

Winnipeg Speed Skating Club (WSSC)

Annual Report for MSSA 2009/2010

The speed skating year 2009/2010 turned out to be excellent for WSSC from what looked bleak. We had 9 committed members returning from 2008/2009, so the Executive pulled up their socks and started on the 2009/2010 season in April 2009.

The club hosted the first Susan Auch Speed Skating School to sold out skaters, 21 spots in total were used up. We were able to raise additional funds through local sponsors (BSI Insurance and Pet Peripherals) and a National Sponsor (Intact Insurance). When all was done we were able to add an additional 3 members to our club and introduce an untapped area to speed skating. Once registration was over, we held a “learn to speed skate” session where another 20 skaters came out to try speed skating. By Christmas our club had 20 members. At the end of the year we held our last “learn to speed skate” with 20 more people skating and enjoying the sport. Through all the camps and with other general inquires, we have over 200 contacts for registration next year. How many will join, that is a good question? The goal is to have 30 – 35 skaters by Christmas in 2010.

The talent in our club is also growing as many of the skaters have aspirations to make the provincial team. With the skater’s hard work and dedication WSSC will once again be seeing the MB colors.

Our coaching staff this year was the best that I have ever seen in my 4 years with the club. We had 5 coaches this year that worked so well together. The coaches

were DJ, Meg, Ruth, Geoff, and Andrea. Geoff and Andrea acted as the main coaches and when Andrea went down at the end of the year Meg step in and did an admirable job. We will be adding a new Assistant coach in 2010/2011 and it is long time skater Ameena. Ameena will skate with the club and be a coach in development.

This summer the club is hosting the second Susan Auch Speed Skating School, which is sold out once again and has 33 skaters participating. The sponsorship drive is now under way; a few sponsors from last year have come back to sponsor once again.

Our Executive will have a little change in 2010/2011 as some have decided to move on to other sports or activities.

I am very excited for the 2010/2011 season and we are anticipating 15 of the 20 members returning and I already have 5 new members wanting to join. WSSC is starting to see the light at the end of a very long tunnel and it is getting brighter. We had many first year skaters achieve great results at meets, hopefully this will encourage others to compete.

In closing, I was honored that I was “volunteered” to be President of this historic club and that I was given the opportunity to meet other club Presidents. It was a tough year and at the same time rewarding.

Cheers

Mike McDonald

WSSC President.