

Masters Swimming Ontario
Board of Directors Meeting
February 3, 2002
Claus Koch residence

Present: Ralph Chown, Chair
Darlene Brown, Treasurer, MSC Rep
Charlie Lane, Meet Coordinator
Claus Koch, SO Liaison
Sue Weir, Director
Shona MacLachlan, Director

Absent with Regrets: Lesley Mason-Ward
Mary Brinklow, Vice Chair

Guests: Chris Smith, OSOA Representative
Geoff Camp, MSC President
Michael Stroud
Barrie Malloch, Web Administrator
Brian Croker, Registrar

The meeting was called to order at 1:40 PM by Ralph Chown, President.

Ralph welcomed the newest members to the Board, Sue Weir and Shona MacLachlan, as well as guests Chris Smith, Geoff Camp and Michael Stroud.

MOTION: To accept the agenda for the meeting.
Moved by Charlie Lane, seconded by Shona MacLachlan. CARRIED

Corrections and acceptance of the minutes from meeting of December 16, 2001.
It was felt that the discussions about the Kenora swim meet should be added.

MOTION: To accept the minutes as corrected.
Moved by Darlene Brown, seconded by Sue Weir. CARRIED

It was noted that the minutes from November 4, 2001 had not yet been distributed.

Elections and Appointments

Ralph noted that Laura Bent would be withdrawing from the Board for personal reasons and asked if anyone in attendance was willing to fill the vacancy. No one was forthcoming.

The following is the makeup of the new Board:

President	Ralph Chown
Vice President	Mary Brinklow
Secretary	Claus Koch
Treasurer	interim position-Darlene Brown
Meet Coordinator	Charlie Lane
MSC Rep	Darlene Brown
SO Liaison	Claus Koch
Marketing	vacant
Education/Fitness	Shona MacLachlan
Membership	Sue Weir
Communication	Claus Koch
Strategic Planning	Ralph Chown
Constitution	Mary Brinklow
Nominations	Ralph Chown/Darlene Brown
OSOA Liaison	Chris Smith
Competitions	Pat Niblett
Rules	Pat Niblett
Statistician/Top Ten	Lesley Mason-Ward
Web Administrator	Barrie Malloch
Registrar	Bran Croker

Planning Committee

Ralph Chown reported that the editorial had been drafted but was waiting for after the discussions with Swim Ontario. Ralph then notified the committees that Michael Stroud will be sending each Committee chair questions and that answers were expected.

At this point in the meeting, Lea Breschneider, Executive Director of Swim Ontario, Bill Thomas, President of Swim Ontario and Vice President of Swimming/Natation Canada and Rick Hannah, Vice President of Swim Ontario and Director of the Central Region were welcomed to the meeting. Introductions were done around the table for all. Ralph suggested that we were at this meeting to understand how we had come to this situation regarding Insurance and Affiliation and how to proceed from here.

Ralph asked Geoff Camp to give the general relationship history of SO and MSO. Masters Swimming Ontario had begun as a committee of Swim Ontario, but by the late 1980's had become much more demanding of Swim Ontario's time. In 1988 MSO incorporated, becoming self administrative and self financing. We were covered under the same insurance policy through Swim Ontario.

Masters shared in the Wintario funding for National and International Championships. In the last years of the Wintario funding, it was offset by the insurance costs, such that approximately \$2500 was given to Masters and it was returned as payment for the insurance policy.

In 1996 and 1997, the first Masters claims against the insurance policy came from a Toronto Club and a Hamilton Club respectively. Nothing was forthcoming from the Toronto claim and the Hamilton claim excluded the club and coach, but did name Swim Ontario and Masters Swimming Ontario. This claim is still outstanding.

Masters Swimming Ontario after some research regarding the insurance coverage found that technically, Masters would not be covered due to a number of deficiencies. We requested clarification from the agent and received no assistance at all. At this point, MSO clearly had no choice but to look elsewhere for an insurance company that would be able to cover our various needs. It seems that it was only the agent that needed changing, not the carrier. We now have the same insurance company SPORTSCAN that we had before, only the agent and broker are different. And we have all the coverage that we felt we needed for our swimmers, coaches and clubs. The directors of each club are covered under the new policy as well.

Since 1993, MSO has paid a specific amount towards insurance and a voluntary “donation” to Swim Ontario” that totalled \$2.80 per swimmer. Starting in 1997, MSO specifically requested the “donation” be directed to the Officials. Although Swim Ontario grants \$6,500. annually to the Officials, it has never been acknowledged that any of these monies comes directly from MSO contributions.

The Officials also receive \$2000.00 per year from Swim Ontario for expenses at the AGM of Swim Ontario.

Through a Swim Ontario Board meeting in September and a Swim Ontario Management Committee meeting in November and finally a Board/Management meeting in January, MSO was presented with a letter that requested a \$3000.00 affiliation fee. Lea maintains the letter was formal (no one received a copy on letterhead) while Ralph maintains that it was typed DRAFT. Lea explained that the fee was approximately an average of money MSO had volunteered over a number of years.

