

Auckland Waitakere Roller Sports Club – Artistic AGM Report

2020 has been a challenging year for AWRSC. Following a change of president, we started the year with a strategic planning meeting focussed on growth. Some of our established skaters were retiring and we wanted to address the shortfall between income & expenditure in case we didn't receive our funding. Then our annual funding application was declined and while we were in the process of collating information to re-apply and starting new initiatives, the Covid-19 lockdown hit, closing down both us & our funders.

Thankfully we didn't have large expenses during the lockdown and through our communication over lockdown, our learn to skate skater's eagerness to come back and new initiatives we had seen a 50% increase in numbers attending our community classes by the middle of August.

We did an internal review of our Learn to Skate programme requirements which has seen the progression of skaters through our levels and a new entry level precision team has recently started. With the arrival of an Argentinean inline coach we have branched into inline freestyle and started a jam skating class. Our adults' class is focussing on general skating skills and has gone from strength to strength.

Our club skaters have struggled with no competitions or National Championships this year, but motivation may have been difficult regardless, as the Trusts Arena secured the NBL Season & we were reduced to 2 courts & no music for our training sessions for 6 weeks.

Thankfully with West Auckland alcohol being controlled by two licencing trusts, we were able to secure funding to assist with floor hire expenses for a 3-month period, but 9 days after our hire being able to get back to normal – with music, floor times & size, Covid-19 hit Auckland again and we were put on lockdown for a further 2.5 weeks and an extended amount of time with restricted gatherings.

This has been a year like no other.

While there have been challenges, we still remain positive. Our club is supported by some fantastic administrators & coaches who are enthusiastic and working really hard at our grass roots level to ensure positive experience for our skaters. I would like to thank all of them all for the great work they are doing in this challenging time. These people are key factors in ensuring the long-term success of our club and enabling us to get back to a strong position after lockdown.

We know we are in a rebuilding phase, but are focussed on making sure that we have an environment that is encouraging and inviting for all, enabling them to choose us as a long-term sport option and are looking forward to what 2021 will bring.