

SYDNEY SPEED SKATING CLUB

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Like every sporting club in Australia the last 12 months has been a difficult time for the Sydney Speed Skating Club. Starting the year in lockdown July 2021 we were unable to train as a club until the end of October 2021. Since then the Club has gone from strength to strength running successful 'Come and Try Sessions' and a holiday training camp at Macquarie Ice Rink. We have increased our membership and looking forward to our State and National Championships.

Come and Try Sessions

SSS secured a grant from the NSW Government in 2021 and have run 2 'Come and Try Sessions', one on the 21 Apr and another on 14 Jul 2022. The aim of these sessions was to promote and publicise Short Track at the Macquarie Ice Rink. These sessions were open and free to skaters with coaching provided by SSS Coach Jonathan Lam assisted by SSS Volunteers.

Both nights were successful attracting up to 25 skaters in our first session and we have been able to find and attract new members from these events. We will be running more of the Come and Try Sessions in the future.

Holiday Training Camp

With financial assistance from the Australian Ice Racing Inc. SSS was able to run a holiday training camp 11-15 April attracting participants from the 3 Sydney speed skating Clubs. The camp was organised and run by SSS coach Jonathan Lam and assisted by Denali Blunden, we had 4 ice sessions and 3 off ice sessions.

The camp was a success attracting between 12-16 participants to every session, from Novices to International representatives.

Club Uniforms

It took a long time especially with the lockdowns causing production and supply problems but finally this year SSS was able to source new Australian made ISU standard Short Track racing suits from Engage Athletic a Melbourne based firm. SSS is proud to support an Australian company making cutting edge sporting equipment.

Skate School

SSS provides coaches for the Macquarie 'Learn to Skate' speed skating program on the Thursday afternoon and Saturday morning. The Club would like to thank both Chris Robson and Alison Throssell for volunteering their time to support this initiative. Through their efforts we have attracted many young skaters to join and train with SSS.

Macquarie provides only patch ice to the speed skate school sessions. SSS was approached by the skate school organiser to provide a graded curriculum for speed skaters which has been drafted and provided for use, however the elements of the

curriculum are dependent upon full ice to be taught and assessed. Discussions regarding access to full/ fuller ice for speed skate school are ongoing with rink and skate school management.

Training Sessions

SSS has a club training session on Friday Night for 1 hour and in the last 6 months we have had an increase in numbers of skaters attending our training. Much of this increase is due to the efforts of SSS Coach Jonathan Lam assisted by Edison Lam and Denali Blunden.

We would like to secure more training session time at Macquarie Ice Rink but presently ice time is at a premium. We will continue to discuss this issue with Macquarie Ice rink Management.

Equipment

With assistance from the AIR Boot Program and donations from SSS members we have been able to create an inventory of Short Track boots and blades that we can loan to new members until they can source their own equipment. This facility allows SSS to get new skaters quickly on the ice in speed skates as soon as possible. It has been a very valuable asset attracting people to the sport and SSS.

Conclusion

SSS is grateful to NSW Government, AIR Inc., IRNSW, and Macquarie Ice Rink for their support over the year. As a Club we want to continue to be an open, inclusive and welcoming organisation and are looking forward to increasing our membership and promoting the Sport of Short Track Speed Skating.