The question of what MSO receives from SO was then asked. Lea explained that the blanket sanction from SO gives MSO the authority to sanction meets.

The fees paid by age group clubs to SO vary by size of the club and the affiliation of the swimmer. Clubs can pay anywhere from \$300 to \$1000 per year. Competitive swimmers pay \$83.00 of which SNC receives \$50.00, non-competitive swimmers pay \$13.00 of which SNC receives \$5.00, and pre-competitive swimmers pay \$5.00 to SO of which none goes to SNC. For these fees swimmers receive registration services, monthly

mailings, swim-a-thon receipts, training camps meet information packages for Ontario Championships and time standards.

And while none of these services are required by MSO, Lea maintained that the “real” benefit is the fact that MSO is allowed to “be”.

The other intangible benefits mentioned were access to trained officials, MSO representation at the SO Board, access to an organization for the betterment of the sport and access to the Swim Ontario conference.

Bill then addressed the insurance issue and lamented the fact that, since Swim Ontario had changed insurance carriers, there were now two separate insurance carriers under contract and hoped that the two organizations could work together to attain economies of scale. Bill stated that he would take on that task.

Bill also noted that the sanctioning authority was a very real and important benefit to MSO. The Officials are another obvious benefit /necessity to MSO and that they are supported by, trained by and financed by SO. Bill also re-iterated that MSO had Board representation at SO and a vote at the SO AGM.

Bill then wondered if there were any other services MSO wanted from Swim Ontario.

Chris Smith agreed that sanctioning authority was a very important part of the relationship between MSO and SO, but noted that the relationship should be a partnership. Chris proposed a \$2.00 fee in total (not per swimmer). This fee would acknowledge the granting of sanctioning authority but would allow MSO and SO to proceed as partners. The imposition of an affiliation fee per swimmer changes the relationship to one of boss/employee and that was not the MSO perception.

A short discussion ensued regarding the government funding process. It became clear that trying to determine the value of MSO to SO for funding would be nearly impossible.

Geoff asked if there were any benefits that MSO brought to SO. Bill responded that the concept of providing swimming structure from the early years to seniors was good. The concept of a healthy population and inclusiveness were also mentioned.

Rick confirmed that the MSO representation occurs at the Board level, while the MSO representative is required to sit on one of the 3 SO committees (as are all Board members). Bill confirmed that insurance and affiliation are administrative matters, not policy matters, and therefore are likely to be handled through the Executive Director of Swim Ontario (Lea).

Ralph thanked Lea, Bill and Rick for their input in the discussions and appreciated their candidness. They thanked us for allowing them to attend and wished us well in our future endeavours.

Geoff suggested that it would be appropriate to send a letter from the President of MSO to the President of SO stating that the meeting had been positive and that MSO understands that our status remains unchanged from prior years. We continued our meeting after a short break.

Communications : Claus had the newly printed handbooks at his place and after a few minutes of discussion it was confirmed that MSO would mail the handbooks and other inserts to each swimmer. An electronic copy of the handbook would be forwarded to Barrie for the website. Barrie will supply a PDF version of the Rules on the website. It was commented that the minutes from the last meeting were not on the website.

Competition: Charlie stated that all meets for the year are now sanctioned. The Guelph and Ottawa Y meets had been cancelled due to low entries. The Kenora meet issues brought up at the last meeting were mostly ironed out with emails and phone conversations by Ralph and Charlie. Geoff mentioned Harry Class had offered to establish an award (the Harry Class Award) that would be presented to the person that lowered the 50 M freestyle by the greatest amount of time at the Provincial Championships. The prize was to be \$50.00. The Board felt uncomfortable with a cash prize and a named trophy. Geoff will respond appropriately to Harry, with thanks.

At this point, Ralph asked Geoff Camp and Brian Croker to leave the room. Michael stated that the motion presented at the AGM was not the motion that he had written and asked that his name be withdrawn from the motion. Darlene said that her name should be assigned to the motion. Ballots were passed out for voting. Sue Weir, as Chair of the Membership Committee, tallied the votes and report that Geoff and Brian had been awarded the SWIMS Award. Brian and Geoff were recalled to the room and congratulated.

Chris Smith explained a little about the SO AGM. It was thought that a table on the Friday night (April 26, 2002) would be appropriate, but that inclusion in the carousel style meeting was not. Darlene offered to provide new brochures.

MOTION: MSO will participate at the SO AGM with a table top display on Friday April 26, 2002. Moved by Claus Koch, seconded by Ralph Chown. CARRIED

Constitution: Mary Brinklow was absent. Darlene stated that the proposed MSO equipment policy has been reviewed by a lawyer and was acceptable for our use. It will be distributed for completion by Lesley Mason-Ward, Brian Croker and Barrie Malloch as software is part of our equipment.

