

CONNAUGHT FIGURE SKATING CLUB

Interviewed: April 20, 1976

Tape 68, 1

SECRETARY: Mrs. Margo Winterton,
990 Greenlees Road,
Richmond, B. C.
(277-8772)

Darlene Clyne - Researcher

- The Connaught Skating Club started back in the early 1905's in the old Vancouver Forum.
- It is the second oldest club in Canada, and the oldest club in B. C.
- The club carried on from 1905 until the early 1950's.
- Had trouble with the Board of Directors. There was dissension in the ranks, the membership had gone down and down, so consequently the club folded.
- Today, there are nine hundred skating clubs in Canada.

Minutes from the First Meeting

April 21, 1965

A group of directors who had been with the club in Vancouver, formed a Temporary Executive Board. Those present were:

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|-------------|----------------|
| Mr. Davy | Mrs. Davy |
| Mrs. Scott | Mrs. DeHaan |
| Mrs. Perry | Mrs. English |
| Mr. Taguchi | Mrs. Fraser |
| Mr. Fraser | Mrs. Petturson |
| Mr. Begg | Mrs. Begg |

Mr. Begg stated that the next step should be the formation of the new Executive.

President: Mrs. Reid - Nominated by Mr. McLeod, Seconded by Mrs. Perry. All in favour.

Vice-President: Mr. McLeod - Nominated by Mrs. Fraser, Seconded by Mrs. Perry. All in favour.

Secretary: Mrs. Begg - Nominated by Mrs. Petturson, Seconded by Mrs. Davy. All in favour.

Treasurer: Mrs. Petturson - Nominated by Mrs. Begg, Seconded by Mr. McLeod. All in favour.

Membership: Mrs. Scott - Nominated by Mrs. Begg, Seconded by Mrs. Petturson. All in favour.

Mrs. Perry and Mrs. English resigned from the Temporary Board as of the end of this meeting. They were thanked for their support and offer of all possible help in the future.

Discussion ensued as to what could be done to put Connaught Club on its feet once again. Mrs. Scott pointed out that in view of the size of the Club, one Professional would in all probability be able to cover all the lessons and group lessons. Mrs. Fraser suggested that it would probably be better to have sessions 1½ hours instead of 2 hours and have the front ice as often as possible.

Mrs. Perry thought an effort should be made to go back to having patch sessions before the Club session, and encourage children to take patches and interest them in taking their tests. Mrs. Perry also said she thought a 50¢ lesson lasting half an hour would be much better than the 25¢ lesson for quarter an hour. Also a group lesson be given similar to Mr. Nick's stroking lesson.

Mrs. Begg reported that Mr. Nick had asked for a week to decide about what he would be doing for 1965-66 season. The question of Professionals would be left for discussion at a future meeting. Mrs. Begg stated that Mario had confirmed that ice would be available at the Forum next season!

Three members were asked if they would represent Connaught at the Judges Bureau: Mrs. Begg, Mrs. Petturson and Mr. McLeod agreed to do this.

Meeting adjourned 11:15 p.m. by Mr. McLeod, seconded by Mrs. Fraser.

- There are no records of early cost of ice.
- In 1965 Richmond had a ice arena built and the Connaught Club arranged with the Municipality for ice time.
- They met again in October 1965 and had an official election and formed a Board of Directors.
- At that time they had registration for new members...they had 123 members that first season, and 10 senior members.
- At that time they skated twice a week: Monday and Friday afternoons from 3:30 to 5:30.
- There were 123 juniors aged 6 - 13, they had the advantage of skating four hours per week.
- Now in 1976, we have over 800 members.
- Our children unfortunately with the more numbers, have lost the ice time.
- They are now broken up into age levels.

- We have Pre-Schoolers, ages 4 & 5, who can skate twice a week so they are the lucky ones.
- The Juniors are ages 6 & 7, they skate Monday after school.
- The Juveniles who are 8 & 9 skate Wednesday after school.
- Intermediates are ages 10 - 13 who skate Friday afternoon.
- All these children skate at the Richmond Arena.
- We also have ice time at the Seafair Arena...this arena was built five years ago...it is privately owned, but the Municipality leased 80 hours a week from the owners of this club.
- The Connaught Skating Club has ice over there everyday from 3:30 - 5:30.
- Our patch skaters skate over there.
- Patch skaters are what we call our rep team, they are the children that are seriously interested in skating, who are competitive skaters, who will go and skate everyday if the ice is available to them.
- They need ice every day in order to pass tests that go from preliminary test right up to "eight" tests.
- When the children are interested in patch skating, they must first join a club and recreational skate, now patch skaters on top of that rent more ice over at Seafair pay more; our membership this year was \$27.00 a year.
- Now the patch skaters pay the \$27.00 but they also pay for extra ice time.
- We have been fortunate until this year to have ice available to us, but as of next year, our ice time has been cut down.
- We have 180 children who skate on Monday and 175 who skate on Wednesday and 175 on Friday.
- Out of these you get 22 on a patch session.
- The children who skate during the week, they skate for 2 hours with half instruction and two group lessons of 15 minutes periods.
- They do this once a week, they skate from October 1st to end of March.
- They have 15 minutes of Group Professional then 15 minutes of Amateur Coaching...this is where they learn the National Skating Test and receive badges to show that they have passed these.
- Mentions the different badges.
- There are 14 different badges they can earn.
- This year we started at 14 - 18 year old group which we call Junior-Seniors.
- We also have a Senior session with about 70 members, 19 and over.

