

Adult club competition

- By Gail Tudor



(l-r) Rachel Kellas, John Bailey (back), Lorraine Bailey, Ian Turner (back), Gail Tudor, Rachel Jarvis, Svetlana Goggins, Lesley Brenikov (back) & Nicki Torrington.

In an evening of role reversal, Bracknell's adult skaters enjoyed a club competition run with the aid of many of the club's junior skaters. The competition was open to all skaters over the age of 18 and it was lovely to see 19 year old **Rachel Kellas** participating. While there were only nine skaters, the evening was action-packed as many skaters took part in more than one event. All the skaters entered at least two events each, with **Rachel Jarvis** competing in six events and **Gail Tudor** in five, in both free and dance. Only the improvisation and the free skating events were run as competitions, with the other events being an opportunity for the skaters to perform their compulsory and free dances, ahead of the Bracknell Adult Opens on June 28/29th.

The evening began with an Improvisation event similar to that held at the adult opens. The competitors have just 15 minutes to listen to a new piece of music and make up a routine incorporating some set elements. Usually it is split by level but due to small numbers, levels here ranged from beginner, to level 3 in free and up to level 7 in dance. Unsurprisingly the results followed skating levels, with **Rachel Kellas** winning gold but the audience was impressed by all the programmes. A spin, spiral, jump event followed which it was hoped would encourage newer adult members to try competing. Maybe next year more will take advantage of the opportunity. Free skating competitions followed, with **Svetlana Goggins**, who has only just taken her level 1 test, competing in her first ever competition in the level 1 & 2 class, along with **Lesley Brenikov** and **Gail Tudor**, who won this one.

Rachel Jarvis just edged out **Nicki Torrington**, who had a clean skate, in the level 3 class and **Lorraine and John Bailey** performed their intermediate pairs routine, which contained some excellent lifts and impressed the NISA judge, Trudi Burgess so much, that she awarded them the

adult competition plate.

Unfortunately the NISA judge had to leave after the free skating and time was lost while she gave feedback to the skaters. This left very little time for the dance classes and all the dance events were hurried through with no warm-up which was quite a test of both physical and mental stamina for the competitors (Gail, both Rachels and the Baileys), who performed their compulsory dances back to back and then their free dances with no warm up either.

With just a few minutes left at the end there was just time for the dance ladies to enjoy the chance to skate the Golden Skaters Waltz, partnered by 14 year old **Jordan Brown** who had bravely volunteered!

Following the presentations additional feedback was given by **Charlotte Hester**, (15), who had assisted the NISA judge.

Grateful thanks from all the adult competitors to Charlotte, Jordan and to the other junior club members, Bethany Jarvis, Olivia and Harvey Clarke and Amy Barnes, who assisted Karen Clarke on the night and to the other helpers and spectators for their support.

Results:

Improvisation all levels: 1st Rachel Kellas, 2nd Rachel Jarvis, 3rd Gail Tudor, 4th Ian Turner

Free skating : level 1 & 2 : 1st Gail Tudor, 2nd Lesley Brenikov, 3rd Svetlana Goggins

level 3: 1st Rachel Jarvis, 2nd Nicki Torrington

Adult Plate: awarded to Lorraine and John Bailey for Intermediate Pairs Programme