



MASTERS SWIMMING ONTARIO

Masters Swimming Ontario

Board of Directors Meeting

Date: Saturday, February 01, 2003

Location: 141 Adelaide Street West, Toronto

Present :

Chris Cupidio
Patricia Davis
Claus Koch
Charlie Lane
Shona MacLachlan
Lesley Mason-Ward
Michael Stroud
Sue Weir

Committees and Staff :

Brian Croker
Julie MacLellan
Barrie Malloch

Representatives :

Christopher Smith

Guests :

Geoff Camp

Absent with Regrets :

Mary Brinklow

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 pm with Michael Stroud, President, presiding as chair.

01. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda was presented and re-arranged to accommodate late arrivals; in order 01-03; 16-06; 04; 05; 17-22 and approval was requested.

Motion: To approve the agenda as presented and re-arranged
Moved by Charlie Lane; Seconded by Lesley Mason-Ward.
Carried

02. Approval of the Minutes from January 04, 2003

The minutes from the last meeting were reviewed and amended as follows :

06. Brainstorming Session – add clinics, town councils, parents of age groupers and triathletes

Motion: To accept the minutes of January 04, 2003 as presented and amended
Moved by Chris Cupidio; Seconded by Sue Weir.
Carried

03. Business Arising from the Minutes of January 04, 2003

Michael will follow up with Heather Davies regarding the AGM minutes. Michael has not yet met with Brian to send the swimmer database to Lesley. Michael responded to the North York Gators regarding the issue of registering a 19 year old swimmer.

16. MSC Board Conference Call January 14 – Christopher

Executive elections were held : Sue Schmidt (SK) President; Charles Nauss (NS) Vice President; Christopher Smith (ON) Treasurer. Mark Sandilands (AB) remains as Secretary.

There was discussion about the formation of a Canadian Forces Swim Team (see 17. below).

An ad-hoc “Structure Committee” was created to address concerns of ineffectiveness at the National level (see 05. below)

15. OSOA Board Meeting January 12 – Christopher

Christopher was pleased to report a growing awareness and understanding of MSO and our concerns at the OSOA Board level, although there is still a general apathy to our situation.

OSOA confirmed its intention to bid for the 2005 Canadian Masters Swimming Championship to be hosted at the Etobicoke Olympium. It is possible that the Ontario Championship will be run simultaneously, but it was noted that it is possible and perhaps preferable to host a separate Ontario Championship.

14. Swim Ontario Board Meeting January 11 – Claus

A report was circulated prior to the meeting – see attachment below.

Claus added comments about the Swim Ontario AGM and explained that it includes numerous facets : meetings for presidents / coaches / parents; an awards banquet and multiple round robin discussion groups. Claus said that MSO was represented at the Swim Ontario AGM last year with a booth, poster board display and pamphlets. This offers us primarily an opportunity to make ourselves known and to a lesser extent provides a recruitment opportunity. In light of priorities yet to be decided, our participation will be discussed at the next meeting.

13. Meet Coordinator – Charlie

A report was circulated prior to the meeting – see attachment below.

Charlie circulated two proposed meet packages – Etobicoke Heart Swim and Kenora. There was considerable discussion about Kenora with the general agreement that we should be supportive in every way possible, but that there are rules that cannot be ignored. The concerns centred primarily on the 24 and under age group and how this could possibly combine Masters Swimmers with age groupers and high schoolers without separate sanction from each jurisdiction. Charlie has already asked for additional information and clarification and will followup with a second request.

Charlie noted the growing need for computer expertise at our meets, citing particularly the Etobicoke January meet where all deck entries were entered prior to the start of the meet and a single heat sheet posted on the wall for all to see; while the Alderwood meet distributed heat sheets that did not include the deck entries.

Charlie then asked for clarification of the record application process. As stated in the Handbook, record applications may be completed by Meet Management or by the swimmer; shall be endorsed by a qualified on-deck official and submitted to the MSO Recordkeeper

12. Registrar – Brian

Currently there are 81 clubs registered
New clubs – Collingwood Y
New clubs coming – Deep River and Lindsay
Lost clubs – Gloucester and Whitby Dolphins – due to pool time

There are an additional dozen clubs that have been contacted about renewing but which have not yet responded.

2312 club swimmers (including 8 mailing members and 6 OSG)
42 unattached swimmers (and growing)
2354 total swimmers

Brian further noted that he was running out of letterhead. The Board asked him to get quotes for letterhead and envelopes.

Brian also noted that he received a cheque for \$660 without backup

A discussion about ensuring that all swimmers are registered prior to competing evolved and it was agreed that Charlie would send an email to those clubs who are known to register swimmers after competing and remind them of sanctioning and insurance requirements. There is no mechanism for withdrawing sanction, but it was agreed that sanction could be refused in the future for frequent violations.

11. Statistician – Lesley

A report was circulated prior to the meeting – see attachment below.

Lesley made mention of concerns she had regarding the software and when Michael meets with Ralph Chown and Don Clinton next weekend, she would like these addressed. The following concerns were discussed :

Could the software requirement to enter individual swimmer names on relays be eliminated? After discussion, it was decided that Charlie would contact Meet Managers and state that relay results would not be processed unless the names of the swimmers were included.