- We have dance sessions every Sunday night over at Seafair.
- The dancing is broken up into different levels.
- Explains the different dances.
- They go on to the Junior Bronze, Senior Bronze, Junior and Senior Silver and Gold dances.
- We have competitions once a year.
- We have two girls who are on their "eight test" which is the highest.
- There are 96 patch skaters today as there was only 13 when we started.
- We can't take anymore because there are not enough ice facilities.
- The group lessons are done through the club...when a child registers they are assured of a group lesson.
- For private lesson, we have professionals with the club as as Marilyn Wood.
- To take private lessons you first phone a professional teacher and make arrangements with him, then you phone the patch chairmen and see if you can get extra ice.
- Then you go to the patch session which is from 3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. and have a 15 minutes figure lesson or free skate or both if you wanted to and also dance 15 minutes.
- This now costs \$4.00 for 15 minutes, it used to cost \$1.75 @ 15 minutes at one time.
- We are a non-profit club so we have never made any money but we have always broken even.
- There are no early records of ice costs.
- Today, we pay \$1,800.00 a month for ice.
- This year (1976), the ice bill was \$16,000.00.
- This year (1976), we have taken in \$20,000.00; the \$4,000.00 left over we take to look after the club.
- Discusses the Bond that the club has in bank for future expenses.
- This year the ice was \$22.50 an hour and the Municipality subsidized the rest.
- Explains how expensive the figure skating can be.
- Since 1966, the Club has had a carnival every two years which all 800 members participate.
- The parents made all the costumes...these are all done by volunteers.
- We had three performances last year (1975), and was sold out at all three.

- Karen Magunasson in 1965 came and skated here to open the club and also has made guest appearances here to open the carnivals.
- Mentions some of the club's professional coaches such as Marilyn Wood and David Kilnwood.
- There is a Skaters Guild where you can advertise for coaches.
- We also have Mrs. Judy Peckinpaul, Mrs. Marilyn Grub, Miss Madilynn Begg.
- Madilynn Begg skated with Hollyburn and Capilano and an "8th" test skater herself.
- Her mother was one of the "Guiding Lights" in starting this club.
- We also have our junior professionals who teach on sessions such as Marilyn Padelich and Lonny Russell who have grown up with the club.
- There are also amateur coaches who come out and assist not only as ice captains but to patrol the ice to make sure there is not too much fooling around.
- The junior professionals are paid for by the club, but senior professionals are taken care of (or paid by) their own private pupils, the club doesn't pay them.
- Mentions Tina Kitchler who won the B. C. Novice Ladies in 1975.
- Joan Padelich was this year's Canadian Novice Ladies both B. C. and Western Canada Champion who is 15 and lives in Richmond, skates with the Connaught Skating Club.
- One thing the skaters do in order to obtain the ice time is that they need to become the kind of skaters they want to be, they usually belong to more than one club.
- In order to maintain a club, we couldn't be any bigger than what we are because we haven't the ice right now.
- Even if we did have more ice, we would be better if we cut down our sessions, make them better.
- We have 175 children skating, which is too many and we can't teach them as we would like to teach them...there are 20 children in a group where as 10 would be ideal, because their attention span is short and with 20 children if they don't listen they can miss a lot.
- We are trying to teach as many as we can.
- We are filled up, we register in September of the skating year.
- Often we can not take any on the Wednesday and Friday sessions, that's the 8 - 13 age group, because we are filled up from the proceeding year.

- We have very few children dropping out, the ones that start young usually stay with us.
- We take children starting at age four, and the four and five year olds skate during the day, so we have no trouble getting ice time with them.
- We would like to have smaller sessions with more instructors.
- We do have an early morning patch time from 5:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.
- Discusses the Connaught office in Richmond Arena which has been there for three years.
- It is open on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday afternoons, we do have a phone and are listed in the phone book.
- We are all volunteers, there are twelve Directors in the Club.
- We meet once a month, every second Tuesdays, all year round.