

Eastern Region Coaches Meeting Minutes

Friday, June 26, 2003

President Margaret Bain called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM.

Attendees: no attendance was taken.

Election of officers

The new officers elected were:

President:	Carey Elder
Vice President:	Margaret Bain
Secretary:	Ed Heater
Treasurer:	Avril Pickersgill

Scholarship fund

Margaret Bain raised the question of how to manage the scholarship process. Currently, scholarships are restricted to students who are attending college the following year. The number of applications was down to only a few and sometimes there was only one applicant. Margaret Bain suggested that one way to increase the number of applicants was to permit high school students to receive scholarships. Steve Hinkle pointed out that if high school students were awarded scholarships, the awards \$500 or more would require documentation to be filed with the government because of tax issues. After some discussion it was decided to defer the question of scholarships to a future meeting.

Dave Paden suggested that it might be more beneficial to the region to use some of the scholarship money for some other activity. He suggested that one way to do this would be to support exhibitions at rink sessions.

Avril Pickersgill suggested the another possible use of the money would be to support skaters attending the Olympic Training Center.

Doris Walsh Seminar

Margaret Bain asked for a show of hands of coaches who would be willing to support a seminar by Doris Walsh. There was widespread support and it was suggested that the seminar be held in a roller rink in the October time frame. More can be found on the Eastern Region Web Site at URL <http://mywpages.comcast.net/erusars/Seminar.html>.

Discussion/ideas on developing new beginner skaters

This segment of the meeting started with Steve Hinkle suggesting that the coaches consider changing the format of the Tri-State meets. He suggested the one way to do this would be to cut back on the number of Tri-State meets and sponsor some type of beginner meets – similar to the Star Program used in the Southern Region.

Margaret Bain and Carey Edler suggested that local groups of rinks hold a small beginner contest. This would cut down on travel time and make it easier to get new beginners involved in the sport.

Steve Hinkle described the OMNI beginner program.

John Hefner described the Levittown Skating Club color contests. The Levittown color contests were restricted to club members. It was suggested that we support multi-club color contests between groups of rinks located relatively near each other.

Further discussion on Tri-State and beginner contests was deferred until the August Tri-State meeting. Coaches are **highly** encouraged to attend and participate in the discussions.

2004 Eastern Regional Floor conditions

Carol Hefner raised concerns about small metal plates embedded in the ISC floor. The concern was that they might cause competitors to slip or fall. Margaret Bain stated that when Charlie Kirshner was questioned on this matter he stated that the metal plates were flush with the floor and were perfectly safe. It was pointed out that two meets were held at the ISC (a dance contest and the New Jersey State Meet) and that many skaters were not even aware of the plates – even after having skated on the floor. Two coaches had one skater each who had a problem in close proximity to the plates, but in neither instance could the plates be definitively shown to cause the incident. When queried, no one wanted to present a motion for a vote. Steve Hinkle volunteered to discuss the situation with Jim Pollard.

Proposed USA Figure Skating CUP Series

Steve Hinkle described the proposed CUP series that USA Roller Sports is trying to promote. USA Roller Sports has divided the USA into six sections with each section hosting one CUP Series competition. Pennsylvania belongs to the North Atlantic section. At the end of the series, a year-end banquet will be held. Prize money and awards will be provided based on a competitors performance in the CUP Series. The sanction fee is \$2000 with individual entry fees being \$40 or \$50 for first entries. Steve said he would post more information on the web site.

Submitted by Ed Heater