

USMS SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS & LIAISON REPORTS

CONTROLLER – Cathy Pennington

The office of the Controller is at its best when no one notices it. Payments are made timely, reports are sent out, and there is sufficient order and detail so that research on past transactions can be done quickly. I'm not saying I've achieved this but that's where I'm headed.

In the past few months I've almost mastered the technology of this job (lots of e-mail and an innate inability to use fax machines), reports on the financial activity of the first six months of 2000 have gone out and the 1999 books have been closed and will soon be sent to our Internal Auditor. And most importantly for the smooth running of USMS, the bills continue to be paid.

My next challenges will be preparation of the budget, keeping up with all of you at the convention, and getting the 1999 tax return out (yes, it is on extension).

As I noted earlier, this is a function that is at its best when it is quietly efficient. I plan to continue to improve on its level of efficiency with some back office type items. I look forward to meeting lots of you at the convention; I'll be the one carrying the laptop.

FINA REPRESENTATIVE – June Krauser

FROM MUNICH TO CHRISTCHURCH

The expectation that Munich 2000 would be one of the largest FINA World Masters Swimming Championships of all time proved all too true! More than 7,400 participants from around the world converged on Munich to participate in the VIII FINA World Masters Swimming Championships for swimming, divers and open water swimmers aged 25 & over, synchronized swimmers aged 20 & over and water polo players older than 30.

The competitions took place in the Olympia Schwimmhalle, site of the 1972 Olympics and Dantebad, site of the 1972 Olympics in water polo on July 27 to August 7, 2000. Both facilities were in great shape. The local organizing committee, under the leadership of Marion Hillenbrand and Klaus Huber worked extremely hard to ensure that the event was a success – which it was. The hosting club, Manner-Schwimm-Verein Muchen, provided an extensive variety of social events for entertainment in Munich – the capital of Bavaria.

In all there were 429 individual swimming events plus 14 relay events, 75 diving events, 28 synchronized swimming events and 65 water polo teams played 6 tournaments. 591 competitors were entered in the open water swimming in 22 events at the Ruder Regatta Strecke with the water temperature at 18 C. In the swimming events, 47 world records were broken.

Onward to Christchurch 2002, New Zealand for the IX FINA World Masters Swimming Championships to take place in the Queen Elizabeth II pool complex March 21 to April 3, 2002. Christchurch, the city of sport awaits us.

SWIMMING

There were 6,184 swimmers entered in the swimming events from over 45 countries. The beautiful Olympic venue was in excellent condition. No other venue has so many lockers! And, speaking of lockers, the locker room was co-ed. Many interesting sights were seen in the locker room! And how many entered the wrong shower room?

Security was very tight and no one was allowed on the pool deck. Consequently, there was a lot of walking in this spacious facility. In order to get to the marshalling (calling) area, the swimmer had to walk around the pool on the outside of the building in order to be greeted by the good-looking and always smiling Andrea Prayer. Prayer, a member of LEN hailed from Florence, Italy. He checked all of the swimmers in for their heats. He did a terrific job and needless to say, the women were always on time!

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The training pool was a very busy place. You could warm up at any time during the meet. If you arrived early, you could warm up in the competition pool. No diving was allowed and each lane circled in the opposite direction. Diving was allowed in the sprint lanes. The spacious diving well was never available to the swimmers as it was always occupied by either divers or synchronized swimmers.

All of the officials wore aqua colored T-shirts and white pants. Other workers wore red T-shirts. The security volunteers wore black T-shirts. The FINA committee was supplied with royal blue shirts. The registration cards were swiped like a credit card and your picture appeared on the screen for identification.

There were 16,250 possible splashes. After registering, if you were in an event of 200 m or longer, you had to confirm your entry. However, the decision was made not to follow that procedure for the first day for the 200 IM. But even after confirmation, the heats were seeded in age groups and so confirmation didn't really help save time. The meet started about 15 min late the first day and finished late in the evening. On the second day the last heat of the Women's 400 m Free went off the block at 10:40 PM. The third day ran late at night but after that it was a little better. At the end of the meet, Thomas Gopel, the computer manager, informed me that confirmed seeding was only used for days 2 and 3 because of the swimmers complaints that they had confirmed but were not seeded. The 800 frees were seeded by time regardless of age group.

