



President's Report FY 21/22

Date 30th Aug 2022

To Sydney Arrows AGM

We had a relatively strong year despite a second COVID-19 lockdown disruptions impacting our club activities between June 2021 and October 2021. Our skaters had few opportunities to take part in racing in 2021. In fact, only one racing meeting, the Endurance Plate, was held in 2021 prior to the June 2021 lockdown.

Camp Activities

The club ran an intensive week training camp in Apr'21 during the Easter holidays which was attended by 14 club skaters. 3 skaters from SSS also attended the evening training sessions on a casual basis.

COVID Lockdown and Activities

During the lockdown, our coaches ran daily training sessions, allowing our skating community to stay connected. The club is extremely grateful to our coaches for keeping club members engaged through Zoom fitness sessions during lockdown. As a result, we managed to retain our core membership when training resumed in Oct 2021.

One of the key impacts of the gathering rules imposed by the public health order on our club was subdued community feel in the sport. Since there were fewer opportunities for parents to gather at the rink for competitions and at training sessions there were fewer interactions. The need to organise racing events and club events was

End of Year Racing

In lieu of other events being able to be held on 6th December 2021, the club organised a competition which was attended by 15 skate school skaters and 17 Arrows members of the club. It was great to see so many skaters back on the ice racing again, with some of the Skate school offered an opportunity to experience the excitement of racing for the first time.

Skate School

Our recruitment efforts are focused around skate school. Skate school attendance showed some very positive results in the 4th term on 2021 with 11 skaters enrolling on Saturdays and 13 skaters enrolling for the Monday session. This attendance has kept pace since with enrolment for both Saturday and Monday sessions consistently between 10-15 skaters.

In particular, we attribute this success with the branding of the Speed School program as SkateFast program, which clearly resonated with parents and skaters.



As of Feb' 2022, Canterbury Ice Rink made some changes to the Speed School program with Sydney Arrows' Head Coach Scott Weekes taking over coaching responsibilities for Speed School on Saturdays and Mondays and starting a new program. We have received positive feedback from parents in relation to the new program which both parents and skaters found to be "more engaging". Other parents commended Scott's handling of Skate School participants, praising his ability to capture kids' attention, ensuring they make the best of their time in class.

Additionally, through the rink, Scott Weekes successfully applied for a grant from Office of Sports to fund to \$5000 worth of skates for Skate School. The rink will also further contribute \$3000 to this grant amount to fund additional skates for skate school. Sydney Arrows is grateful for Scott's assistance and the rink board for their assistance with skate school.

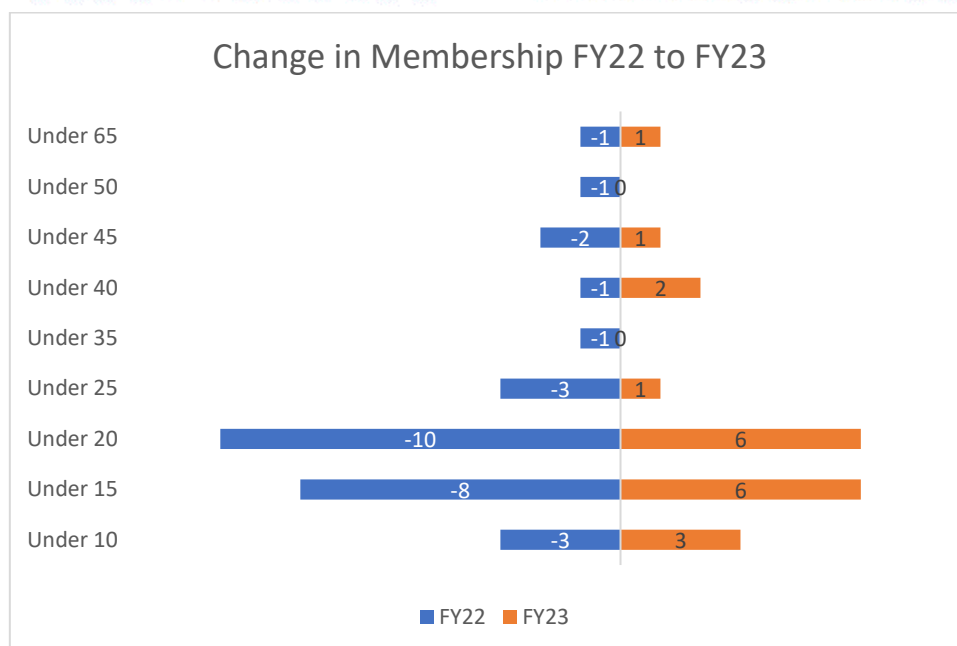
Executive Committee

Fortunately, our executive committee was reinforced through the appointment of additional club directors Tom Sucic and Jay Dong, who brought in great organisational skills and financial management to help the club develop further.

The SGM request lodged by a few club members toward the end of Dec'21, requesting a change in coaching arrangements for our club consumed significant efforts and challenged the cohesiveness of the club in many aspects. After seeking advice from a constitutional lawyer, it was determined that the request was invalid and the club could not proceed to a vote on the SGM request.

Membership

Our associate membership soared from FY21 due to parents taking an interest in the coaching matters tabled at the SGM in Feb'21. It was indeed encouraging for the executive committee to see members taking such an interest in the running of the club. Through greater involvement from members in the running of the club, we were able to steer through quite challenging times to get back on track and resume business as usual club training activities promptly.



Our membership for skaters has declined as we entered FY23 due to a portion of our senior skaters retiring from the sport last year. In particular, there was a noticeable drop-off for the Under25, Under 20 and Under15 age brackets resulting in new cohort of skaters having to take a leadership role in the club.

COIR Speed Skate School presents a key opportunity for our club to rebuild our membership.

Sponsorship

In 2021, Sydney Arrows was successful applying for a grant from the NSW Office of Sport. The aim of this grant is to support the club with funding of our regular events for skate school participants during school holidays including come and try's and racing events as well as development camps to further support our athletes. IRNSW was also able to provide some financial assistance to the club to help support its activities.

Marketing

Our club Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/SydneyArrows/> is still going strong with 524 'likes', up from 491 in 2020 and our other FB page for Speed School participants, <https://www.facebook.com/LittleSydneyArrows/>, had 101 'likes' up from 78 in 2020. Our Instagram page (<https://www.instagram.com/sydneyarrows/>) had 185 followers.

We have also set up a profile on FindPlay, a newly launched platform, which connects sporting organisations to local schools and community groups.

The club is immensely grateful to our Head Coach Scott Weekes and coach Maggie Holland who have been working hard to keep a strong development program going amidst all headwinds faced by the sport. Sydney Arrows is also extremely grateful to the management



and board of Canterbury Ice Rink for their ongoing support of our training program and events.

We are also thankful to IRNSW for their ongoing support and assistance funding activities aimed at attracting new skaters to the sport for the club as well as assisting the club in organising skating camps and racing events.

Krish Mootoosamy

(Sydney Arrows Club President)