

Country match

Netherlands beat England

Utrecht, Netherlands

On Thursday, December 11th, 1980, a country match between the NETHERLANDS and ENGLAND was held for the second time. The first match was won by ENGLAND in February, 1980 with a score of 66 points to the NETHERLANDS 38 points.

The competition was held over 1000 and 500m individual distances and a 5000m. relay.

After 4 heats of 1000m there was a tie in points, namely 20-20. The heat winners advanced to a final over 1000m, which was won by MENNO BOELSMA of the Netherlands, who there by changed the score to 22-20 in favour of the Netherlands team.

The heats over the 500m. were very exciting. All heats were won by the skaters from the Netherlands, so one of them was replaced for the final by the fastest skater of ENGLAND in the 500m., who was PETER WORTH.

So we saw in this 500m. final PETER WORTH of ENGLAND and CEES BOER, GER BOELSMA and MENNO BOELSMA of the NETHERLANDS. The final was won by MENNO BOELSMA. The score then was NETHERLANDS 44 points and ENGLAND 37 points.

MENNO BOELSMA had the fastest 500m. time of the competition in 49.53. Although it was a good time, it was not fast enough to improve on STEWART HORSEPOOL's time for the country match of 49.2, which he set on February 10, 1980, at Leiden, Netherlands.

The last race of the competition was the 5000m. relay and was the last chance for the British skaters to change the results in their favour, and of course the relay proved very exciting. It proved once again that short track speed skating is practised on a high level in both countries.

The relay race was won by the NETHERLANDS "A" team, the English "A" and "B" team was

second and third respectively and in fourth place was the Netherlands "B" team. Because of a lap recording error we understand a lap was skated short and no times were published.

The fastest time in the 1000m was by MENNO BOELSMA in 1.44.84, which is now a new country match record.

The challenge award has been preliminary awarded to the Netherlands. They will keep the award until the country match against England when the total points of the two matches will decide which country wins the challenge award for 1981.

This return match will be skated in England on February 15th, 1981 at Altrincham.

The teams —

Netherlands - "A": MENNO BOELSMA; GER BOELSMA; ARIE RAVENSBERGEN; JOOP WOLVERS. "B": CHARLES VELDHOVEN; CEES BOER; ANNE SCHOUTEN; WIM den ELSEN.

England - "A": STEWART PASS; PETER WORTH; JOHN HARRIS; MARCUS WHITE. "B": CLIVE PASS; DAVID SHARP; CHRIS RILEY; CLIVE SMALLMAN.

The points score

NETHERLANDS : 59 points, ENGLAND : 52 points.

REINIER OOSTHEIM

**See you all at the I.S.U. World
Short Track Championships at
Meudon-la-Forêt, France**

April 4th-5th, 1981

Japanese and U.S.A. announce Short Track national teams

• From Tokyo and Champaign we have heard that both the Japanese and United States Short Track teams have been chosen after a series of trials held recently.

From RYOHEI ISHIKAWA we hear that HIROSHI TODA and TATSUYOSHI ISHIHARA tied after the end of their trials and together with KENICHI KENICHI SUGIO, MASAHIDE TOMINAGA and YASUHIKO HOMMA these skaters will comprise the Mens' team.

Sisters MIKA and MIYOSHI KATO continue to dominate the Japanese speed skating on the Short Track circuit and along with SEIKO MIZUTANI and new comers AKIKO WANANTABE and HIDEKO SHISHII (the latter name we are not sure as we suffered some static on the telephone!).

From Champaign, Illinois, BILL MARKLAND advises us that there were some surprises on

the final team - SCOTT DREBES, who has been on every United States short track team since the first I.S.U. Competition in the U.S.A. staged in 1976 and continued to exert his skills to maintain the lead at the trials.

"Oldtimers" like JACK MORTELL (some call him "twinkle toes" because of his dexterity on the blades) and STAN WISNIEWSKI made a place for themselves on the team and a team member from last year in PAUL JACOBS returns.

GLORIA BOGACKI and LYDIA STEPHANS from last years team head the Ladies team along with BARBARA JOHNSON and PAM MERCER (the latter we know from previous competitions in and around Michigan is a powerful skater).

