

11th FINA Masters World Championships 2006 - Open Forum
Saturday, September 13, 2003
Called to order at 10:30 by Jim Miller

Jim Miller, MD, USMS President introduced the presenters: Phil Whitten, USMS International Committee Chair, Dale Neuburger, USAS President and FINA Vice Chair, Michael Moore, Pacific LMSC Chairman, Tom Boak, USMS Finance Chair and Mel Goldstein, Meet director for the 1992 FINA Masters World Championships.

Phil Whitten began by stating that at the recent International Committee meeting, the members of this committee voted 15 – 1 in favor of USMS moving forward with submitting a bid for this event. He feels confident that this event will be successful for both USMS and the Pacific LMSC. This is an opportunity for us to showcase our sport, specifically Masters, through the various media, which will generate an increase in numbers all across the country. Stanford is an excellent facility with a tremendous volunteer base.

Jim Miller gave us some history on the subject, which began in New Zealand when he was told FINA would favorably view a bid for the XI Masters World Championships. He reviewed the timelines and pointed out the highlights that are listed in the 11th FINA Masters World Championships FAQ document that was handed out. At this time, he is not aware of any other organizations bidding for this meet. If this event is voted in favor, a bid will be developed and submitted along with at \$25,000 deposit, by December 31st, 2003. If the bid is not accepted, USMS will receive the deposit back. This opportunity was presented to the International Committee and the House of Delegates last year. A task force was created which included representatives from US Diving, US Synchro, and US Water Polo. The task force considered several venues. Stanford was presented as the venue to FINA when Jim was in Barcelona. If voted forward, a bid will be submitted by Dec 31 and a \$25,000 FINA fee is due. If FINA does not accept the bid, the \$25,000 is refunded. If there are no other bidders, our bid will be accepted by mid-January. If there are other bidders they will be discussed at the First FINA Bureau meeting in March 2004 in Italy, and awarded in Greece during the Olympic Games. If the House of Delegates not accept this, the US will not bid for 2006.

Dale Neuburger, also with the Indiana Sports Corporation, worked closely with Mel Goldstein with the 1992 meet and stated that the event has changed significantly. There is great enthusiasm from the other NGBs, which make up USAS – US Diving, US Synchronized Swimming and US Water Polo. Each of these NGBs offers additional support and leadership and will partner with USMS on the technical side of this event to ensure their events will be well run. There is a large increase in the number of Masters participants but the fact is that the event is more difficult to run. He has great faith in USMS and realizes that running this meet is a lot of work and a financial risk.

He discussed cash management and stated that monies need to be available up front and that much is spent before any is received. If the event is calendar year 2006, revenue would start to come in by the end of 2005. He suggested the possibility of obtaining sponsors for a 2-year commitment and this could assist with easing the up front financial burden.

He realizes there are some concerns with the large expense line items for the travel, lodging and per-diem for the FINA Officials. He suggested that we concentrate on the “rewards” which can be significant and look beyond. This is a tremendous opportunity to showcase our sport.

- A question was asked why is the deposit figure has increased to \$25,000 (from 15,000 for 2004 and \$10,000 for 2002). Dale was not aware of this and did not have an answer.
- Whatever amount is stated in the FINA Contract for Officials is final and will not go higher.
- A statement was made that we are a volunteer organization and many of the people running this event will be volunteers. FINA is asking us to pay the FINA Officials way and this is not how we operate.
- A question was asked what happens to the \$25,000 deposit and the response was that it does not come back to us in any form.

Michael Moore stated that the Pacific LMSC fully supports this meet and feels that Stanford is a great facility. He does not currently have the people in place to run this event but has spoken with a number of people and organizations within the LMSC and feels confident that he will have a good group in place to run a successful meet. Pacific is the largest LMSC and the 2nd largest LSC. The Pacific LSC is enthusiastic and they will be able to provide the large number (100+) officials needed. Michael has had numerous meetings with Tom Boak concerning the budget and he genuinely feels that Pacific can run this meet and would like the support of USMS.

Mel Goldstein asked us to think about what impact an event like this would have to the local community, the Pacific LMSC and the entire country. The Indiana LMSC has seen tremendous growth (from 250 members to the current 800) and feels much of this was due to the exposure received to Masters swimming by hosting of the Pan Pacs in 1989 and the Worlds in 1992.

Tom Boak of the Finance Committee reported that he has worked with a number of people in creating the current projected budget (in our convention packets). He announced the recently received numbers (indicating the participants and fees charged from previous worlds) support the \$50.00 surcharge that we are proposing. These numbers are conservative. Worst-case scenario at this point, we break-even financially, best case, we generate a lot of money. Tom feels comfortable with the numbers he presented, and Pacific plans to donate funds to local community charities.

He noted the preliminary expenditures, with USMS advancing all fees, pre-meet registrations, and that the other NGBs might assist with this funding.

- 1) As revenue comes in, the monies would be repaid out to USMS first
- 2) \$7.00 per participant to the Sports, and \$3.00 performance bonus
- 3) Residual percentage splits: 75% to Pacific, 10% to USMS, 5% to the other NGBs

Mike Laux argued the percentage ratio, pointing out that USMS is bearing the financial risk with little return, and that Pacific is receiving a larger percentage of the profit. Other points and concerns that were brought up included: the bid package with regard to the FINA executives receiving free transportation and accommodations, airline and hotel sponsorship, various projected budgets, legal issues, details of the organizing committee, cost of the facility, fear of risking financial failure, possible contingencies, tourism and terrorism, sufficient insurance coverage, open water location, and on and on and on.....