

The 2023-24 water-skiing season has officially started. The season opener, The Ceres Classic, was hosted by the Versveld family at Vadersgawe Camp just outside Ceres on the 3-5 November 2023. The Ceres Classic is the first of the new fun events of the season, where the usual pressure of a tournament is removed. So, whether you are able to ski the full slalom course, negotiate the mini course, or just cross the wakes, you are welcome to participate. The more seasoned skiers get involved and offer help to the up-and-coming skiers. But more than just the skiing, it was opportunity for social camaraderie. Eighteen skiers took to the water, which included a skier who travelled down from Namibia to enjoy the spoils.

Friday was a practice day for those that could make it before the wind swept through. But the main event of the day was the bring and braai. Skiers, officials, parents and kids spent the evening around the fire overlooking a breathtaking sunset. Those that had accommodation in Ceres left after dinner, which left the campers to talk shop and make final preparations to Saturday's skiing.



An early rise on Saturday was well worth it as we were greeted with the breathtaking beauty of Ceres area. A quick cup of coffee before taking to the water for the first round of skiing. Although the first event of the season, it didn't stop the skiers from going out hard, with few personal bests being achieved.

Young Ben Versveld definitely had a plan as he negotiated the mini course. "A RED buoy on my strong cuts, and then regroup on my off-side cuts." It worked like a dream as he managed to round 2 of the red buoys on each pass. It won't be long before he will be cruising the full course.

But the highlight of the day belongs to Simon Fairbank, who scored 1 buoy on the 11 meter rope, which he backed up with 5 buoys on a 12 meter rope in round 2. Awesome skiing!!

Once again, the wind chopped up the water in the afternoon, which brought slalom to an end. But it did not stop the enthusiasm, as Dylan, Nikolai, Jonathan, Brett and Luke took to the water for a trick session. Borrowing Jonathan's ski, Luke attempted trick skiing for the first time, and boy, is he hooked.

Catering was provided by the Vadersgawe team, which meant skiers had time to relax and enjoy some RR after a great day of skiing.



If ever there was a perfect day for skiing, Sunday was it. Not a breath of wind. Glassy water conditions and warm temperatures. What more could one ask for?

The skiers took full advantage, with some really impressive scores being achieved. Sienna vd Hofstadt weaved her way through the mini course at 46 kph, while younger sister, Gulia, cleared the mini course for the first time. Nina Versveld improved on her Saturdays score to set a new personal best of 2 buoy at 52 kph on an 18.25m rope. But star of the day had to be Luke Versveld, who bettered his personal best by a whopping 5 buoys, ending a score of 1 buoy at 52 kph on a 14.25m line. What an achievement!



As the weekend drew to a close the exuberance was still high, and all looked forward to the next event, which is scheduled to take place in December. To the whole Versveld Team, and please extend our thanks to all concerned, thank you for arranging an event which will not be soon forgotten.



***Ski Ya Soon!***