Good luck to them all. ■

• It appears that the ever popular Dutch Open Short Track championships being staged later in the month of March, may have attracted more participants, including perhaps skaters from Switzerland and West Germany - we wish the K.N.S.B. success again in this event. ■

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News from Great Britain

IAN GOOCH, our new Contributing Editor from Great Britain writes that the NOTTINGHAM ICE RACING CLUB is to stage an International Short Track competition on April 11, 1981.

DAVE JORDAN, Chairman of the Nottingham Club now understands that in addition to the U.S.A. national team, skaters from Holland and Japan might take part.

For further information write to DAVE JORDAN at 49 Mays Avenue, Carlton, Nottinghamshire, England.

England vs Netherlands return match

Final arrangements have been made and the British are going ahead with the return match between the Netherlands - the first match is reported elsewhere in this paper.

The final winners will be decided after this return match which will be staged at Altrincham on Sunday, February 15th, 1981.

Netherlands won the first meeting by only 7 points so England have a lot to do at Altrincham to try and catch up.

Britain prepares for World championships

The British squad which contains thirty of Britain's top speed skaters have been training hard, with DAVE BODDINGTON as Coach and DAVE JORDAN as squad Manager.

Squad training sessions have been taking place since the beginning of the season, also special events have been organized for the squad. So far GARY RUDD of the Aldwych club has won two of the three events held throughout the country with STEWART HORSEPOOL winning the other.

Distances raced so far have GARY RUDD winning the 800m. and the 1000m. and STEWART HORSEPOOL winning the 1500m.

The British championships will soon be upon the skaters, which will be the final run up to the selection for the World Short Track championships in April in early April.

New clubs and World bid by N.S.A.

JOHN HALL, who is now the Chairman of the National Skating Association of Great Britain Ice Speed Committee writes in a memorandum to interested parties in Great Britain that a new club in DURHAM might get going.

In the 1950's the DURHAM ICE SPEED SKATING CLUB had many fine skaters and it will be good to see the reformation of this club again.

Britain through it's it national skating association will also place a bid with the I.S.U. for the 1984 World Short Track Speed Skating Championships - it is hoped that this bid will be approved in late May and some advance information is that Solihull (site of the 1st I.S.U. Short Track Championships) may be the site for this prestigious indoor event in 1984. ■

Short Trackers

• After this issue, three more are planned to complete the season - There will be one produced for April, July and September, 1981.

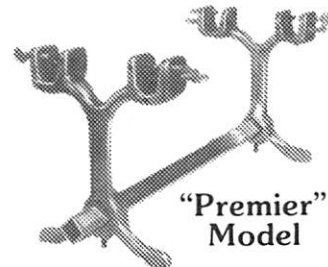
You are requested to send news, photographs and results by airmail for overseas correspondents and we will publish all you send us. It is hoped that we can publish news on any records at World level that have been approved by the I.S.U. at their Council meeting in Cannes, France this May. ■



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Short Trackers

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Editorial

Planning short track competitions of an International nature and which involve trans-atlantic travel is becoming more and more critical when no decisive decisions are made by the competition organizers.

Written communication in the form of announcements are needed to avoid "flip-flop" situations that we have all experienced this season!

Events should be planned at least a year or two in advance, under the circumstances described in the leading paragraph of this editorial. North American major events historically are planned and scheduled for a two-three year program. Informal discussions with the Coach or Team Leader cannot or should not be taken for granted as a commitment of the national sports governing body as budgets for such expensive travel must be

planned well ahead of such informal meetings.

Telephone calls by trans-atlantic are verbal and apart from the "gentlemens agreements" role should not be considered enough. Conflicts of dates of competitions with another host/organizer in that same country creates much confusion.

Perhaps a stricter procedure or a laid down protocol to follow is desired?. Competitions in the planning stage should be channelled through the national body rather than an individual of another "foreign" body?

This season, between the World championships in Meudon-la-Forêt, France, The Hague, Aviemore and Nottingham there has been much indecision and lack of information. Australia and Japan officials have all expressed such thoughts. Only the K.N.S.B. and the S.S.S.U. have issued detailed information of their events, the French Federation have to-date issued the official announcement for the I.S.U. World championship and nothing else!.

From the sidelines, if national sports governing bodies are seriously interested in staging future I.S.U. World Short Track championships, they should at least file for provisional allotment of this yearly championships with BEAT HASLER, the General Secretary of the I.S.U.

