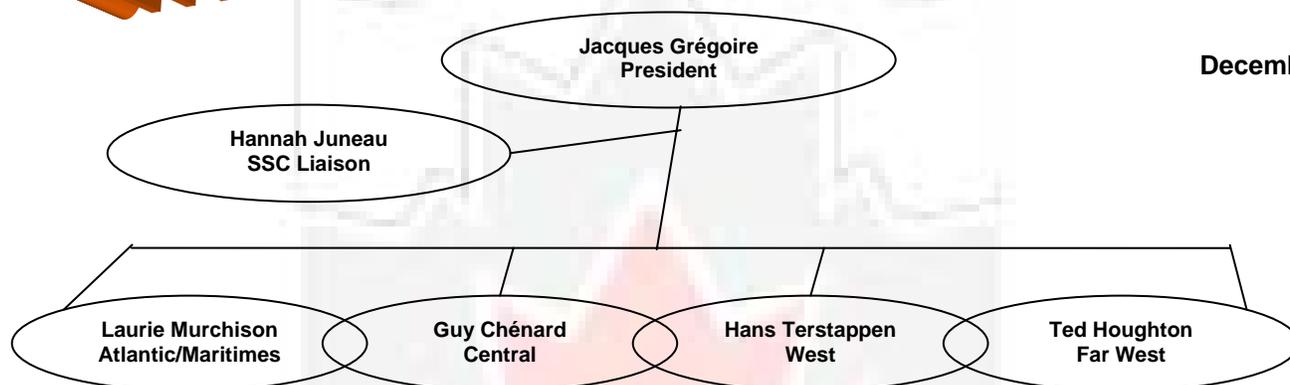


OFFICIALS BULLETIN 2003 - 2004

December 2003



OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR AWARD HONOURS RENÉ MARLEAU

The Official of the Year Award has recently undergone a name change. The Award will be named the **René Marleau Official of the Year Award**. It honours Saskatchewan native René Marleau who retired from officiating in 1997 after donating many years of his life to speed skating. The first recipient of this special award was presented at this year's AGM in PEI to Mr. Gary Roberts of British Columbia.

BROADER AND BETTER, SSC'S WEBSITE IMPRESSES ALL

A lot of time and hard work has gone into the newly revised SSC website, but all that effort has paid off. The extensive officials section contains information on the following:

Mandate, Development Program, Certification Program and Requirements, Clinics and Courses, Critical Dates, Accredited Officials, ODC Minutes, and of course the Officials Bulletin.

Log onto www.speedskating.ca to see for yourself!

SSC DESIGNS NEW STARTER MANUAL

A new starter manual has been created and approved by the ODC to replace the older starter manual which was created in 1993. It contains updated information, diagrams and a fresh, new look.

To place an order, please contact Hannah Juneau at the National Office hjuneau@speedskating.ca

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Level 4 Regional ISU Clinic

By Jacques Grégoire



Photo by Dave Thomson

During the weekend of September 12 and 13th, there was a level 4 clinic held at a delightful place in Lac Beauport. This regional clinic was the responsibility of three of our senior officials, Michel Verrault, Ted Houghton and Normand Picotin. They were the directors for the clinic with the participation of Guy Chénard and myself. We would also like to make a point of thanking Hannah Juneau for the logistical organization of the event.

The clinic started with a group dinner and continued with a first night of meetings. At our first meeting, Michel explained to the participants the outline of this clinic and also asked each participant to write one or two questions which they would like to know the answer to. Each question received a response from one of the directors or a member of ODC. The participation at this clinic was extensive, there were eleven officials who were subsidized to attend the clinic by the ODC and the different Provincial associations together sent seven officials to the clinic. Therefore a total of twenty-four officials benefitted from this clinic.

In addition to the instructional side of the clinic, there was a trip to old Quebec City for all the participants. This clinic made it possible for the participants to know all the different roles of a starter, referee and competitors steward. The different people were split up into different groups for detailed discussion and exchange of ideas. The session ended with a poll and the participants all agreed that this clinic was very

necessary in Canada.

At the time of publication of this Bulletin, a private clinic of the same type will have taken place for long track starters in Calgary. Once again, we hope that this clinic will have gained the same success as the clinic which took place in Lac Beauport. This clinic will be under the responsibility of Hans Terstappen who is finishing the last preparations at the time of production of these articles.

The Officials Development Committee would like to acknowledge M. Michel Verrault, Mr. Ted Houghton, Mr. Normand Picotin and Mr. Hans Terstappen for their help in organizing the different clinics.

