

MASTERS SWIMMING ONTARIO – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2004 – OTTAWA, Ontario

Present:	Pat Davis	Absent:	Lesley Mason-Ward
	Charlie Lane		Barrie Malloch
	Brian Croker		Jacqueline Odlum
	Chris Cupidio		
	Norm McKee		
	Geoff Camp		
	Sally O'Brien		
	Bev Tucker		
	James Erskine		
	Olenka McKee		
	Ralph Chown		
	Nancy Black		
	Fred Crowe		
	Stewart Cawthray		
	Todd Yourth		
	Brian Roberson		
	Richard Arsenault		
	Angela Davis		
	Danielle Deguire		
	Jennifer Beal		
	Jenn Veall		
	Shirley Dacey		
	Stephen Bancroft		
	Ken Hatch		
	Carol Mothersill		
	Vincent Richer		
	Pat Niblett		
	Christopher Smith		
	Wes Musial		
	Jake Nesovic		
	G.G. Koch		
	Claus Koch		

**Note:**

Before the meeting was officially called to order, Charlie Lane, on behalf of all the participants, thanked Duane Jones, coach Technosport, for providing a phenomenal camp, as part of the 2004 MSO AGM. Charlie noted that both the pool session and lecture were extremely educational and that masters swimmers who attended benefited greatly from the opportunity to attend.

1. The meeting was called to order by Geoff Camp at 1:00 p.m. As a first order of business, he thanked Pat Davis for organizing a very successful meeting.

Geoff then confirmed with Brian Croker that we had the required quorum for the meeting which is a minimum of 6 clubs and 20 votes. Brian read out the clubs represented and the number of votes allowed. A quorum was easily achieved.

<u>Club</u>	<u>Votes</u>
1000 Islands	1
Arnprior	1
Aurora	4
Beach Barracuda	1
Brockville Independent	1
Burlington	4
Deep River	2
Downtown Swim Club	4
Etobicoke	4
Milton	4
Nepean	4
Oasis Aces	2
Ottawa Pinecrest	1
Sault Ste. Marie	3
Swimming West Y	2
Technosport	4
Trillium Y Masters	<u>3</u>
Total Votes	45

Geoff had all board members introduce themselves.

2. **Acceptance of Agenda**

Motion to Accept: Moved by Brian Roberson, Nepean  
 Seconded by Fred Crowe, Brockville Independent

There were no amendments.  
 There were no notices of motion.

Agenda unanimously accepted.

3. **Acceptance of 2003 Annual General Meeting Minutes**

Motion to Accept: Moved by Ralph Chown, Arnprior  
 Seconded by Olenka McKee, 1000 Islands – Brockville

Acceptance of AGM Minutes passed unanimously.

4. **Business Arising from the 2003 AGM Minutes**

There was no business arising as all action items have been dealt with.

## 5. **Annual Reports**

Before the reports were tabled, Geoff Camp suggested a motion be proposed to receive the reports.

Moved by Angela Davis, OASIS

Seconded by Danielle Deguire, Ottawa Pinecrest

Motion unanimously passed.

### **Website Report – Barrie Malloch**

Barrie was absent today but on her behalf, James Erskine noted that the Website is in good shape. There is a new Website Committee, of which James is the new chair, working on enhancing and upgrading the Website to make it a true database with the ability to have on-line registration, on line registration for meets and hopefully at some point in the future, payment on line.

It was suggested that at the next Board meeting, discussion will take place on how to go ahead with the implementation of this enhancement/upgrade. A letter will go out to all the clubs identifying the plan and requesting representatives from each club to help get this up and running. It is hoped to encourage MSO members to take an increased role in MSO.

James noted that so far there have been 3 bids received but they aren't really uniform enough to get a good idea of the cost. The next step will be to make sure tenders go out that will result in bids that compare well with each other.

### **Recognition Award Report – Bev Tucker**

Bev reported that there were 14 participants this year, up from 11 last year. While Bev is encouraged by the increased interest, she feels there is still work to be done to make sure all swimmers are made aware of this award. She asked for feedback and noted she is always open for suggestions. Comments from the floor indicated that it was great but perhaps a little complex. Some teams 'modify' it slightly and also spend time encouraging/monitoring team members to encourage them to participate.

Among suggestions made, it was thought that perhaps if the Recognition Award information was included with swim meet packages, it perhaps would be read sometime during the meet, and encourage swimmers to participate.

### **Registrar's Report – Brian Croker**

Brian noted that the sheet included with the MSO Board package was an unaudited version. The audited version was available at today's meeting. Brian noted that the numbers have exceeded 3000 - 3110 for the 2003-2004 year. There are \_\_\_\_ clubs, and \_\_\_\_ unattached swimmers. The unattached numbers are up a little because there was a group of swimmers who didn't wish to be affiliated with any club.

Discussion took place on retention of MSO swimmers. 63% were returning members, 10% were returning after one or more years of not swimming and 27% represented new swimmers.

