



Presidents Report - 2023/24 year

This season saw many new members to our board: Kristina Korotovskikh, in charge of Competitions; Greg Artz, in charge of Equipment; Ryan Scott, in charge of Registration; Sean MacDougall, to help with Sponsorship/Fundraising; and myself as President. Many thanks to all the past members of the board who made themselves available to help share the knowledge we needed to make this year a success.

Overall, this season saw a slight increase in registration with 105 skaters in total, up from 96 the previous season.

In December we held a Mini Fundamentals and invited the other clubs in the province. Turnout was great, with youngsters from Hampton; St-Croix; Fredericton; and Moncton who participated, along with the many skaters from our club.

We held the Charles Gorman Meet in January and welcomed 105 skaters from around the Maritimes. We then finished off the season with an in-house Mini Fundamentals on our very last day.

Coaching was a concern last summer with Sue Loparco, our much loved and longtime coach for the Learn to skate program, now retired. Our focus was on maintaining a thriving LTS program (group 4-6). It took a team of dedicated coaches to help make this year a success. Jessica Hamilton, who reached out last summer and expressed an interest in helping with the club; Tim Laurence and Maggie Oliver, former skaters, who found themselves back in Saint John; Gillian Buotte, who played a more active role in coaching this year; and Tanya Horgan. We are grateful for everything she does. Tanya helped make our Sundays such a success with her crazy energy and outrageous outfits, she is truly one of a kind.

Our Learn to Speed Skate program benefited from the new faces as well. Group 3 was designated to Jessica and Gillian, who did a great job bring about a strong group by the end of this season.

Group 1 & 2 trained hard this season with the help of Sofia Lamprea, who very much appreciated the support of extra coaches this year. Morgan Haslett, our Tuesday coach, was vital during competitions; and David Lawless, who was always willing to lend a hand wherever he was needed. We even benefited from the help of Tyler from Hampton. Tyler was a former skater in our club and our skaters soon looked forward to him popping in at some of the practices. To all our coaches, thank you for your willingness to volunteer your time and energy to this sport.



Finally, this club is only as strong as the volunteers who help. Thank you, to all the volunteers who have stepped up this past season: the parents who have offered to help when needed; to the skaters who helped with the younger groups; to the family members who pitched in at competitions, be it our Gorman Meet or at other meets.

As we look forward to planning out the 2024/25 season and tackling the new challenges ahead. The focus will be on the financial sustainability of the club and continuing the work we started this year toward building a cohesive coaching team.

Respectfully Submitted – June 1, 2024.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Natalie Sgrosso". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Natalie Sgrosso
SJASSC President