The computer program being used was developed 10 years ago. In Europe, they do not count the competitors but count the splashes. Many people wanted to know how many swimmers entered the meet and after 7 days of asking, we finally got the answer. Due to the amount of inquiries, Thomas is going to add that function to the program. There was no way the computer could tell us how many swimmers from a country. Also, when you check the medal count you will find a number for miscellaneous. The reason was so many clubs had long names and there wasn't room for the country code. All due to the fact that they didn't assign codes for clubs but spelled out the club names after each swimmer. The meet management was asked numerous times for a time line but refused to publish it. However, it was on the wall in the computer room and the meet ran approximately 2 hours longer than the time line each day.

It was a very LONG 7 days of swimming but with the efficiency of the German officials most swimmers enjoyed the experience!

2ND FINA WORLD MASTERS FORUM

The 2nd FINA World Masters Forum was held at 1 PM on July 28, 2000 in the Pressroom at the Olympic Park in Munich, Germany. The following 24 countries submitted delegate representatives in a timely manner: AUS, BEL, BLR, BRA, CMR, CRC, CZE, FRA, GBR, GER, HKG, ISR, JAP, KAZ, MAD, NOR, NZL, PER, PUR, SUI, SWE, URU and USA. Five other countries were present: CGO, ISL, NED, POL and UKR.

The head table was introduced along with the FINA Masters Committee members. The FINA Executive was present with President, Mustapha Larfaoui, Honorary Secretary, Gunnar Werner and Honorary Treasurer, Dr. Julio Maglione. Bureau Member Nory Kruchten, Liaison to the FINA Masters Committee and FINA Office director, Cornel Marculescu were also present.

Mr. Lafaoui welcomed everyone and mentioned that the Forum would be conducted in the English language. Bruce Rogers, FINA Masters Committee secretary conducted the Forum according to the Agenda.

Some of the more interesting comments included:

1. Venue – Have more Championships in the Southern Hemisphere.

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2. Program – Place the 800 m Freestyle in the middle not the day before the Open Water.
3. QT – Even though some still object to QT, they admit that they are necessary at times.
4. Ways to limit entries:
 - a. Limit swimmers to four events
 - b. Limit number of entrants
 - c. Proof of entry times
5. Other – Swim the fastest heats at the end of the event for all age groups. Another idea is to swim the fastest 3 heats of the age groups 25-49, the fastest 2 heats for age groups 50-69, and the fastest heat for those 70 and over.

FINA MASTERS COMMITTEE MEETING

The FINA Masters Committee meeting took place on July 27, 2000 at 9 AM in the Board Room of the Forum Hotel in Munich, Germany. Roll call was taken and a welcome and introduction of Members and guests. The minutes of the meeting held on June 11-12, 1999 were approved.

In discussing the final preparations for the 2nd FINA Masters Forum to be held on July 28, 2000 at 1 PM at the Olympic Park Press Center it was noted that no member of the committee might be a delegate.

A discussion of the final preparations for the VIII FINA World Masters Swimming Championships was held. Walt brought a disk with the present World Records so that they could be placed in the computer program and be flagged, as they were broken. Walt also presented a written report on the FINA Top Ten tabulation showing that 20 countries contributed to this tabulation. He processed 430 World Record applications. The FINA Top Ten tabulation should now be on the FINA web site. A FINA Masters Diving Questionnaire will be passed out to the divers.

Assignments of Masters Committee members was made by Victor:

- Diving – Tarja and Lin
- Swimming – Lyall, Ivan, Frank, Walt and Zvi
- Open Water – Frank, Zvi and Lyall
- Synchro – Rose and June
- Water Polo – Farid
- Medical- Dan
- Facilities – Bruce

June asked Cornel if there would be another Special Edition of the FINA Masters News for the Championships and the answer was yes.

The meet directors arrived and we were informed that the Organizing Committee members for each discipline were waiting for us at the pool. The meeting was adjourned and we went to the pool to check out the facilities.