Short Track now enjoys a World title and we can no longer be "wishy-washy" in organizing competitions that will precede or follow a World event in order to attract top flight skaters to that event ... careful budget and travel plans have to be made by these travellers and careless organizing and lack of details such as site, dates and hotel accomodation are frustrating.■

The self-sufficient Australians

Many overseas speed skating visitors to Australia are surprised at the racing equipment being produced in this country. The last few years have seen a boost in all areas of equipment, from blades and boots to racing suits. This is largely due to the high cost of brining in overseas equipment as well as the long waiting periods involved.

Boots are being made by three main sources: INZE BONT in Sydney started experimenting with a mainly fibreglass boot about 18 months ago. Many boots later, he is now producing a very popular model currently in

Continued on Page 9

Profile of a speedster.....No. 1

HARRY SPRAGG**Australia**

Twenty-six year old HARRY SPRAGG may be small in stature (5' 4"), but he is certainly is big on achievement. Born in Birmingham, England, HARRY began speed skating in 1969, joining the Birmingham Ice Racing Club.

He has represented England and Great Britain in many international competitions as a Junior and a Senior and in both Indoor and Outdoor events.

HARRY's major achievements include:

- Represented Great Britain in a Junior World Outdoor championship,
- Twice British all-round Indoor champion (Victor Ludorum trophy event),
- Three times British 1500m. and 400m. Indoor champion,
- Represented England in four home internationals,
- Runner-up in the Australian "Open" Indoor Championships in 1979,
- Runner-up in the I.S.U. Short Track Championships in 1978 and placed 7th. in 1979,
- Winner of the Australian National Indoor Championships in 1980.

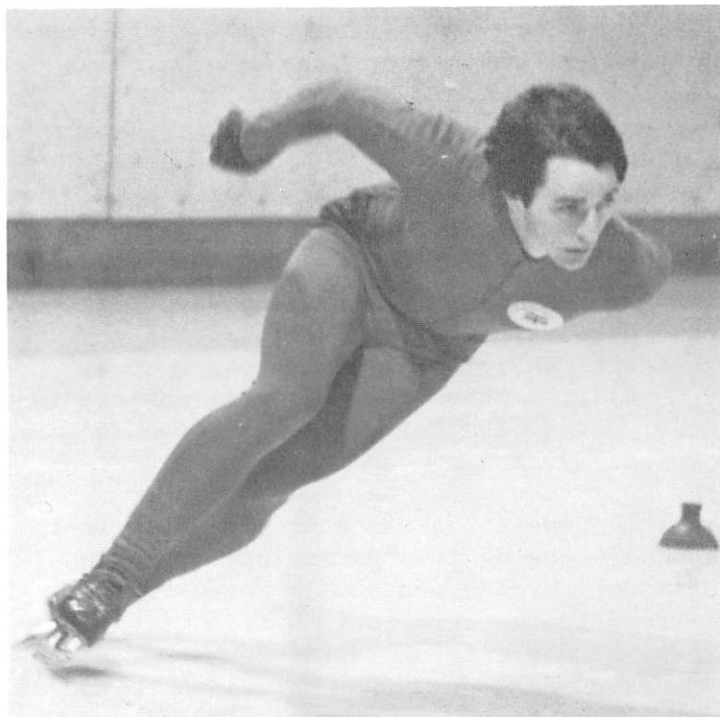
In August 1979, HARRY moved to Sydney, Australia, a move which prevented him from competing in the 1980 I.S.U. Short Track Championships in Milan, Italy as he had not yet been a resident of Australia for twelve months.

HARRY is now free to represent Australia and to enter "closed" events. In August, 1980 he won the New South Wales State Championships, a title that had been held by JIM LYNCH for thirteen consecutive years.

HARRY, who is a member of the Sydney Flyers club, is best over the sprint distances - 500m., 1000m., and the 1500m. He has suffered several major injuries during his skating career including a fractured wrist, fractured right ankle and a ruptured liver. HARRY's other sporting interests are snow-skiing, water skiing and fishing.

His main ambition in his speed skating career is to represent Australia in a World championship - and win it! ■

LIANE SHARP



• **HARRY SPRAGG** easily wins the 1000m final at the N.S.W. State Championship. He won these championships which had previously been held by JIM LYNCH for thirteen consecutive years!
photo by Liane Sharp

Contribute a Profile

On this page you have read a "profile" of HARRY SPRAGG of Australia, this is suggestion by our Australian Contributing Editor - LIANE SHARP, which we want to continue.

