

REPORT FOR SEASON 2018/2019

We started the ice season in Celje on 23.7 with ISU camp and 1 club hour per a day. From September on two coaches were working on ice and off-ice full time, Teodora and Ksenija, Doroteja and Nina Pusnik were working with group D on ice. Alja Pahor was working with 2 skaters in Ljubljana. I was making the organization in the background and was controlling their job. Until December we had also ballet teacher working with the groups, from January on we started with the drama teacher instead to improve the presentation of our skaters.

During the season we had 1 week internal camp with Irina Derbina-Karotom and a few days of common trainings before Skate Celje with Jerana Ipakjan.

None the less, that so many people were involved into the work, unfortunately the **results generally were beyond the expectations**, especially on the international competitions (European Criterium). In my opinion the reason of it was not the unsatisfactory work of coaches, but some other unfortunate happenings and conditions such as injuries, illnesses and low attendance on some competitions. Beside those circumstances there are of course other general, not season specific reasons why the (club) results are not good enough. (This is not a topic of this report, therefor there are no more explanation about it.)

We still had some **great achievements**, especially with older skaters. Our skaters won 7 medals on the Nationals Championships in categories B, A, Juniors and Seniors. Three of our skaters (Ana Cmer, Luka Logar and Nina Polsak) were able to skate on **ISU Junior Grand Prix** events, two of them, Ana and Luka represented Slovenia on **Winter EYOF** in Sarajevo, Nina Polsak was the only Slovenian lady with points for qualification to the **World Junior Championships** and the Federation delegated Marusa Udrih to the **Winter University Games** in Russia.

Dasa Grm achieved her best results this season – 17th place on the European Championships and 18th place on the World Championships – and although she is working alone, still her results are also good for the Club's reputation.

Coaches work on the trainings were mainly satisfying, though there were some complain on both coaches from all the groups, like not watching equally all skaters in the groups (Teodora) and regularly being late from the trainings (Ksenija). The major issue was that the two full time coaches, Teodora and Ksenija had constant fights and disagreements which were more personal than professional, but still worsened the atmosphere and probably also the efficiency of the trainings. We tried to solve those personal issues several times during the season, but with not much success. **Still, generally we can say that coaches worked good on the ice, most of the kids showed improvement during the season on trainings and also in points on the competitions.**

COMPETITIONS

Generally we can say that **our skaters are not competing enough**. In my opinion all of our skaters should have more competitions per a season. Even comparing to other Slovenian clubs our skaters

are not competing enough. It is understandable that financing competitions is not easy for parents, but for improvement experiences from competitions are just as important as trainings. It would also make the Club stronger to be present on more competitions with bigger number of skaters.

It happened several times in last few seasons that some **skaters went to competitions without our coach**. The reason was usually that only one or a few skaters went to the competition and the Club's interest was that the coach stays in Celje for the trainings with the rest of the skaters. The reason is understandable and in most of the cases is correct, but we have to consider that going to competition without own coach is very difficult and demotivating to the skaters, especially if it is a younger skater. If we wish that our skaters were competing more, I think we should support and encourage them going to competitions and send a coach with them. The other problem here is that also coaches are not enough motivated to go to many competitions. During the competition season is very busy and it can happen that there are several weekends in a row without break. It can be very demanding to the coach, which can show later on her work on the ice (coaches are also human beings, they also need to rest ☺). If coaches could always have at least 1 day off after demanding competitions or a free weekend after a busy period it would be more expectable that they are going to more events.

Report by groups:

- **Group A (7+2+1):** Lara Gucek, Ana Cmer, Lidia Shakhova, Luka Logar, Taja Dovgan, Nika Ozek-Bela, Tija Ota Pusnik + Nina Polsak, Marusa Udrih on Fridays and Saturdays (+Dasa). By the end of the season Nina Polsak and Luka Logar finished their careers.

Several skaters from the group had to face to different serious and smaller **injuries** throughout the season, therefore the attendance of the group was inconstant. Head coach of the group was Teodora Postic, 2nd coach was Ksenija. Not only the attendance, but also participating on competitions was not satisfying of the group, especially considering that these are our "top skaters". Many of them (Cmer, Polsak, Gucek, Ozek-Bela) had **only 5 or less competitions**, when the expected number of competitions for these skaters are around 8-10. The reason of their low attendance of competitions were mainly injuries which were typical for the group through the season. We have to mention the two **exceptions** of the group, **Lidia Shakhova and Taja Dovgan** who were attending on many competitions bringing points for the club and making good for their career.

