

MEETING MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

OF WHITBY SYNCHRONIZED SKATING TEAM

HELD VIRTUALLY ON Google Meet Feb 25th, 2025

Dave Yeatman – President
Lindsay Long – Vice-President
Vincent Fava – Treasurer
Meghann McPhee – Bingo Chair
Julie Franklin - Communication and Fundraising
Twinkle Patel – Secretary

Membership attendance:

- See separate AGM attendee sheet

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND CALL TO ORDER

Dave Yeatman advised he will be 'Chairing' the Board of Directors' Annual General Meeting. The meeting was called to order at 8:07 PM.

2. PROOF OF NOTICE AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Dave Yeatman announced that a quorum was established with **31** members represented on Google Meet. A quorum being present and notice having been properly served in accordance with the WSST By-Law 22 and Skate Canada By-laws, 'I now declare this Annual General Meeting' of the Members of WSST to be properly called and duly constituted to conduct business.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A 'Notice of the Meeting' was sent to The agenda of the Annual General Meeting held on Feb 25th 2025 was sent along with the 'Notice of the Meeting', to all members.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF March 6th, 2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Dave Y announced that the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on March 6th 2024, were sent out on Monday Feb 24th, 2025, to all members and then asked that the reading of the Minutes be dispensed with and that they be adopted as circulated. Dave then asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

A Motion was made by Vince F seconded by Lindsay L to accept the Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on March 6th 2024, and to dispense with the reading of the Minutes and that they be adopted as presented. All in favour. **(MOTION CARRIED)**.

5. MOTION TO APPROVE CHANGES TO WSST BYLAWS

The proposed changes to the current WSST bylaws are as below:

Addition of new Board Chair - Coaches Liason and Team Manager Chair

6. PRESIDENTS REPORT

- Welcome Ice Fyre Skaters, Parents, Coaches & Committee Leaders to the 2025 Annual General Meeting for the Whitby Synchronized Figure Skating Club.

We have so much to be proud of as a club! The execution and focus on our three strategic areas of:

1) Development / Mentoring

- a. Mentoring & Development of Junior Coaches – providing a pipeline of leadership talent
- b. Junior Skater Recruitment & Development

2) Club Investment

- a. Building the Ice Fyre Community across all teams and stakeholders (including showcases & club / team development
- b. Team Uniforms & Outfits
- c. Investment in the Club's Brand – to support recruitment & community involvement

3) Partnerships

- a. Increased partnership with WFSC & Coaches
- b. Increased partnership with the town
- c. Leveraging our Fundraising & Sponsorship are really producing results both on and off the ice.

The long-term goal of the club is to be the gold standard amongst all synchro teams in Canada. We want the Ice Fyre name to reflect the best skaters and teams, through all elements of coaching, skill development, facility support and brand recognition. We are seeing and hearing other teams and communities taking notice of Ice Fyre's development.

We again saw strong growth with the club this year with skaters up 31.3% (109 total – 49 youth and 60 adult skaters).

Thank you to the skaters, parents and families of the participants (who brave long hours at the rink and support their skaters throughout the year).

Survey Discussion:

We will look to conduct an annual survey of members to keep a pulse on the overall progress and development of the club. We are continually looking to address communication improvements, coaching evaluation, venue requirements, practice requirements and coaching feedback to skaters. Teams & Coaches:

The goals and focus on the teams remain unchanged and listed below. Are not in a position as of the time of the AGM to confirm specifics on the teams and/or coaches until tryouts have been completed.

Goals for the coaches / teams, which are:

- 1) Grow Membership / Teams – from entry level to top junior development to adult teams
- 2) Pursuit of Excellence
- 3) Fun!
- 4) Pipeline of Coaches – skills, managers, technical choreographer, artistic choreographer & increased focus on leveraging the coaching expertise within the club

5) And Culture – Ice Fyre from my personal experience and from the vast majority of people I connect with – Ice Fyre has a fantastic, inclusive Culture. And great cultures are more productive, more fun to be a part and will endure over the long run

A try-out schedule will be posted on the website starting March 27. Please check the schedule for the correct timing.

Thank You – to two of our sponsors this year – 1) Brinks Landscaping & Andrew Piercey for sponsoring jackets for the STAR 4 and Carrie Cryderman sponsoring the Adult yoga jackets!

Thank you again for your time tonight and your support of the club – “it is an exciting time to be with ICE FYRE as we continue to BUILD FOR THE FUTURE”

7. VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT

1. This year we saw minor disruptions due to Skate Canada competition dates. Unfortunately, there were scheduling conflicts with singles and Synchro competition dates. We have brought this to the attention of Skate Canada and are in contact with them regarding support from coaches and organizers.

a. We always want to ensure that our skaters are focused on all areas of discipline for skating, and we will work to ensure minimal disruption on our end as much as possible. We initially had the ice show at the end of November scheduled at Iroquois, but moved this to ensure our synchro skaters could compete and not have a conflict of schedule.

b. The board and coaches have been working to ensure that WFSC and surrounding clubs are supportive of our programs and encourage our skaters. We value their support and promotion of our programs within their club and beyond – it is important to show our skaters that being a part of Ice Fyre is an extension to their figure skating practice. Support from all home clubs is a key driver in growing our club.

