

Club Report 2021-2022



Sydney Arrows committee members:

Krishnan Mootosamy (President & Treasurer)

Jay Dong (Vice-President)

Janet Taylor (Secretary)

Tom Susic (Vice-President)

In spite of COVID, Sydney Arrows managed to retain its membership, as well as increasing the number of associated members. At the present time, we have 31 club skaters and 9 associated members. Our coaches are Scott Weekes and Maggie Holland.

As soon as the 2nd Covid lockdown for NSW occurred in June 2021, Scott Weekes kicked off a zoom exercise and fitness session which went a long way to keeping the skaters motivated over the long months of very little skating. Besides the obvious benefit of maintaining their fitness levels, these Zoom sessions provided an opportunity for our skaters to remain connected as a community which was also helpful for their mental wellbeing.

Australian Ice Racing (AIR), to encourage skaters to renew their memberships, extended the annual membership period by 6 months, ending in December 2021 instead of June 2021. AIR also halved the cost of membership renewals for the 2021-2022 season, ending in June 2022.

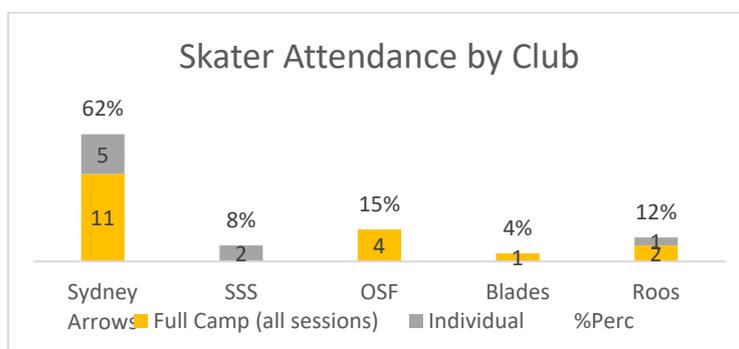
Events

Despite the lockdown and restrictions, Ice Racing NSW was able to successfully run the following events in 2021 at the Canterbury Ice Skating Rink:

- **April Holiday Club and Skate School Races:** had 14 Arrows skaters compete and 8 from skate school.
- **Endurance Plate, 6th June,** had 15 Arrows members participate.
- **End of Year Racing, 6th December** saw 15 skate school skaters and 17 Arrows skaters competing. It was great to see so many skaters back on the ice racing again.

Events returned to some normality in 2022 with a free-to-enter **Autumn Racing** event on April 23rd and the **Endurance Plate** on July 10th. Both were well attended and skate schoolers were encouraged to join in.

In July, the Sydney Arrows ran a skating camp called REV-UP. It was attended by both NSW skaters and interstate skaters as shown:



Sydney Arrows members were given an additional incentive of no coaching fee for the month of July for those who enrolled in full for the camp.

The camp provided an opportunity to bring back the once thriving community feel to the sport which has been lacking due to COVID restrictions on gatherings. Many thanks must go to the parents (Gina, Devi, Jinny, Paulino, Jo, Tom and Jay) who brought home-made savouries and desserts to

support our social events during the camp. Every day, through parent donations, fresh supplies of fruit were also made available to parents and skaters joining the camp's morning sessions.

The convenient timing of the Endurance Plate enabled some of the interstate participants to join the competition which took place on Sunday 10th July, following the camp. 18 out of the 26 skaters attending the camp, including four interstate skaters also took part in the Endurance Plate competition.

Recruitment

Our recruitment efforts have been focused around skate school. Skate school attendance showed some very positive results in the 4th term in 2021 with 11 skaters enrolling on Saturdays and 13 skaters enrolling for the Monday session.

In particular, we attribute this success with the re-branding of the Speed School program as the SkateFast program, which clearly resonated with parents and skaters.

We have received positive feedback from parents in relation to the new program which both parents and skaters found to be "more engaging".

Sydney Arrows benefits from the Canterbury Olympic Ice Rink's support for the Speed School program and we look forward to this support to continuing.

Sydney Arrows also appreciates the financial support we've received from Ice Racing New South Wales and Australian Ice Racing.

Marketing

Our club Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/SydneyArrows/> is still going strong with 508 'likes', and our other FaceBook page for Speed School participants, <https://www.facebook.com/LittleSydneyArrows/> has 94 'likes'.

We have also set up a profile on FindPlay, a newly launched platform, which connects sporting organisations to local schools and community groups.



Janet Taylor

Secretary, Sydney Arrows Ice Racing Club July 31st, 2022