

## **Proposal for Dance Club move to Tuesday evening**

### **Background**

The ice rink would like to run learn to skate classes on Sunday mornings in the time slot currently occupied by the Dance Club. They are however keen to support Ice Dance in Oxford and propose that Tuesday could become a dance centred evening. Dance Club would run during the evening and would be preceded by learn to skate classes involving a dance element. The idea is that as skaters progress they could begin to move into dance club. Younger skaters might attend only the first portion of dance club in order to get home and prepare for school the next day. After Dance Club there would be a public session with a dance interval. Tuesday evening would remain a no hockey skate evening. The rink is very keen on this plan and is willing to offer us reduced rates for ice time. The coaches also support it and think it offers an opportunity to increase participation in ice dance.

Fusion is also reviewing every aspect of the current timetable, and it is clear that whatever happens, there will be major changes throughout the week, affecting many of the current sessions.

The club is currently in a perilous financial position. We are making some progress in increasing membership and attendance on Sunday mornings and our Learn to Dance sessions are helping to raise the profile of ice dance in Oxford. However, this turnaround in membership is occurring too slowly for us to have a long term future with current costs. The offer of reduced rates for ice time, in conjunction with restructured classes which would provide a natural feed of new ice dancers, would allow us time to rebuild membership whilst remaining solvent. The committee is well aware that Sunday morning Dance Club is an important part of members' lives and that the time change would be inconvenient or impossible for some of our members. However, we believe that financially, this is the only way forward. Any changes agreed would take place in September.

If we were to be unable to agree to change the time of Dance Club, Fusion would present its case to the appropriate committee of Oxford Council. It is clear that they believe their case would prevail.

## **Proposal**

At the moment, although it has some clear objectives, Fusion is willing to work with us on the detail of the new timetable. The committee takes the view that by collaborating with Fusion at this stage, we can secure a better deal for the club in the long term. We are therefore proposing that Oxford Ice Dance Club agrees to move the time of its session from 08.30-10.00 on Sundays to Tuesday evenings with the proviso that Ice Rink Management agrees in writing to reduced ice time charges for the club. The exact timing of the new slot is open for discussion, but we believe that 19.00 to 20.30 would provide a compromise between the needs of junior members who cannot stay too late, and adult members who need time to get to the rink after work.