 pm**

Listened to many reports and introductions and isolated items that members would like to either discuss or reverse the Board's decisions. If you are interested in the Agenda for the Council you can go to USFS Web site. Since there was opposing Nomination for the Eastern and Third Vice-President between Troy Goldstein and Ann O'Keefe, a candidate's forum was held with question from the members. Both candidates were on a time limit and the forum was orderly and productive in presenting the candidates' positions and experience.

Saturday May 2, 2009

7:30 am – 8:00 am Elections by Ballot in which you had to show your delegate and USFS membership cards. Ann O’Keefe was elected Eastern Vice-President, which we unanimously supported. I have invited Ann to our Awards Banquet and she has accepted.

USFS has a new President, Patricia St. Peter; Pat has also been invited to visit the club at a date to be determined.

**Also elected to the Board as a Coaching Member was Mark Mitchell, Congratulations to Mark!**

8:00 am – 5:00 pm  
The remainder of the session consisted of a review of the USFS Board of Directors' decisions and the requested action proposed from various Committees. Adjustments were made to some and Committee Members responded to questions. The full report of the 2008-2009 Combined Report of Action which is approximately 25 to 30 pages long is available on the web <http://www.usfigureskating.org/Story.asp?id=43041>

The reports of all National Committees are on the USFS web site for those who are interested

I believe our delegates represented the club well, were attentive to the issues, and spent the time required to make informed decisions and I thank them for their time and talent

**Joe Blount, President**



# Club News

## Westward Ho!

How do you expand when your single-ice-surface facility is busy 'round the clock? Go West!

The SCOB found a simple way to expand its growing programs late this winter when the New England Sports Center (NESC), the five-sheet skating facility in Marlborough, came forward with a proposal. The independent figure skating program at the NESC had become inactive, and the center wanted a figure skating presence. Warren Naphtal and Tobey Choate brought the proposal forward to the Board, and suggested we contract several sessions in the afternoons, hoping to attract the skaters and coaches who had trained there with the former club. NESC management was flexible with us, allowing the SCOB to develop a good, practical business model. The Board formed a Marlborough Committee to develop recommendations around ice sessions, membership, coaching and programs.

Warren explained the program to the membership at the annual meeting, comparing it to the Boston Ballet's business model of building regional training centers which are self-supporting but also feed their best students to the ballet's main school on Clarendon Street in Boston. "They've been a great success for the Boston Ballet; they bring their great training to areas outside the downtown facility, and they help to build the (Boston Ballet) brand." Recent articles show those regional students also come to Boston Ballet performances and donate to the Ballet.

The business owners at NESC were drawn to partnering with the SCOB because of our longevity and reputation in our sport. And like the Boston Ballet's regional centers, our presence in Marlborough will help to build the Skating Club's name and membership. To let skaters know we have taken over the figure skating sessions there, our Marlborough presence will be known as the Skating Club of Boston MetroWest. We're developing a membership class for those new members who will skate only in Marlborough, and they can join as full SCOB members as they wish. SCOB members and coaches can skate on the Marlborough sessions, and walk-on at member rates.

Warren also said that some of our area's smaller (60-80 members) skating clubs are failing as economic conditions change; advanced skaters from those clubs have historically come to the Skating Club then they were looking for higher-level training. "We may have to develop more of our own skaters now, from the earliest levels," he said. He also drew parallels to large successful skating clubs, like Peninsula FSC in the San Francisco, CA area, and Washington FSC in Washington DC, which are consolidations of many former smaller clubs, with multiple facilities. "Something similar could happen here," Warren said.

Our strategy in Marlborough has three components, including Basic Skills (planned for a September start), Freeskating and Dance, and Synchronized Skating. The sessions running now are divided between Freeskating and Synchro, with our new Team Excel affiliate and their 100+ skating families. *For more information on team Excel, please see article on page 5.*

## House Committee report

You know you have seen these doyennes of decorations, queens of cuisine, balloon-o-maniacs, artful arrangers, and purveyors of plentiful platters at just about every club event, Sunday test session, and Friday night dinner. They are the ever-resourceful members of the House Committee!

Skillfully led by Chairwoman Tammy Thierwechter, members Kim Donlan, Sandy Gibbons, Lydia Magill, Gloria Miner, and Mary Ann Pastore have spent the past year wielding glue guns, scotch tape, flowers, candles, doilies, silver service, Mardi Gras beads, dinner napkins with fancy folds, fondue pots, hundreds of cake slices, glitter, and star shaped hand stampers with true grace and aplomb in their quest to make each event memorable and tasty!

As the committee prepares to wind down for the Summer, there are still a few more opportunities for club members to share in good times overseen by this dynamic crew. The Theater on Ice sendoff is scheduled for May 15<sup>th</sup>, and the committee has been hard at work to develop a menu and theme reminiscent of the Old West. Many may remember from last year's highly successful Evening in Paris TOI send-off, and this year is shaping up to be just as creative and well-received. Also in the works is the Annual Awards Banquet scheduled for Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup>. The Awards Banquet is taking on a British music invasion 60's beat, and at this time, no one should be surprised to see House Committee members in mod prints, beehive 'do's, and GoGo boots!

The House Committee also wants all club members to know that their help is always welcome, especially when a big event is being planned. Several club members have stepped to the plate to augment the committee's work, and Tammy and the Gang are immensely grateful to everyone!