Education: Shona MacLachlan had no report. Shona accepted responsibility for the Participation Award as presented by Ann Gunther at the AGM. Ann has offered to process the entries and Shona will contact Ann for further information. An email from Eric Kramer relating to Clinics was passed to Shona. Previous clinics hosted under the MSO banner included Ottawa and Etobicoke. Shona will contact Grant Sinclair and Duane Jones for further info.

Statistician/Records: Lesley Mason-Ward was in recovery from hip surgery. No report was available.

Finance: Darlene presented the financial statements and explained that the last few deposits had not been analyzed so Miscellaneous Revenue included both swimmer and club registrations. The handbook had been completely expensed at \$7034. for 4500 copies. MSO has \$33,000. in the bank and owes MSC \$23,000. Darlene suggests an interim payment of \$15,000. be made to MSC.

MOTION: That MSO make an instalment payment of \$15,000. to MSC.

Moved by Darlene Brown, seconded by Ralph Chown. CARRIED

The old computer is collecting dust at Brian Croker's home. It was suggested that Brian donate it to a local elementary school. The Board asked that Brian report how he had disposed of the machine. Darlene will assist in erasing MSO data from the hard drive.

Darlene then presented a draft for Claimable Expense Guidelines. The Board and interested parties are requested to comment and Darlene will present a final version at the next meeting.

Registrar: Brian Croker reported the numbers as of January 31, 2002.

Clubs 87

Unattached swimmers 31

Club swimmers 2361

We have lost 4 clubs, not sure on 2 other clubs and gained 2 new clubs- Tillsonburg and Chatham-Blenheim.

With expected registrations prior to Provincials and Nationals, it was felt that registrations for the year will be comparable with last year.

Web Administrator: Barrie stated that the Top Ten was now available and asked if there were any questions about content. The only comment was that it was impossible to print off a specific age group. The original version did allow that. Barrie would ask Don if this was possible to do.

Charlie mentioned that some swimmers were now expecting to register online, now that the meet organizers were providing PDF versions. It was noted that the World Championships, Technosport and IGLA 2001 allowed online registrations. Shona noted that payment was a consideration in such a process. It was felt that the provision of online registration was left to the Club running the meet. Charlie would communicate this interest to future Meet Organizers.

Barrie then talked about the domain name and that it was not really easy to remember. It is not easy for anyone not knowing it to find anything about Masters Swimming. Barrie has had discussions with a company that provides a service that would maintain all information intact while have a more user friendly domain name. The Board urged Barrie to pursue these discussions.

Ralph wondered about usage and the idea of a home page counter was discussed. It was left to Barrie to discuss with the service provider.

MOTION: For MSO to pursue our own URL (domain name).

Moved by Ralph Chown, seconded by Shona MacLachlan. CARRIED

Barrie also expressed interest in purchasing a new computer. She preferred the idea of buying her own computer, but asked MSO to purchase upgraded memory and disc and backup unit. She also requested web editing software, probably Dreamweaver.

MOTION: MSO to purchased upgrade memory and disc and backup unit for Web Administrators use.

Moved by Darlene Brown, seconded by Shona MacLachlan. CARRIED

MOTION: MSO to purchase web editing software for the Web Administrators use.

Moved by Shona MacLachlan, seconded by Darlene Brown. CARRIED

Masters Swimming Canada : Darlene reported she had received correspondence from Michael Stroud identifying a privacy error that had been committed by MSO in response to the Nationals Committee request for swimmers registration information. A list had been sent with: MSO numbers, sex, date of birth, last name, first name and club. Discussion centered round the interpretation of the MSC rule and MSO privacy issues as well as concern for the swimmers from Ontario eligibility to swim if the list had not been sent. In the end the Board directed Darlene to request the list back from the Saskatchewan Meet Organizers.

Rules: Ralph reported in the absence of Pat Niblett that they had talked about removing the Rules from the Handbook and re-issuing them in a loose leaf format similar to the MSC Handbook allowing a reprint of the rules, but not reprinting the full handbook.

MOTION: MSO Rules Committee to pursue a printing of the Rules in the loose leaf booklet format.

Moved by Ralph Chown, seconded by Claus Koch. CARRIED

Other Business: Brian explained he had received an email from Beth Whittall pertaining to discussions with Ed Evely about registering Newfoundland swimmers prior to National Championships. MSC does not provide National registration. It is carried out at the Provincial level. Geoff explained that in the past MSO had offered to provide registration services to any province that wished them at a cost of \$1.00 per swimmer. The job would be incremental work for the Ontario Registrar and therefore the revenue would be payable to the Ontario Registrar. As yet, no official request has come from Newfoundland for these services.

NEXT MEETING: Sunday March 10th at Darlene Brown's apt party room

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn moved by Darlene Brown at 6:20 PM CARRIED