Based on the immense success of our clinics, the ODC will ensure that the set up of all new clinics will be at the same high level which the ones in the past were conducted with.

DON'T FORGET
Level 3 Referees
clinic in January if
participation allows it.



Photo by Dave Thomson

TIMING – ELECTRONICALLY AND OTHERWISE

By Guy Chénard

Many may have noticed the designation (e) that appears beside the name of a few timers in Officials Lists. The designation signifies competence in electronic or photo-finish timing. As more branches and clubs procure such equipment to service the ever increasing number of competitions where it is required, requests to the ODC for upgrades to Level 3 (e) Timer have multiplied. In turn, these sparked a discussion as to what skills and knowledge are expected from a Timer (e) as opposed to one without the designation. This short article aims to clear up the issue.

In drafting the requirements, the ODC was guided by ISU procedures, since almost every ISU event must use electronic timing (speed skating) or photo-finish (short track speed skating). The ISU contracts with Finishlynx for the equipment and services of qualified operators. These operators work at competitions, but they are not officials.

The next step was to confirm the responsibilities of timers (chief and assistants). The relevant ISU rules are #243 - 247 for speed skating, and 291 paragraph 14 for short track speed skating. The corresponding SSC rule is N2-102. All these rules assign the same responsibilities to the Chief Timer, namely to establish the official time for each skater, as concerns manual times, and especially whenever circumstances force the concurrent use of electronic and manual times (as when electronic times are not available for one or more races, for whatever reason).

Chief Timers consequently apply and interpret rules, then make appropriate decisions, as other officials do, in all cases. That is what all officials do, and therein lies our answer: Level 3 (e) Timers need the same qualifications as all other Level 3 Timers. The national designation refers to experienced Chief Timers who are able to act in that capacity at national or higher competitions, virtually all of which require, or shortly will require, electronic timing or photo-finish. They need to be familiar with the systems, but don't need to be able to operate them. In other words, hands-on expertise with photo-finish or electronic timing systems makes one an operator, not a timer.

It follows that the designation (e) is redundant at Level 3. However, Branches may prefer to require hands-on experience at lower levels, but such must remain *in addition to and not instead of* already published qualifications for timers.



RELIABLE AND ACCURATE TIMING!

CANADA

Congratulations to the officials who received upgrades this past spring:

Announcer

3 - Robert Laurie, New Brunswick
3 - Sean Maw, Alberta

Lap Recorder

3 - John Clay Bruner, Alberta
3 - Rob Murray, New Brunswick

Meet Coordinator

3 - Greg Taylor, Alberta

Referee

3B - Rick Hunt, Ontario
3B - Peter Teed, New Brunswick

Starter

5 - Yves Belanger, Saskatchewan
3B - Roger Cole, New Brunswick
3B - David Hartley, New Brunswick
3B - Ken Johnson, Alberta
3B - Rocky Lamontagne, Ontario

Timer

3 - Rick Austin, Alberta
3 - Cliff O'Leary, New Brunswick
3 - Lianna Richmond, Alberta

Important Reminder:

Upgrade applications for
Level 3 are due to the Sport
Development Coordinator at
the National Office by April
15th, 2004.

CONGRATULATIONS!

CANADA

At the ODC's annual Fall Sit down meeting, September 19 – 21st, 2003 in Montreal, the committee members assigned the following referees and starters to SSC competitions.