INTERNATIONAL LIAISON – Nancy Ridout

It was my pleasure to represent USMS at the 7th Pan Pacific Championships in Perth, Australia in October 1999. Meetings and a dinner were held for the participating countries' delegates. Included in these discussions were common problems and possible solutions, the future of the Pan Pacific organization, the next Pan Pacific Championships (which members would like to see in the US), and general observations of the Masters swimming movement. Over 700 swimmers had the opportunity to compete in the world class facility at Challenge Stadium - three 50m pools, a 25m diving pool, and a large water polo pool. The eight-day meet was run very well leaving some time to do more than swim!

It was also my pleasure to attend the FINA Congress at the VIII World Masters Swimming Championships in Munich. Delegates from all over the world attended this Congress to discuss the future format and

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structure of FINA World Championships. The FINA Masters Technical Committee was in attendance, as was the President of FINA. Over 7,000 swimmers, divers, synchronized swimmers, water polo teams, and open water swimmers attended this event. The over 6,000 swimmers kept the pool churning from 7am until 11pm many days. Our Bavarian hosts were gracious and coped as well as can be expected. It is extremely satisfying and exciting to see the growth of our sport and the enthusiasm it has engendered, even though the number of participants did produce many problems. A Pacific Rim meeting was also held and it is hoped that USMS will provide a venue for the Pan Pacifics in 2001 - either 25m or 50m course.

ISHOF LIAISON – June Krauser

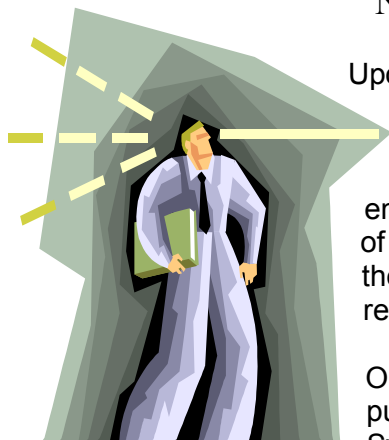
On Friday May 12, 2000 I attended the International Swimming Hall of Fame International Congress Meeting. Everything was going fine until Ron O'Brien's Selection Committee Report. When no Masters Swimmer was on the list for 2001, I made a motion to add 1 more member to the 11 others for Masters. There was quite a debate. A letter had been sent to the 129 Selectors questioning the idea that Masters were included as Inductees in the ISHOF. There were 70 responses from the Selectors – 5 supported Masters and 65 had other ideas. 20 were not in favor of selecting Masters for induction, 35 thought Masters should be inducted in a separate ceremony, and 11 indicated in favor but not on an annual basis. My motion was seconded by Tim Garton and passed with 20 yes, 5 no and 1 abstention. Immediately Ron O'Brien resigned as Selection Committee Chairman. He was then asked if there was a Masters for induction next year and he said "yes, a diver". Her name is Patty Fulton, USA.

The Honoree ceremonies were held in the auditorium at Pine Crest School. It was my pleasure to place the red sash on our own inductee – Barbara Dunbar. For this young lady it all began as an age group swimmer at the age of 12. As part of a military family, she moved from place to place, home to home, resulting in many coaches who gave her a foundation for what was to come later in Masers Swimming. And, for some of her swimming years, she was self-coached, a condition that was to plant the seed for success in her mind as she began to excel in Masters swimming later in life.

91 FINA Masters World Records since 1976 authenticate her International prominence in the sport. She has set 156 US Masters National records and won 18 Long Distance Pool National Championships and 3 Open Water National Championships. She has set records in six age groups beginning with the 25-29 group.

First as a Bio Medical Researcher in biology and immunology and now as a full time finance office manager in her husbands firm, Barbara continues to make time for Masters and continues to set records. Barbara is the epitome of what Masters swimmers achieve and of what Masters swimming represents.

NATIONAL SPONSOR LIAISON – Mel Goldstein



Upon my appointment as the USMS Sponsor Liaison the USMS Executive Committee gave me several objectives that they envisioned for this position.

Before I embarked on these objectives I felt there were several projects which I had been working as interim liaison that needed completion before I embarked on these new projects. Foremost of importance I wanted to renew all of the agreements with our present sponsors. All of the sponsors have renewed their agreements except one and I would hope by convention all will have renewed.