This is a good way to recognize our top speed skaters in a general way and we ask you to consider who should be Number 2 and so on. Skaters like MARQUE BELLA, GARRY RUDD; GAETAN BOUCHER to name a few, don't forget the young Ladies also, like MARZIA PERETTI, KIM FERRANS MIKA KATO etc.

What the Short Trackers need are short write-ups like LIANE has done here, a black and white action picture or a simple head and shoulder shot. The next issue will come out towards the end of April of this year and we would like to have a number of these profiles on hand for future issues.

Send the write-up and picture (packed between cardboard by AIRMAIL to John Hurdis, 46 Graystone Gardens, Toronto, Ont. M8Z 3C4, Canada now. LIANE SHARP will be in Paris for the First World Short Track Speed Skating Championships - perhaps you can look her up and outline what you have and she will co-ordinate this project with you. ■

An experiment in speed skating

by Bill Markland

Champaign, Illinois

Recently a team of 5 skaters from England travelled to Champaign, Illinois seeking competition in Indoor Speed Skating. Their coming to Champaign was announced only three weeks before arrival. The following is an outline of what took place.

- Hastily a competitive program was put together using the University of Illinois' Physical Education classes and Public sessions.

- The competition was scheduled over four days with the skaters participating in 10 individual events and 4 member team relays.

- Four States were invited to send teams, unfortunately only one arrived.

- Meals and lodging were provided to the skaters by the University of Illinois students in their homes and apartments.

- Souvenir badges were purchased for each skater and Placques for the Team Champion and top three individual point scorers.

- A total of 8 officials ran the entire competition; Referee, Starter that also served as Lap Scorer, Announcer and 5 Timers that also served as Finish Judges.

- The Physical Education classes were instructed to watch the races and the Announcer gave a brief outline of Indoor Speed Skating.

- Each student was asked to write 5 things they learned about speed skating and turn these items into the Instructor at the end of the class.

- During public sessions on Saturday and Sunday, additional events were run and explained to the spectators. (Note: This is the method used to conduct most indoor competitions in Europe and Australia).

As can be seen in the above outline, the skaters received more than ample competition, yet very little was required for administration, or funding. (Total expenses \$111.00 for badges and placques).

The results of this experiment are very encouraging to say the least. LARRY ALLEN, the British team leader, expressed complete satisfaction with the competition given his skaters, and indicated they will begin planning for next seasons' return as soon as they arrive back in England, hopefully for a longer stay.

Already the University of Illinois is preparing a requisition to purchase "rental



photo by News Gazette, Champaign, Ill.

speed skates" for the ice rink. Because of the response from the students, the P.E. Instructor has indicated that speed skating will be offered in the next seasons' catalog.

Two "student 'speed skaters" showed up at the first club practice following the competition, and two young skaters from the public session. Similar programs took place in Canada in late November in which teams from the U.S.A. took part. Reports from the coaches RUTH MOORE-Eastern Team and BARBARA JOHNSON-Michigan Team, indicate the skaters received valuable competitive experience, and the results were well worth the effort.

It could be that maybe these team experiments may just provide a "missing link" that speed skating is looking for?. These projects appear to be in-expensive, do not require much administration, give our skaters added development experience and allow us to expose "Our Sport" to new areas. Hopefully these college students will remember speed skating when they leave school and just maybe they'll try to start a racing program in the new area they choose to settle. At least its an attempt to plant the seeds of Growth. ■

Sertoma hosts the 1981 Nationals

Kitchener, Ont.

The 1981 National Indoor Mass Start Speed Skating Championships should provide some of the most exciting speed skating in Canada. Hosted by the K.W. Sertoma Speed Skating Club Inc., Kitchener, Ontario, the competitions will take place on the newest large ice surface in Canada. Conestoga College Doon Campus features an ice surface of 98 ft. x 198 ft. and is the new home of the Sertoma Speed Skating Club. The Conestoga ice facility also boasts a 1600 seat spectator capacity which, if it could be filled, would certainly add to the excitement of speed skating.

The Sertoma Speed Skating Club has always placed a priority on safety and as a result the club received two years ago, the first of a newly designed set of safety mats. These mats were researched and designed by KLAAS HANJE of the Kitchener Sertoma Club and since their inception at the Oktoberfest competitions, the incidence of injuries has been reduced to nil. The Club purchased an additional ten mats to compensate for the extra surface along the boards due to the larger ice pad at Conestoga College.