| COMPETITION | REFEREES | STARTERS |
|--------------------------------|---|--|
| Can Am Short Track | John Trowbridge Daniel Martin | Tom Johnson Roger Cole |
| Team Trials #1 | Michel Verrault Roch Loignon | Guy Marcoux Ted Houghton |
| Jr. Team Trials | Yvan Patry Louis Charles Tessier | Hans Terstappen Rocky Lamontagne |
| Can Am Long Track | Morley Bruce Dave Thomson | Guy Marcoux Robert Ireland |
| Can Am Short Track #2 | Roch Loignon Laurie Murchison | Eugene Hearn Guy Marcoux Kitty Beal (dev) |
| Canadian Sr. Sprints | Jim McClements Dave Thomson | Hans Terstappen Ted Houghton |
| Canada Cup 1 and Sr. All Round | Jim McClements Ritha Johnson | Yves Belanger Robert Ireland Mike Makowsky (dev) |
| Team Trials #2 | Jacques Grégoire Daniel Gingras Dan Wiebe (dev) Dave Thomson (dev) | Ted Houghton Tom Johnson |
| Canada Cup #2 | Morley Bruce Ritha Johnson | Jeff Polakoff Jean Lemieux |
| North American Marathon | Léo Descheneaux | |
| North American Age Class LT | Wayne Fleming | Jeff Polakoff |
| Can Am Short Track #3 | Guy Chénard Yvan Patry Ghislain Rhéaume | Tom Johnson Darrell Haack Jacques Michaud (dev) |
| Canadian Age Class/Masters OS | Robin Newton-Smith Rod Fisher | Robert Ireland Yves Belanger |
| Junior Country Match LT | Guy Chénard Wim Kok | Guy Marcoux Jean Lemieux |
| Canada Cup #3 | Dave Thomson Robin Newton-Smith (dev) | Phil Laing Darrell Haack |
| North American Age Class ST | Laurie Murchison | Darrell Haack |
| Canadian Age Class/TT#3 | Guy Chénard Laurie Murchison | Tom Johnson Jean Lemieux Robin Lloyd's |

Competitors Stewards

By Laurie Murchison

All major international competitions under the jurisdiction of the ISU require a Competitors Steward as a part of the officiating complement. The role of the Competitors Steward at World Cup, World Championship and Olympic events is of strategic importance in assuring a well run, successful competition. The Competitors Steward serves a significant organizational function before, during and following a competition. Responsibilities range from validating team and Competitors eligibility to verifying registration in accordance with established deadlines; to organizing and holding the draw for the competition. The Competitors Steward must establish and maintain an early and consistent contact with the event organizing committee to insure that all of the requirements for the administrative side of the competition are in place before the commencement of the meet. During the event, the Competitors Steward oversees the competition office such that the event may proceed smoothly. The Competitors Steward is also responsible to verify and compile competition results, including the establishment of records and see to the distribution of the document to all teams, relevant officials and ISU officers. We hope that this brief description (which most certainly does not include all of the responsibilities of a Competitors Steward) provides you with some insight into the key role played by this group of officials.

As you are aware, we do not make use of the services of a Competitors Steward at competitions hosted by SSC Branches, nor have we used them to date at national level competitions. This fact makes it very difficult for SSC to provide the required training for Competitors Stewards in order to have qualified Canadian officials available for ISU consideration. If we do not have an effective method of providing this training, in future no SSC Competitors Stewards will be eligible to officiate at the aforementioned ISU competitions. The Officials Development Committee strongly believes that we must begin immediately to establish training opportunities within higher level Branch and

National competitions.

To that end, the ODC is appealing to all Branches to give serious consideration to making provisions for a Competitors Steward at your major branch events. There can be no doubt that a Competitors Steward would be a major asset to an organizing committee leading up to a competition and to the Meet Coordinator during the competition.

This training opportunity will be mutually beneficial and will insure that SSC has qualified Competitors Stewards well into the future. Please give this suggestion every consideration as your cooperation will certainly yield positive results for our sport in Canada.

Certified Competitors Stewards in Canada

ONTARIO



Sandra Chenard – Level 4

QUÉBEC



Normand Picotin – Level 5

National Long Track Starters Course

By Yves Belanger

The Starters course was held in Calgary, November 27-30 and was designed for national level (Olympic style) Starters throughout Canada. The primary purpose of the course was to disseminate, discuss and clarify the information that was presented from the ISU Long Track Speed Skating Starters Course held in Inzell, Germany from October 31 to November 3, 2003 (see article by Hans Terstappen on page 8). The secondary component of the course was to, following a video presentation on theory, actually complete starts in pairs for the Can-Am competition. While the one partner started, the second partner identified specific observations for further discussion.

The agenda for the course was prepared in a handout format and presented by course conductor Hans Terstappen (International Championship Starter) on the Thursday evening as part of the participant registration. Following registration, all of the starters gave a brief overview of where they came from, how they got involved as Officials and what level of starting have they experienced. The remainder of the evening provided Starters an opportunity to discuss in general context the important role we Starters play in a successful competition.

On Friday, the Canada Olympic Park Tea House provided an ideal climate and atmosphere for theory presentation and small group work. The Starters were divided in 3 groups with each group was made up of 4 Starters. The Friday agenda consisted of discussing experiences from this or last season, review of conclusions and intentions from previous ISU Starters Courses from 1995 in Moscow to the present. Observing video starts from past ISU clinics as well as practicing several ways of group interval training.