Another "issue" of the group is that many of them has been the part of the **National Team** (Polsak, Udrih, Cmer, Logar) and they attended on competitions representing Slovenia as well. Sometimes it has been difficult to combine the obligations as a member of the National Team and Drsalni Klub Celje in the same time (attending on competitions in interest of the club and in interest of the Federation). Not only for the skaters, but it is also a constant challenge for the coach to support these skaters (going with them to competitions where they represent Slovenia) and to cover the job in the Club as those competitions means missing days in Celje. This is a constant problem, not only in this season and **we must find a solution that is acceptable for the Club, skaters, coaches and Federation in a long term.**

(Though Logar and Polsak has quit, Shakhova and Dovgan became National Team members, so there will be still 4 skaters facing this issue.)

Two skaters from the group – **Marusa Udrih and Nina Polsak** – moved to **Ljubljana** for their University studies. Therefor from Monday to Thursday they were training there with Alja Pahor. These training meant high costs for the Club (coach + ice) and because of the characteristic of the system, Club does not benefit enough from senior skaters. Therefor by the end of the season Club decided not to finance their trainings anymore in Ljubljana. As Nina quits, Marusa stays the only one in this situation. It's a very difficult question, cause though the costs are definitely high, these skaters (only Marusa from now on) has been a member of the Club for a long time now and brought many good results to this Club when she was competing in younger categories. The discussion is still open regarding the solution for the next season for Marusa.

The other thing is that Alja Pahor announced that she will not be able to coach Marusa in the next season. We will ask Goga (Gordana Smrekar) to be Marusa's coach in Ljubljana, the discussion is in progress.

- **Group B (12):** Jasna Skelic, Jasmina Skelic, Marina Skelic, Luna Hrusovar, Ajda Hrusovar, Ema Vidovic-Hrustl, Ziva Bracun, Maja Logar, Grusa Cernosa, Hana Leban, Lana Skalicki, Ajda Preskar.

The biggest group by the number, but with the most **inconstant attendance**. That means that though on paper there are 12 skaters in this group, it's very seldom when they are all present (mainly the days before the competitions), the average number of skaters per a training is approximately 6-7. There are some skaters whose attendance is satisfying and usually the same skater are missing from the trainings. The other problem is, that many from this group **does not inform** coaches (or me) at all when they are going to miss the trainings, so usually we can't even predict the number of the skaters. It makes very difficult the coaches job to plan the trainings and also to the organization to regroup the skaters or to arrange substitution when it's needed in order to have quality training. We asked the parents many times to inform us if the kid will be missing, but till now there is no visible improvement in it. Some skaters showed improvement this season on trainings and on competitions (in points), but generally this groups is not bringing good results to the Club.

- **Group C (8):** Sara Vorsnik Puconja, Tiana Kaligaro, Tinea Kaligaro, Gaja Sepec, Tena Skalicki, Kasja Minic, Luna Rozman, Tinkara Poklic.

During the season there were 6 skaters in this group, 2 new skaters (Luna and Tinkara) joined the group in February when they passed the test and they were ready to start to compete. The attendance of the groups is generally very good and we have to mention that even if they are absent they always inform about it. Several skaters in this group have **big potential** in the future. All of them showed improvement on trainings as well as on competitions. The results are OK for now, but if they continue to improve we expect that they will bring better results.

- **Group D (8)**: Isidora Mitrovic, Lina Ivanjko, Nina Suntajs, Ksenija Savanovic, Alja Kosir, Sara Kosir, Iva Cmer, Maja Jakopic.

For most of the skaters in this group this was the first season in the club. They showed improvement, by the plan some of them will start to compete next season (2019/2020). Two skaters (Luna and Tinkara) were able to move to group C and start to compete in the season. There are 2 skaters in this group who will never compete, they are recreational skaters. (If there were competitions for this kind of skaters in Slovenia, like there are in many other countries they would be able to compete, but never in normal categories.)