Electronic lap scorer

In an attempt to improve on-ice competition the Sertoma Speed Skating Club commissioned DACRES TALBOT of Shantal Systems to build an electronic lap counter. DACRES produced the lap counter for the Oktoberfest Competition on October 11 & 12, 1980 for a trial run. The technical specifications for the Lap Counter are as follows:

- easily visible 12" display numerals (2 digits)
- Rapid updating at the press of a button with manual correction for those behind the leader
- Self powered and fully portable for indoor and outdoor use
- operable under extreme climatic conditions
- Maintenance free operation, except for overnight charge of the battery
- External jack provided for emergency use with a 12 Volt car battery.

Further trial runs of the Lap Counter will be held at the Cambridge Competition in

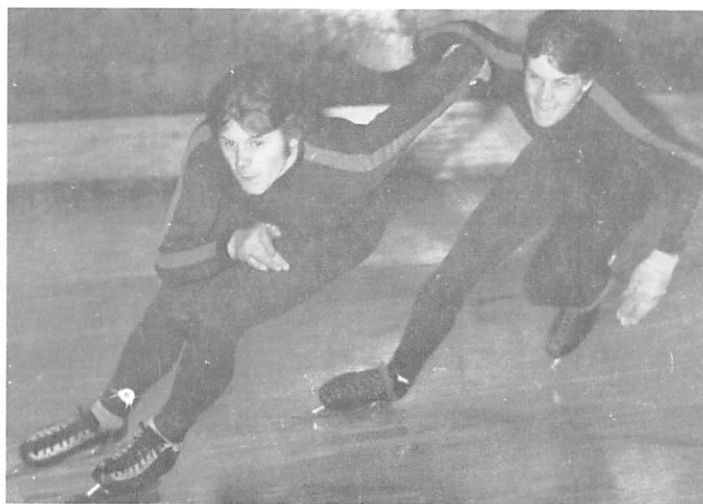
December and the Provincials the week before the Nationals. DACRES, who is member of the Sertoma Club is available through his company, Shantal Systems at 597 Colby Drive, Unit 3, Waterloo, N2V 1A1, Ont. Canada (enquiries are invited).

The Sertoma Club is very excited with its new innovations for the Nationals and they are very busy with the organising details that are required to make a successful meet.

The Club is looking forward to seeing many new faces in Kitchener and they have included Pee-Wees and Bantam exhibition races to encourage participation by families that have younger brothers and sisters who may wish to compete.

Till then, the Club wishes all speed skaters, GOOD LUCK. ■

CLIFF RAWNSLEY



• ALAN LUKE leading GARRY RUDD in a race at Richmond (London). LUKE is at the moment, Britain's No. 1 man on the outdoor circuit while RUDD is No. 1 man on the indoor circuit. Both skate for the Aldwych club (London). photo by Ian Gooch

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• Next issue will be published as soon as possible after the World Short Track championships in Meudon-la-Forêt, France.

Nottingham vs Illinois

Champaign, Illinois - Dec. 5 to 9, 1980

While BILL MARKLAND has written a report of the meet staged between members of the NOTTINGHAM ICE RACING CLUB and skaters from the ILLINOIS state we are listing the winners of the various races throughout these 5 days of competition.



December 5 - all finals

1500m. 1st: SCOTT DREBES (I) - 2.46.21; 2nd: STEWART HORSEPOOL (N) - 2.48.32; 3rd: JACK MORTELL (I) - 2.

29.35; 4th: WILLY WILSON

800m. 1st: DREBES (I) - 1.22.57; 2nd: WILSON (N) - 1.24.99; 3rd: GREG KLAIBER (I) - 1.25.13; 4th: MORTELL (I) - 1.26.17.

3000m. Relay: 1st: NOTTINGHAM - 5.04.75; 2nd: ILLINOIS - 5.11.78.

December 6 - all finals

800m. DREBES (I) - 1.24.18; 2nd: MORTELL (I) - 1.24.68; 3rd: HORSEPOOL (N) - 1.26.43; 4th: WILSON (N) - 1.33.88.

500m: 1st: DREBES (I) - 50.14; 2nd: ROB GASH (N) - 50.40; 3rd: WILSON (N) - 52.53; 4th: BOB STRONG (N) - 52.68.

