

## Nobleton Figure Skating Club

During the fall and winter of 1956 a Miss June Barrington, of Toronto, worked with a few children in the Nobleton arena and created a certain amount of interest in figure skating. When this season came to an end the King City Lion's Club held a fun night at the arena and the skaters of Nobleton were asked to be part of this night. When the fall season arrived a Mrs. M. Bailie, of Thornhill, came to Nobleton and talked to Keith Banting, who was the caretaker of the arena, about the possibility of renting ice time for her son Brian. Brian was an exceptionally good skater and needed practice time. Mrs. Bailie suggested we might form a figure skating club in Nobleton if enough interested people could be found to form an executive. Interested people were found, and though the first executive did a certain amount of floundering the Nobleton Figure skating club was formed. The first executive members were - a Mrs. Lewis was the first President and the following ladies completed the group: Mrs. Jim Reid, Mrs. Len Bishop, Mrs. Pat Herman, Mrs. Mel Sampson, Mrs. M. Bailie, Miss Margaret Arnott and Mrs. Ray Huycke. The first club professional was Miss Donna Mae Bell and the club boasted of their thirty five members.

In the fall of 1957 Mrs. J.C. Arnott was President and the club pro was Mr. Gordon Manzie. The carnival was held on two nights and an enthusiastic crowd welcomed all the abilities of the new skaters.

1958 was the year the Club joined the Canadian Figure Skating Association, Mrs. Len Bishop being president.

Mr. Robt. Tomalin was president for the years 1960-61; 1961-62 and the Club now engaged two professionals - a Miss Sonja Davis and Mr. Gordon Manzie.

Mrs. Peter Hunt was elected President for 1962-63 and the pros this year were Miss Sonja Davis and Mr. Verdun Bourdon. 1963-64 saw Mrs. Hunt as President again and club continued to grow. Carnival time was a real highlight of every season and the excellent performances always a treat to watch. With capable teachers to direct them the skaters are becoming very graceful skaters.

With Mrs. E.J. Lowans as President of the Club another successful year-1964-65 - was completed.

The year 1965-66 the Club held competitions with trophies presented. The skaters who won these competitions were assured a solo spot in the carnival. Mrs. A. Gillespie was president this year. Mr. & Mrs. Hugh Walker donated a trophy for Intermediate Girls class, the first winners of this class being Lorraine Flear, Beverley Brydon and Nora Smith. Miss Margaret Arnott gave a trophy for Novice Girls annual class. Winners in this class were Susan Diplock, Carolyn Scott and Debbie Pitkin. Dr. David Harper donated a trophy for Juvenile Girls - first winners were Kathy Kitchen, Rhonda DeCaire and Virginia Arnott. Mr. & Mrs. Peter Hunt presented, to the club, Juvenile Boys annual trophy, first to win this being Douglas Hilliard and Rick Little.

Mr. Cliff Arnott was President during the 1966-67 season. There were two new professional teachers this year i.e. Mrs. Betty Smith and Miss Mary Phillips. This is the tenth year of the Nobleton Figure Skating Club and the continued interest and growth makes the running of such a club gratifying. The competitions were well received again with excited winners in every age group. Dr. John Fenn donated the Novice Boys annual trophy. Also, there was

a trophy given to the club by Mr. Gordon Cook, Mr. Ken Mactaggart, Mr. Ernest Crossland and Mr. Cyril Flinders. This trophy was to be presented to the "beginner skater who made most progress in the current season".

1967-68 President was Mrs. Shirley Scott. The same two professionals are still with the club.

As the club continued to grow it was felt more trophies were needed. This year Mr. & Mrs. Robert L. Miller donated the Senior Annual Trophy. The first winners of this trophy were Nora Smith and second Dianne Tozer. Membership reached one hundred and sixty this year, it is noted the following skaters have been with the club since the beginning - Wendy Bishop, Marilyn Hunt and Lorraine Flear.

Mr. Peter Hunt was elected president for the 1968-69 season. The club professionals are Mrs. Betty Smith and Mr. David Thomas. This year saw a competition held for a club crest. All skaters were eligible to enter this contest and Rick Little created the winning crest for Nobleton Figure Skating club. The prize of a wrist watch was presented to Ricky. Competitions again were held with winners in every category. This year the Nobleton Lion's Club donated the Intermediate Boys annual trophy.

1969-70 season saw a number of firsts in the Nobleton Club after thirteen years. Membership had to be closed, classes were completely filled and the ice time fully taken up with group lessons. Also, for the first time three performances of the carnival was staged, the Sunday afternoon show proved quite popular. This was also the first year for Junior Competitions. All the junior members had a chance to compete within their own skating groups. Each winner received a trophy. Also, a dance competition was held and there is a Senior Ladies and Senior Men's class. Executive members of 1969-70 are as follows: President - Peter Hunt; 1st Vice President Mr. Bob Tomlin; 2nd Vice President Ruth Peterson; Secretary Mr. Gordon Traviss and Treasurer Mrs. Herta Schad. The community as well as the skating club has grown tremendously over the years and with such keen interest shown by so many in the Nobleton Figure Skating Club it is bound to be a continued success.

Three new trophies were donated to the Skating Club this season:  
Mr. & Mrs. Cecil Hilliard - Men's Senior Annual Trophy;  
Mr. & Mrs. Fred McCreary - Dance Pairs annual trophy.  
Rowan's Auto Electric - Junior Competition Trophy.

Thanks must be expressed to the entire community for the continued interest and support given to the Nobleton Figure Skating Club.

Mrs. Flear