It was suggested that it would be helpful to have stats broken down by age to see if, for example, there is a certain age group (or more) where drop off is significant. At this point in time Brian noted that this is a tedious job as information is not currently on a database that would allow the information to be broken down. This will certainly be easier with a new database and cooperation from clubs.

2003-2004 was the first year 18 year olds could join MSO. There were 6 swimmers who had achieved their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday and joined. It is anticipated this will increase every year.

Chris Smith, president of MSC, noted that it is difficult nationally to know exactly how many masters swimmers there are in Canada because each province seems to tally them differently. Quite possibly, once we have a new database up and running, other provinces will be interested in using the same method of reporting number of swimmers. It is hoped that this may be a way to recoup some start-up costs being born by MSO.

#### **Meeting Coordinator Report – Charlie Lane**

Charlie noted information is contained in his report on the 2004 Provincials held in Etobicoke.

He noted that the 2005 Provincials will be held in Sault Ste. Marie April 1-3, 2005 hosted by the Polar Bear Masters and the local age group club, SMAC.

The 2005 Nationals will be held in Ontario for the first time in six years. They will be in Toronto at the Etobicoke Olympium, May 20 – 23, <sup>2005</sup>. Information will be going out to all swimmers shortly in the WAVES magazine and details will be posted on the Website soon.

Charlie noted that it is time for clubs to consider bids for the 2006 Ontario Provincials. There are no ‘minimum criteria’ necessary to host the Provincials so all clubs are encouraged to consider making an application.

Nancy Black, coach of Aurora, unofficially announced that her club is considering the 2008 Provincials!!

Discussion took place on the consideration of having swim meets after the Nationals are over, as some clubs continue to train past the end of May. It was suggested that there seems to be little interest in competing in the pool past that date. When held, attendance seems to be very low. Even in formerly well attended open water meets, participation has been declining in the past couple of years, and some have been cancelled altogether.

The only time when this doesn’t seem to happen is when there is a major international competition coming up, such as the Worlds in Italy this year. Next year, there is the

World Masters Games in Edmonton in July 2005, and there may be interest to compete after the Nationals.

Charlie noted that there is always help available from MSO to any club that may be interested in hosting their very first meet. There are some slow times during the year, for example November and early January, when a club is welcome to host a meet. It was suggested these slow times may not reflect the unwillingness of a swimmer to swim, as much as the work involved in organizing a meet at these times of the year.

Brian Croker noted that we accept requests to sanction meets on a first come, first served basis. Clubs should not be discouraged from hosting a meet just because the date they may be considering has historically had a meet hosted by another club.

### **Financial Reports - Chris Cupidio**

#### **2003-2004**

Chris noted that there are some differences in the numbers between the report originally sent out with the MSO AGM package and the report handed out today. This is because the year end is August 31<sup>st</sup>, and the packages were sent out before that date. MSO profits were up this year, mostly because of the increase of \$. per swimmer in registration fees and a decrease in expenses over the previous year.

It was noted that the increased fee seems to have been accepted well. However the timing of the notification of the fee increase was problematic for many clubs. Fees had already been paid by club members and it was difficult to then go and ask for more money.

There was a question from the floor asking if the MSO affiliation was unchanged and the answer was yes.

It was moved by Brian Croker and seconded by Angela Davis to accept the 2003-2004 report as tabled.

Unanimously passed

#### **2004-2005 Budget**

The budget as presented did not include any money to cover the Website development. It is expected that a substantial amount of our profit will go towards this expense.

During discussion it was noted that there are no reasons to expect increased expenditures over the next year. While affiliation fees with Swim Ontario, and others could conceivably rise, there is no indication of this at the present time. Chris Smith noted that Masters Swimming Canada is undergoing a major restructuring and again, it's possible to have a fee increase but again, there is no indication of this happening soon.

There would be ample notification by all parties concerns of any fee increase so that implementation would go smoothly.

One of the larger costs included in a previous budget was the printing of Handbooks and this will definitely not be an expense this year. As well, it is anticipated that since much of the information contained therein is static, the next book will not be bound, but rather would have pages that can be removed and replaced, thus avoiding the necessity to reprint an entire book in the future.

Pat Niblett wondered if there was any consideration being given to revising and reprinting the Rules book. Again there is no plan to do this at this time, but it will be reviewed over the next couple of years. This would most likely be something the new Board to consider for the 2005-2006 fiscal year. FINA is due to have a book out in 2006 – may have a bearing on MSO's book.

Motion to approve the budget as presented – moved by Chris Smith, and seconded by Claus Koch.

Unanimously Passed.

### **New Motion**

A motion was made that the Board authorize an unbudgeted expense of no more than \$10,000. for the fiscal year 2004-2005 by the Website Committee for improvements to the Website.

Moved by Geoff Camp

Seconded by Stewart Cawthray, Burlington

In the ensuing discussion, Geoff noted that people should consider that this amount represents a very large percentage of the overall budget (12%). Most likely the cost may be split over two years. Questions were also raised as to how MSO might recoup some of the start up and maintenance costs by making the system available to other provincial clubs. This is definitely something that is being considered, and hopefully would be of interest to MSC as well, but MSO needs to go ahead and develop the system.