One of the objectives for the National Sponsor Liaison was to develop a portable public relations booth to broaden USMS's exposure to various groups such as Swim Coaches, YMCA's, Park and Recreation Directors for use at their conventions, conferences, and exhibitions. We have been able to accomplish this and hopefully all of you

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have seen the new display unit. This unit is portable (can be assembled in 15 minutes) and will be available to be shipped throughout the US as our needs require. The first set up of this display unit will be at the ASCA World Coaches Clinic in Cincinnati in September. Through out the year we hope to attend at least two other tradeshow, i.e. National Parks & Recreation, and the Senior Olympic Games.

For the past 3 years one of our National Sponsors had an exclusive right on the use of our logo on swim related merchandise. This agreement expired and we no longer offer our USMS logo exclusively. In order to provide a greater portion of our membership access to USMS logo merchandise we have contacted several vendors geographically located throughout the US who are interested in becoming a USMS Logo Licensee. Presently we have agreements with three USMS Logo Licensee's, Competitive Aquatic Supply, Circle City Swimwear, and Kast A Way Swimwear.

Another objective of the USMS Executive Committee was to develop a Needs Assessment for USMS. I have been in contact with the USMS Marketing, Coaches, and Fitness Committees and by conventions end we should have a survey for distribution.

Another responsibility of the National Sponsor Liaison is to work with the USMS National Sponsor and the USMS Championship meet host, and I pleased to report that all of our National Sponsors at our USMS National Championships this year had favorable as well as profitable experiences.

I look forward to the challenge this position provides and hope the marketing of USMS will enhance the growth of USMS as well as open the doors to more facilities.

SWIM MAGAZINE EDITOR - Bill Volckening

My first year as USMS Editor has been a challenging, productive and immensely rewarding experience. During the year we have established a solid working relationship between the USMS Editor, the USMS Executive Committee and SWIM Magazine Editor Phil Whitten. Together, we have orchestrated a seamless transition and generated some wonderful content for SWIM Magazine.

During the year we made several improvements to our procedures and to the magazine. We also located some areas for improvement. The mid-year report contains a detailed report of most of the year's activities in these areas.

We are currently preparing the finalists for the USMS Newsletter of the Year (NOY) Award. Once again, we are fortunate to have ten outstanding finalists and an excellent panel of individuals who will evaluate these finalists. We look forward to recognizing all of the finalists and the NOY winner at the convention in October.

Personally, I would also like to recognize three individuals who have worked diligently behind the scenes to help us deliver a high quality magazine. This year, Kathy Casey, Julie Paque, Meg Smath have done an extraordinary job proofreading manuscripts for the USMS Pages of SWIM Magazine. Kathy, Julie and Meg have been a joy to work with, and they all made my life a lot easier during the transition period.

Thank-you!

USAS REPRESENTATIVE – Nancy Ridout

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I attended several USAS meetings at the convention and have replied to many correspondences throughout the year. Much of the correspondence and discussion has been concerned with bidding for future World Championships (not Masters), the 2000 convention, and the Olympics. USMS is included in all correspondence even if the subject matter does not pertain to Masters swimming and our input is always welcomed.

USMS LIAISON TO USA SWIMMING – Ted Haartz

In addition to the items in the mid year report, USA Swimming held it's May board meeting at which time the USOC formation of a Disabled NGB with a 6 million dollar budget, 3 million Federal & 3 million USOC, was discussed. The NGB would hire an executive director and staff similar to the other 29 NGBs. This NGB will enter into contracts with the USOC and other NGBs to provide the services the DNGB will need. This provides arm's length transactions and seemingly defuses the problem of the NGBs right to accept or decline the paralympic franchises.

Body suits were the focus of much conversation.

USA Swimming's auditor recommended audits for all the LSCs.

The Board voted to replace to entire computer system at USA Swimming Headquarters using their 1999 insurance rebate to pay for it.

There were also 2 emergency telephonic Board of Directors called; the first on June 22 and the second on July 20 to consider and then reconsider the ban on full body suits at the Olympic Trials. The suits were originally banned as the suppliers of these suits could give no guarantees that there would be 1300 suits available for all of the trial's competitors and then reversed when inventory and production figures from the suit makers seemed to guarantee adequate quantities.

The next meeting of the USA Swimming board will be held in Orlando, FL on October 10, 2000.