3000m Relay: NOTTINGHAM - 5.10.87; 2nd: ILLINOIS - 5.16.96.

December 7 - all finals

1000m: 1st: DREBES (I) - 1.48.79; 2nd: MORTELL (I) - 1.50.10; 3rd: HORSEPOOL (N) - 1.50.19; 4th: GASH (N) - 1.50.23.

400m: 1st: DREBES (I) - 39.02; 2nd: KLAIBER (I) - 40.48; 3rd: MORTELL (I) - 40.51; 4th: ? HARROLD (N) - 41.47.

3000m. Relay: 1st: NOTTINGHAM - 4.58.43; 2nd: ILLINOIS - 4.58.74.

December 8 - all finals

1000m: 1st: DREBES (I) - 1.44.31; 2nd: HORSEPOOL (N) - 1.45.77; 3rd: MORTELL (I) - 1.46.17; 4th: KLAIBER (I) - 1.47.68.

500m: 1st: DREBES (I) - 49.44; 2nd: MORTELL (I) - 50.24; 3rd: HORSEPOOL (N) - 50.64; 4th: HARROLD (N).

3000m Relay: NOTTINGHAM - 5.05.35; 2nd: ILLINOIS - 5.19.37.

December 9 - all finals

1500m: 1st: DREBES (I) - 2.39.40; 2nd: HORSEPOOL (N) - 2.40.66; 3rd: MORTELL (I) - 2.42.50; 4th: MIKE YATES (N) - 2.43.12.

400m: MORTELL (I) - 39.29; 2nd: DREBES (I) - 40.23; 3rd: KLAIBER (I) - (N.T.R.); 4th: WILSON (N) - 40.60.

The teams —

Nottingham - PAUL HORSEPOOL; WILLY WILSON; ROB GASH; ? HARROLD. Illinois - SCOTT DREBES; JACK MORTELL; GREG KLAIBER; MIKE YATES.

The points score:;

ILLINOIS: 92 points, NOTTINGHAM: 50 points. ■

Did you know?...

● DON WILSON, CASSA's former physio-therapist, father confessor, big brother and generally a "good joe" has made an attempt at keeping the "retired" members of Canada's national teams together by publishing a Newsletter - it is mostly written by the former athletes themselves and is humorous and chatty ● From the far off land of Japan, we here of the marriage of TOSHIKI YOSHIDA and MINAKO KUWAHARA, who spent their honeymoon in California - they were treated to the sights by U.S. Indoor skater STEVE MERRIFIELD and the happy couple were delighted with this friendship - our congratulations and good luck to both of them ● The colourful TATSUYOSHI ISHIHARA has skated sub-5 minute 3,000m. times recently - however TATSUYOSHI skated the distances unpaced and outside of competition, his times recorded are 4.58.6; 5.49.2 and 4.59.4 ● SYLVIA BURKA, Canada's former two-time world champion who has hung up her skates for cycling and colour commentating for speed skating, will marry Canadian cycling champion JOCYLEN LOVELL in the near future ● The British will introduce this season a National Championships for Ladies ● That RAYMOND ARCHAMBAULT, one of CASSA's Board of Directors, passed away in November 1980 - RAYMOND was a cheerful guy, had many a laugh at skating competitions and was also responsible for Canada's SKATE-A-THON and was an organizer of many Indoor competitions here in Canada - his death will be felt here in Canada ● CHRISTIAN STEEN of Norway writes that from 1981 Short Track in Norway will no longer be arranged. The 5-year trial never matured and gradually interest was lost among the skaters ● We are also sorry to read about the recent death of HARVEY ROUGHTON of Montreal, HARVEY was the son of the late BILL ROUGHTON, former President of Canadian association for many years; he also helped salvage some of the historical documents for CASSA from the firebin! ● Plans are also going ahead for the staging of the 1981 World Short Track championships for Moncton, New Brunswick Canada ■

Continued from Page 4

use by many top Australian skaters.

Just as popular are the H.G.S. boots, made in Brisbane, backed by MICHAEL HEARN, one of Australia's top skaters. Boots are also being made in Melbourne by ALTAMURA, also a large manufacturer of figure skating boots.