2. Our Ice show this year was moved to December and from Iroquois to McKinney. The Show was very successful with funds raised for the club and highlights of guest teams Meraki in attendance. We had another well-attended family skate and food for all. While we would like the Iroquois arena for the space and competition prep for our skaters, the McKinney show has proven to be very successful. Of course, we would love member and family feedback on any improvements they would like to see. On behalf of the board, I would like to thank the volunteers and parents for helping promote and support the club.

3. Our Star 4 team also performed in Gold Ice’s annual ice show, and our intros put on a great show at the Generals Game. Our Star 4 and Juvie team will also be adding one more show at the Oshawa Carnival to cap off the season. We have noticed that many ice shows fall on the same weekends in November, and we will be taking this into consideration for next season. We value these performance opportunities for our skaters as they contribute to training for competition and help promote the club.

4. Youth and Adult teams competed at several competitions this season with excellent results. All our teams have proven stronger than the previous season and we continue to elevate at each competition! All competitions brought home a medal to the club, and both our Juvie and Pre-Novice teams are headed to Provincials in Stratford on March 23rd! The board would like to commend the coaches and skaters for their continued hard work and dedication.

o Typically, each season we will have at least one overnight stay for Youth teams. With extremely early mornings and weather, we always want to ensure the safety of our families when travelling to competition. It is important that teams stay together as coaches use this time for team bonding, fun, and competition readiness. The hotel information for provincials was sent to families and we ask that every skater be booked

no later than Thursday.

5. We want to wish our Adult 1,2, and 3 teams the best of luck at their skates at the Adult Championships next weekend in Ottawa! The Adult category continues to grow, and we are fortunate to be able to field 3 strong teams.

6. Club Banquet update: Friday April 11th, Oshawa Golf and Country Club. RSVP details to be sent shortly. There will be no gala fee for Youth skaters, there will be a subsidized cost for Adult skaters and a cost for family members and children similar to last year. We encourage everyone to attend as there will be skater awards presented and it's a great way to celebrate all the hard work and dedication from everyone this season.

8. TREASURER'S REPORT

Financial Update for 2024 and Outlook for 2025

- **Bingo Revenue:** For the 2024 financial year, Bingo revenues remained stable at approximately \$26,000, aligning with our expectations. Bingo continues to be the club's largest fundraising source and plays a vital role in keeping membership fees affordable.
- **Financial Strategy:** Following COVID in 2022, the club held approximately \$100,000 in cash and assets. Given that we are a non-profit skating club with no major capital expenses planned, the board determined this amount was higher than necessary. As a result, starting in 2023 and continuing through the 2024 and 2025 seasons, we have been gradually reducing our cash reserves by roughly \$10,000 per year. Our goal is to maintain approximately \$60,000–\$70,000 in assets — about one-third of our annual expenses — to ensure smooth operations and allow flexible installment payments for skaters' dues.
- **Investments and Fee Management:** To achieve this, we have intentionally operated at a slight loss, investing in areas such as signage and team wear while keeping fees relatively stable despite rising costs.
- **Current Position and Future Outlook:** This strategy has been successful, with cash reserves reduced to \$80,000 at the end of 2024 and expected to be closer to \$70,000 by the close of 2025. As we return to a break-even budget model, a slight fee increase is anticipated for the next season. Financial statements are available.

We continue working to balance financial stability with keeping our programs accessible and affordable for all skaters. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out.

9. OTHER REPORTS

BINGO CHAIR - MEGHANN MCPHEE

- Successful attendance this year.
- Most families participated.
- We were also able to provide additional bingo's to families who wanted to sign up for extra earning them an additional \$50 credit on their skater account.
- WSST is currently operating on 3 bingo's a month with average take home of approx.

- \$1800-2000/mo. And is the clubs most profitable fundraiser.
- This is slightly less than previous years. Currently the average amount of attendee's per bingo session is about 20-25 ppl on the late night session and about 40-50ppl on the evening sessions.
 - Monthly revenue is pooled and split amongst all participating clubs based on the amount of sessions they had per month. Bingo dates and times are selected at random. Dates are released in 3 month blocks – I will be expecting the last block for our fiscal to be released by the end of this week. WSST fiscal runs from May to April. Any bingo's booked in May will go towards the 2025/2026 season.
 - Emily Ruch (Adult 2 skater and mother of a Star 4 skater) will be assuming the role of Bingo Chair on our WSST Board of directors for the 2025/2026 season. Emily has worked as a back up to me for the past year when I have been unable to attend bingo. She is a teacher by trade, she a math tutor and more than qualified to take over this role with all the bingo's she's completed over the past 2+ years. We are finalizing the transition with Emily taking over as of May 1st – I will be there as a back up and support to her throughout next season.
 - Thank you for a successful year and for your participation.

10. ELECTIONS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The WSST has declared the following candidates to continue for the position:

President – Dave Yeatman

Vice-President – Lindsay Long

Treasurer – Vince Fava

Secretary – Twinkle Patel

Communication & Fundraising Chair – Julie

Coaches Liaison & Team Manager Chair – Jackie Williams

Bingo Chairperson – Emily taking over from Meghann and Bingo Chair moving separately from the board and board voting.

11. NEW BUSINESS

Dave Y opened the floor to questions and new business.

12. ADJOURNMENT

ON A MOTION DULY MADE by Dave Y seconded by Vince F and Lindsay L and carried unanimously, it was agreed that there being no further business of WSST to transact, the meeting was closed at **8:47** p.m.

Signed:

President