US OLYMPIC COMMITTEE LIAISON – Hill Carrow

Even though I recently left my post at the US Olympic Committee to return to North Carolina and head up a new sports marketing and management firm (Capitol Sports Management in Raleigh), I have been asked by President Nancy Ridout to continue as USMS' USOC Liaison, which I have agreed to do.

As such, I will continue to track and help move along USMS' Membership Application with the USOC as well as assist where appropriate with USMS swim camps at the Training Center. I will also work on developing new initiatives with the US Olympic Committee.

I will join some of the USOC sponsors and staff for about a week in Sydney where I will, of course, pull hardest for the US swimmers.

I look forward to seeing everyone at Convention.

US SENIOR GAMES LIAISON – Scott Rabalais

This past year, USMS President Nancy Ridout created the position of USMS Liaison to the National Senior Games, a position to which I was appointed. I was able to have two face-to-face meetings with the officials of the NSG, along with frequent e-mails and phone conversations.

In the initial meeting, it was stated by the NSG officials that an important goal of the NSG in the coming years involved the education of Seniors on healthy lifestyles. Regarding their athletic competitions, they

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sincerely desire to improve the quality of the Games, both local and national, and to cooperate with USMS to improve administration and officiating at all Senior events.

As liaison, I have provided sample one- and two-day event formats that may be used by the State Games. USMS has provided 2000 Rule Books for each state organization and has furnished officials lists to be used by state coordinators. I will be serving as Meet Director of the 2001 Games in Baton Rouge, which also serves as the national headquarters of the NSG. The dates of the meet are July 19 through July 25. Age groups 50-64 will swim July 19-21, and the 65 and over age groups will swim July 23-25. July 22 is an NSG down day for practice only. The meet will be in two identical 25-yard courses, with an adjacent 25 yards diving well/warm-up pool. The facility, the LSU Natatorium, will be air conditioned, and locker rooms have been added onto the pool. The NSG is making every attempt to seed the meet properly for the best competitive environment (no NT allowed). Also, USMS will set up a booth at the NSG Games in Baton Rouge.

If you wish to be on my NSG e-mail list and received up-to-the-minute reports on news from your liaison, please let me know. No subscription fee will be charged!

In the future, the NSG would like to have USMS more involved in running both its National and local meets. Other ideas being considered are regional NSG meets and an annual swim meet that would be scheduled with respect to USMS championship meets.

YMCA LIAISON – Stu Marvin

This was another growing year for the YMCA of the USA and their approach towards Masters Swimming. The 2000 edition of their National Masters Meet was held May 18-21 in Augusta, GA and it marked the second time the meet was run without their "central committee" approach. It was hosted by The Family Y in Augusta, administered by representatives of the Aiken/Augusta Swim League, and held at the Augusta Aquatic Complex. All three entities did a good job in putting on the meet and should be commended for their efforts. However, some shortcomings were exposed with regard to what was expected of the Host/Administrator/Facility what was expected of the YMCA of the USA. As a result, several members of the YMCA Swimming & Diving Committee and yours truly found ourselves taking a very proactive role on the pool deck to ensure a successful meet.

The meet was very small with only 284 swimmers but rewarded everyone with short timelines and a very relaxed atmosphere. The small turnout was mainly attributed to the late date of the meet and the fact that the USMS Short Course Nationals were held only a few weeks prior in Indianapolis. Over the four days of competition, 47 individual and 2 relay records were set in what many described as a "fast pool". The overall champion was the team from Anne Arundel, MD who also happened to be the largest team with 51 swimmers entered.

Following the meet numerous issues were openly discussed, including to how to maintain better lines of communication with meet hosts and more effective ways of distributing meet information. Plans for next year call for members of the YMCA Competitive Swimming & Diving Committee and the USMS/YMCA Liaison to make additional site visits and increase phone/email communication in the months leading up to the meet. Next year's YMCA National Masters Swim Meet will take place April 26-29, 2001 in Sarasota, FL at a brand new pool owned and operated by the Sarasota YMCA. The Sarasota YMCA Sharks Swim Team is a very strong organization with a long history of running successful swim meets. They are excited to showcase their new pool and early returns are indicating a strong entry.

The YMCA of the USA is very interested in continuing the long tradition of their National Masters Meet. I invite any comments from USMS members who wish to contribute to their thoughts.