Blades are a fairly new addition to the Australian market. JOHN BRADBURY of Sydney makes blade inserts, and ROD BATES also of Sydney has just brought out tubes, blades and cones, however he is still experimenting. INZE BONT of Sydney has developed an "adjustable" cone.

For several years, DENIS PENNINGTON of Sydney has been producing a very popular



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Title/Author	Cdn.	Others (including Postage)
Basic Principles of Speed Skating by Jack Walters, 29 pages (for coaches and new clubs).....	\$2.00	\$3.00
Training Booklets Series "A" Basic Training in Speed Skating by the Norwegian and Swedish associations - in English set of 3 booklets	\$3.50	\$5.25
Training Booklets Series "B" (for advanced skaters) - by the Norwegian association, in English, set of 4 booklets.....	\$5.00	\$7.50
The Oxygen Delivery System in Athletics by Gordon Cumming M.D., 37 pages....	\$2.25	\$3.50
CASSA T-Shirts, light blue with printed CASSA crest...	\$6.00	\$6.00
CASSA CLOTH Visor, logo and lettering in white on red background	\$4.50	\$4.50

● Many other items available from CASSA, write to national office at 333 River Rd. Vanier, Ont. K1L 8B9, Canada



● Canada's relay team at Moncton—top picture; left to right: LOUIS BARIL, MICHEL DELISLE; BENOIT BARIL and LOUIS GRENIER. bottom picture; left to right: LOUISE BEGIN; SUSAN HELLINGWERF; NATHALIE GRONDIN and MARIE-JOSIE MARTIN.
 photo by Glen Henderson

sharpening jig which is being used by skaters in many countries. DENIS has also made "land trainers" for simulated skating off the ice.

Racing uniforms have become quite stylish in Australia and we are seeing some smart designs and colour combinations on the ice. SARA BONT of Sydney and JOYCE RICHMOND of Adelaide are the two main makers of these suits.

Many more skaters are experimenting with equipment and we are constantly improving and encouraging the availability of this equipment.

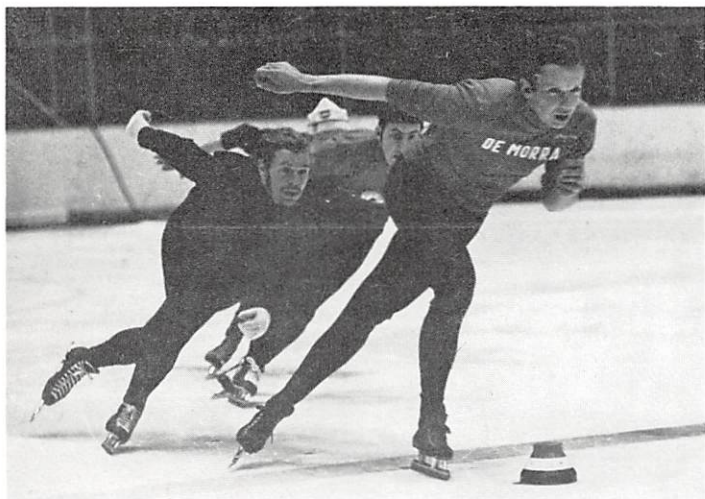
For a country where speed skating is so small, it has become surprisingly self-sufficient. Perhaps this is the secret to the success of Australian skaters on an International level. ■

LIANE SHARP



Talks go on between Canadian and Japanese associations for the staging of inter-country matches, although it appears to be one-sided at the moment. Canada has received no reply to their suggestions which might lead to a Pacific Rim championships for Short Track. Two countries have also started talking about a European Short Track championship which of course would have to be approved by the I.S.U.

From the past



BILL NOYES leads BOB FENN and JIM ZUCKERMAN during the Senior Men's race at the 1971 U.S. National Indoor championships at Flint, Michigan. photo by Dick Berg

The Australian Nationals

On the 24th and 25th of January, 1981 the South Australian Ice Racing Union staged its first Australian National Championships at the South Australian Ice Centre in Adelaide. The rink, only opened in December 1979 is probably the finest in the Southern Hemisphere. Racing was held on a 110m. oval track.

The South "Aussies" certainly did themselves proud not only in the fine organization and presentation, but also in showing dominance in the racing for the first time.

This was most notable in the performances of MICHAEL RICHMOND who placed second overall; NEIL JAMIESON, who after only one year of racing reached a final and two recharges; DANNY KAH, who at 13 years old also reached one final and two recharges and GAIL SANDERCOCK who was placed equal first in the Ladies events.