It was also noted that perhaps MSO would qualify for some funding, including a Trillium grant. Danielle Deguire, of Ottawa Pinecrest Club, is more than happy to work with the Board in investigating whether this is something worth pursuing. It was pointed out that MSO membership numbers are included in Swim Ontario's numbers. This has ramifications as far as any MSO application for a Trillium grant.

Since it is hoped that this database may well be something others provinces would be interested in purchasing, we may have a good case.

The question arose as to whether the lawsuit currently before the courts might have costs which would impact the \$10,000. being available for us for the Website improvement. Claus Koch replied that the money for this lawsuit is in place, should it be needed.

### **Masters Swimming Canada Report – Norm McKee**

Norm noted that there has been increased activity at MSC since he submitted his report. Meetings in the first week of November could be exciting and produce some innovative things.

There is a strategic Planning Committee, a Structure Committee, Fitness Committee and Coaching Committee with great people offering their time and expertise, including Katy Osborne and Nigel Camp.

Chris Smith noted that this year, the Canadian Nationals include an awards banquet, an AGM with a BBQ to follow. It is hoped and anticipated that with such great social events, there will be a lot of member participation and as well, the AGM will be well attended.

### **Defibrillator Report – Sally O'Brien**

As a result of the tragic death of Dr. Hui Lee, coach and teammate of the Sault Ste. Marie Polar Bear Masters at the 2004 Ontario Provincial Championships, a Defibrillator Committee was struck with Sally as the chair. Sally has sent out questionnaires to 86 Ontario teams as to the presence of or the availability of a defibrillator in or near the pool areas. To date approximately 26 teams have responded.

It would appear that the use and/or availability of defibrillators is increasing and it seems reasonable to have this as a requirement for sanctioning swim meets.

There was a suggestion that perhaps MSO invest in defibrillators that could 'travel' between meets. As well as being difficult to deliver, track and maintain this equipment, it was also noted that most facilities insist on owning the units and being responsible for training their staff to use them. From MSO's point of view, it is good to keep the liability with the facility not the club. Norm McKee suggested that since the Life Saving Society trains people on defibrillators, MSO send a letter requesting more personnel be trained.

Geoff Camp also noted that unfortunately, some pool staff is requesting a raise in their salary if the expectation is that they would be trained on the use of the defibrillators.

Sally requested that any clubs represented at today's meeting whose club was not on the list, to please go back to their facility and find out the status of defibrillators and report back to her.

## **6. Notices of Motion**

There was a motion as follows:

Be it resolved that:

MSO recognizes the importance of having a strong national organization which can support all its members individually, at the club level, and provincially where needed and requested. Part of this strength derives from functions that Masters Swimming Canada (MSC) has the right and responsibility to exercise. Currently the national championship for Masters Swimming is overseen by MSC, but without formal rights. As part of the strengthening of MSC, MSO requests that MSC approach Swimming Natation Canada (SNC) to obtain formally the right of sanction for the national championship for Masters. This will give MSC direct responsibility to oversee all aspects of this competition, which is truly national in scope.

Moved by Chris Smith

Seconded by Charlie Lane

Discussion took place on this motion, the main purpose of which is to put in a formal request for formal right of sanction for the national championships 2005. Once MSC has right of sanction for the nationals, it is hoped MSC will eventually sanction all provincial meets in the future. However, provinces may choose to reject this proposal.

Motion Unanimously passed.

## **7. New Business**

Claus Koch asked if the quorum for had been met. Brian noted that it had. Geoff noted that in theory there is often a quorum if all Board Members are present at a meeting. It was felt that having the AGM outside of the Toronto area had been very successful. It was also thought to be very beneficial to have new faces in attendance. Last year there were 52 votes available from clubs represented at the AGM in Toronto. This year we had 42 votes. This was considered very positive.

## **8. Termination of Outgoing Directors**

The first thought was that the we might want to change the wording!!

The terms of the following members have expired:

Charlie Lane; Pat Davis; Chris Cupidio; Lesley Mason-Ward. Don Burton has resigned from the board after 1 year, and Michael Stroud resigned earlier. There are three returning Board members, James Erskine, Bev Tucker, and Sally O'Brian.

There are 5 two-year positions and 1 one-year position open (total of 6).

Geoff thanked the outgoing board members for their work, time and commitment.

9. Election of Directors

Nominations had been received from Duane Jones, Technosport, Ottawa; Lesley Mason-Ward, SWYM, Ottawa and Olenka McKee, 1000 Islands, Brockville.

Duane Jones had since declined his nomination.

There were three nominations from the floor:

Richard Arsenault, Nepean

Stewart Cawthray, Burlington

Angela Davis, OASIS, Ottawa.

All were accepted and acclaimed. The one remaining position can be filled at any time throughout the year without an election.

10. Appointment of Auditors

Motion - to appoint Swartz Levitsky Feldman as auditors for 2004-2005.

Moved by: Norm McKee

Seconded by: Bev Tucker

Passed

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

/pjd