On Saturday we left for the Calgary Olympic Oval to put theory into practice. On a pre-determined rotational schedule, each group member was assigned and video taped completing a minimum of seven 500m pairings, for a total of 70 starts in the 500m Ladies and Men All-round competition. Other members of the group took on other support functions

required in and around the starting line. One of the two remaining groups timed intervals and made general observations. The third group continued with group work discussions. The emphasis throughout the afternoon was to review and discuss the videos of the morning starts in large group format and to continue with group dry training exercise.

Sunday Morning we were back at the Oval and continued discussions from the previous day starts. The Can - Am competition also provided the course participants an opportunity to view and later discuss 1000m quartets. The remainder of the morning was spent discussing and clarifying the implementations of the 100 meter race and team pursuits.

The course was attended by 11 Starters, eight who were invited by the ODC as part of their development and training program and three by the Branches. We also had two "seasoned" LT Starters in attendance at several sessions. They were the assigned Starters for the Can - Am event. The course was very well presented and provided the necessary information that can be implemented at International, National, Provincial and Regional competitions in a consistent manner. The course format provided a teamwork approach with a balance mix of theory and practical training, thus creating a comfortable working environment.

A special note of thanks to Hans Terstappen for a job well done.



Starter's Clinic Participants

| | |
|------------------|---------------|
| DARRELL HAACK | KEN JOHNSON |
| PHIL LAING | |
| ROCKY LAMONTAGNE | JEAN LEMIEUX |
| TONY LUKAN | |
| MIKE MAKOWSKY | JEFF POLAKOFF |
| YVES BELANGER | |
| ROD JOHNSTON | EUGENE HEARN |
| HANS TERSTAPPEN | |
| GUY MARCOUX | BOB IRELAND |



ISU Starters and Referees Course

By Hans Terstappen

A course for ISU Championship Starters was held in conjunction with the International Season opening competition in Inzell (GER) early in November. Attention was paid to the special start procedures for the new competition format for the 100m super sprint, which will feature at three World Cup competitions over the coming season. Yves Belanger and Hans Terstappen attended this course as Canada's representatives.

At the same time, a seminar was held for the ISU top level Referees (who serve as Chief Referees in ISU Championships), also with a certain focus on the new competition elements (100m and Team Pursuit) included in this season's World Cup program. Jim McClements attended for Canada.

Following this ISU session, a Long Track Starter's Clinic was held in Calgary November 27-30. The information given during the Inzell session and conclusions from past ISU courses were used during the theoretical part. The Can-AM long track meet gave the participants an excellent opportunity to practice many starts during the 500m all-round event.

100 meter super sprint

Two of the Canadian Officials were fortunate enough to attend the first 100m super sprint sessions in Salt Lake City, during the World Cup event December 12 and 13. A total of 36 men and 24 women participated in this elimination based competition.

There are three skaters on the line, whereby the warm up lane is being used as racing lane. Skaters with the 12 best times will advance to the next round. In the second elimination round, competitors winning the heat (remember, there are three on the line) will advance to the semifinals, together with the two best times of the second and third places. In the third elimination round, the winners of the semifinals will advance to the final, together with the second placed skater with the better time from the semifinal.

Starting procedure is different for the 100m super sprint. Technical equipment is being used to assist the Starter. One false start is allowed per heat. After a first false start in a heat, the

race will go after the shot is fired. If a skater causes a false start he/she will be disqualified after the completion of the race.

More information about the starting procedure and the 100m format can be found in ISU Communication No. 1227 at www.isu.org under ISU Communications.

Officials Development Committee

By Jacques Grégoire

Last year Speed Skating Canada's Officials Development Committee set up a development program for those officials who were continuing to officiate this year. The program consists of assigning officials of different levels, including level 3B officials, to higher caliber meets than their actual level in order to acquire the experience from other officials.

Therefore, last season the Officials Development Committee nominated eleven officials from within our development program to go to all levels of competitions including World Cups. The program was applicable to both long track and short track and for starters, referees and competitors stewards. The program was greatly appreciated by the officials who were chosen from within the program.

Once again this year, we identified twelve officials who will benefit from this program and once again there are assignments made to all levels of competitions. We added to this program a request for an evaluation to be done by a Senior Official on the developing officials. This will help the developing officials and supply them with a better bank of information on our officials.

If you have any questions on the subject of this program, please do not hesitate to contact your regional representative or myself.



*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone
from the Officials Development Committee!*