## Membership changes

Thinking of changing your membership category? The deadline for requesting changes for the 2009-2010 Club year is June 30, 2009; otherwise, your current membership category will remain in effect for the coming Club year. If you would like to make a change, please submit your request in writing to the Club Secretary, Alisa Plazonja.

# Rules of the Road

As summer ice nears, it's a good time to look again at the rules that help us to have a safe ice surface. Just as new drivers study rules of the road in preparing for their road tests, we need to have some good guidelines for how we watch out for one another while skating. Of course, it helps to have eyes in the back of our heads!

From our friends at the Ice Committee, here are the rules which help us all to skate together safely. If you have any questions about these rules, your coaches can help, but use your good judgment.

- The skater whose program is being played has the right of way. Skaters and coaches should yield quickly and politely when necessary. Skaters who violate this rule or who engage in intimidating behavior will be asked to leave the ice.
- Inappropriate behavior of any kind will not be tolerated.
- Offensive language or behavior on the ice, in the locker room or anywhere on the Club's premises will result in the skater being asked to leave.
- Sitting on the boards or in the entrances to the ice is prohibited.
- The use of cassette, CD (iPods, MP3) players, radios, cell phones or headphones by a skater is prohibited on the ice at all times in any session.
- Climbing over the boards is prohibited.
- All skaters must stop skating immediately when the buzzer sounds at the end of the session. All skaters will fill in holes with ice provided in a bucket at rink side and leave the ice promptly.

And last, we have a great community of skaters, coaches and families here at the Skating Club. As online communication of all formats becomes more important in all our lives, please take the time to think before you post a comment about a skating colleague or professional online. We should all consider ourselves ambassadors of the Club, and know that what we post has the ability to reach others far beyond what we may intend. We have a reputation of being a place where good sportsmanship is important. Let's take pride in that reputation and work to protect it, both on and off the ice, and in and out of our facility.

## Will there be Skating in Heaven ?

By Cynthia Jerrier



*Will there be skating in Heaven?  
I hope so.  
Will there be ice, will there be snow?  
I think the clouds would make the perfect ice,  
And the sun could act as the spot lights.  
Gliding along, an angel I see,  
And I land the Axel, finally!*

*Will there be skating in Heaven?  
I hope so.  
It would be nice to know.*

## Attention Graduates!

**CHIPS would love to share your good news.**

**Tell us what you're doing next year.**

**College? Med school or other graduate school program?**

**Taking a year off to travel the globe?**

**Skating in a show?**

**Enquiring minds want to know!**

**Editor@chipsboston.com**

# A Gala Evening

By Ben Wright

The fifth annual Mary Louise Wright Memorial Exhibition, redesignated as a "Gala", was held at the Club on March 21, 2009 under the auspices of the Junior Activities Committee and its energetic and innovative leaders Brittney Rizo and Olivia Gibbons.

The Gala was created by the Committee in memory of Mary Louise Wright, a long-time and the senior World Judge of the USFSA and a former North American and National Fours champion. Its purpose is to support the Mary Louise Wright Memorial Exhibition Award, which is presented annually to a competitive skater or skaters who embody the knowledge and spirit needed to grow, not only as an athlete, but as an individual and role model. The award is given to an athlete or athletes as selected by the Committee who have demonstrated an effective balance of academic and competitive achievement, while being active participants in their activities and events of the Club.



*Ben Wright enjoys the Exhibition with his great niece and nephew, Amanda and Ben*

This year's event featured a fashion show during intermission, planned and organized by Stephen Carriere. Items were provided by the sponsors: Betsey Johnson, Zara Men, Tristan, dELiA's, lululemon athletica, Cooke's Skate Supply, Gafs (Girls Apparel for Sports) and The Skaters Landing, to which the thanks of the Committee and the Club are extended.

It was an excellent show, with 19 numbers and featuring many of the top competitive skaters from the Club, including Stephen Carriere, Jason Wong, Katrina Hacker, Brittney Rizo, Dana Zhalko-Tytarenko, Ross Miner, Marissa Castelli and Simon Schnapir, Olivia Gibbons and Tyler Harris, Keilani-Lyn Rudderham, Yasmin Siraj, Harrison Choate, Kayla Thierwechter, Mia Eisenhandler, Christine Magill, Alexia Rogers, Peter Max Dion, Elin Schran, Isabelle Dost and Lindsey Stevenson and Act I of Boston.



Some of the event's stars gather backstage: (from l-r:) Simon Schnapir, Ross Miner, Tyler Harris, Lindsey Stevenson and Isabelle Dost, Katrina Hacker, Peter MaxDion and Marissa Castelli



## CHIPS Thanks

The editor thanks many great contributors this issue: Christie Allan-Piper, a gifted artist and terrific writer, poet Cindy Jerrier, Lydia Magill, Peter Johansson, Alisa Plazonja, Aaron Williams, Joe Blount, Ben Wright, Warren Naphtal, Pat Meehan, Jarshen Lin and Tammy Thierwechter.

What will you add to our next issue? Photos, drawings, articles, suggestions... send to [editor@chipsboston.com](mailto:editor@chipsboston.com)

# Mark Your Calendar

## May 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Please make dinner reservations	by Wednesdays at 11 am!				1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8 Dinner	9
10	11	12	13 Dance Test	14	15 Theater on Ice SendOff	16
17 Free-skating Test	18	19	20	21	22	23
24/31	25	26	27	28	29 Dinner	30

## June 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5 Awards Dinner	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 Boston Open	19 Boston Open	20 Boston Open
21 Boston Open	22 Summer Ice Begins	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			