The Australian Nationals are traditionally the "selection trials" for the team to represent Australia at the I.S.U. World championships.

The team chosen is: HARRY SPRAGG of New South Wales, who placed first overall in the championships; MICHAEL RICHMOND of South Australia; GEORGE FABIAN of Victoria (aged only 18) and placed 3rd overall; ROD BATES of New South Wales with NEIL JAMIESON of South Australia as the reserve.

SHANE WARREN of Victoria had been selected for the team until the final of the 1000m., a

very close and exciting event, when he fell, breaking his ankle and shattering his chances of selection. This was not only a personal blow, but also to Australia, as SHANE was placed 4th overall in the 1980 I.S.U. Championships in Milan, Italy.

The only Lady selected to represent Australia this year is JUDY-ANNE BABER of New South Wales who performed well breaking the Australian Ladies 1000m record in 1.52.5

Overall the Australian National Championships proved to be very close and exciting, with some of the worlds' best skaters competing along with some very notable up-and-coming young skaters. ■

LIANE SHARP



• The final of the Mens' 500m. saw ex-I.S.U. Champion JIM LYNCH of N.S.W., first in 49.19; SHANE WARREN of Victoria and HARRY SPRAGG of N.S.W. second in 49.20 and KEN STEWART of Victoria in 50.6 (left to right: STEWART; WARREN; LYNCH; SPRAGG). photo by LIANE SHARP

• The next issue is planned to appear as soon as possible after the conclusion of the First World Short Track championships which will take place at Meudon-la-Forêt, France on April 4-5th, 1981. It is naturally planned to include a report of this championship along with the results, pictures etc. It is hoped also that we will be able to report on the Dutch Open Team championships, the results of the Aviemore event in Scotland and the event being staged at Nottingham, England.

SEND NEWS—PHOTOGRAPHS!

Send in your national championship results to the "Short Trackers" for publication. Give us names, times and clubs if possible. If you have black and white pictures send them too—identify who is in the photo please.

What the Short Track Committee is doing...

Since this article appeared in the first issue of the Short Trackers, the I.S.U. Short Track Committee of four have been rather busy.

The "Memorandum for Short Track Speed Skating", a paper that has been issued by the I.S.U. to all sports governing associations was completed before December 1st, 1980 and is a guideline to organizing I.S.U. World Short Track championships - it covers many things that cannot be printed in the Regulations.

On the suggestions from the Short Track delegates at the 1980-38th Ordinary Congress in Davos, Switzerland last June, three countries have answered a questionnaire with respect to possibly hosting and supplying a preliminary budget for a proposed "Short Track Referees Seminar".

Great Britain, Canada and Netherlands have all intimated by cable or letter that they want to host this seminar. The Short Track Committee under the Chairmanship of JOHN HURDIS will now gather up all these costs and add additional items, such as airfare and hotel accomodation for the proposed faculty; printing costs etc., and submit this along with a formal proposal to the I.S.U. in time for the Council to study this before the next Council meeting in Cannes, France.

BILL MARKLAND of the U.S.A. has been assigned a task by the Chairman to study what happens when points are awarded to all skaters who place 1, 2, 3 & 4 in Heats, Quarters Semi-Finals and Finals, and whether, if this points system had been used over the past three I.S.U. Championships whether it would have changed the outcome. This will be the subject of some of the discussions at informal meetings during the running of the 1981 World Short Track championships in Paris France this April.

Other informal meetings are planned while representatives from various countries are present.

Much correspondence and long-distance telephone calls have been handled this season and the Directory of Short Track Speed Skating has been revised and distributed. The committee members continue their search and announcements for speed skating supplies.

Bids are also advised for the World Short-Track championships for 1983 and 1984 now! Write to Beat Hasler of the I.S.U. and let him know YOU want the next championship. ■



• OLAF POULSEN of Norway, President of the International Skating Union listens to "Short Tracker" editor, JOHN HURDIS during a subway ride in Montreal a few years back.

photo by Brian Thususka



• MICHAEL RICHMOND and his protege DANNY KAH, both of South Australia were favourites with the crowd when competing in a major championship for the first time in their own home state. Left to right RICHMOND, KAH.

photo by Liane Sharp

SERTOMA OKTOBERFEST INTERNATIONAL

October 10-11, 1981

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