There was discussion about swimmers who switch clubs for specific meets and the impact on Records and Top Ten. It was agreed that Don would be asked to keep track of the club with which the swimmer was registered when the swim occurred and if that was too difficult, then to eliminate the club code from Top Ten

10. Website – Barrie

A report was circulated prior to the meeting – see attachment below.

Barrie asked for confirmation to setup the extra email addresses available with our new account.

It was noted that the pdf version of the meet schedule has not been updated since November 2002 and discussion followed about how to update it regularly and how to distribute it efficiently. Michael will followup.

After a little discussion it was agreed that Barrie would change the home page back to the style of an earlier version, showing all of the links and removing the drop down menus

09. Editorial – Michael

A report was circulated prior to the meeting – see attachment below. No discussion followed.

08. Ontario Championship – Christopher Smith

The Meet Information Packages have been distributed. Christopher noted that there may be a conflict with the hotels due to another event occurring on the same weekend. Those who are planning to go should make reservations promptly.

07. Insurance – Claus Koch

It was noted that Swim Ontario is looking into insurance for the entire country. Claus is investigating the wording that seems to indicate that officials, coaches and other volunteers must be registered to be covered.

06. Participation Recognition – Shona

A report was circulated prior to the meeting – see attachment below

Shona reported on this award as developed by Ann Gunther. There were 11 applications submitted. There was discussion about the purpose of the award and what the participants were going to receive as recognition – suggestions included a certificate and an MSO pin. The draw prize could be a year's membership. Geoff volunteered to contact Ann and complete the work.

No decision was reached about continuing the programme in its current format with the suggestion that once priorities are firmed up for the year it would be easier to decide.

04. Where do we go from here - An exploration of the needs of MSO, priorities for the upcoming year and beyond, implementation of a structure to accomplish those goals

Each swimmer at the meeting was given the opportunity to sketch out a vision for MSO

Chris : noted the great ideas from the brainstorming session at the last meeting; re-iterated the non-competitive side of our sport; noted that kids swim, but not the parents

Claus : spoke of tackling the structure of MSO, streamlining the committees and creating task forces

Brian : thought we should aim for the USMS structure; related from past experience that the non-competitive swimmer really just wants a place to swim; confirmed a non-affiliated relationship with Swim Ontario

Charlie : re-iterated the belief that there might not be anything we can do for the non-competitive swimmer; wondered about directing us to more community-based groups and perhaps a more political direction; implementing or increasing our involvement with Heart and Stroke Foundation; investigating corporate involvement, particularly those companies in the health industry; wondered why there were only competitive swimmers at the table

Pat : re-iterated our motto : Fun, Fitness and Friendship; wondered if the fourth F should be “focus”; we should be providing benefit to the non-competitive swimmer and could that be assistance in setting goals

Geoff : presented a pictorial representation after noting Masters is an age related phrase only; starting with fitness (encompassing mental, physical and social well being) splitting down the left hand side into fun (social) and down the right hand side into training (with needs for pools and coaches); the next level represented by competition (with needs for rules and officials); and taken one further level to records and top ten (with needs for statistics and communications); proposed mission : “to promote adult health through a lifetime of fitness opportunities in swimming”

Barrie : stated that seminars, health related clinics and training camps are things that we could do for the non-competitive swimmer

Christopher : re-iterated his support for the Romanow Report on health care; urged us to change the image of Masters Swimming; noted that competitors administer the organization, but that it has to be much more; we can easily differentiate ourselves from “elite” organizations such as Swim Ontario

Sue : noted that one benefit for all swimmers would be clinics and stroke improvement; and that swimming is part of a life-long health regimen

Lesley : echoed Geoff’s pictorial; thought that one means promoting the social side of our sport would be a video; noted that we must take advantage of technical evolutions to become more effective and efficient; suggested closer ties to other organizations of all sorts

Julie : echoed the health aspects

Shona : envisioned a pyramid with elite swimmers at the top, but suggested that our goals should be focused on broadening the base; attempt to involve non-competitive swimmers in the administration of the clubs; connect with other sports to promote fitness; noted the benefits of coaching

Michael : envisioned a circle with the swimmer (neither competitive nor non-competitive) at the centre with those that support the swimmer in the next circle – clubs (social and facilities); coaches (education); mso support (membership; recognition; clinics, communication) encircled once again by functions that support the inner circle (sanction, rules, regional reps); separate focus for external organizations and marketing initiatives; held together by planning and finance

Geoff noted that, in light of all of our new ideas, we must not lose sight of the day-to-day running of our organization.

It was agreed that we would review the ideas put forth today and over a period of a couple of weeks determine our priorities.

05. External Organizations - Why do we need to change our relationships with Swim Ontario and Masters Swimming Canada and how do we go about it

Christopher voiced the need to initiate change in the swimming world in Canada. He would like MSO to present a motion to the Members of Swim Ontario at the Swim Ontario AGM in May and lobby to have it approved. There was considerable discussion about the need for change at MSC and the requirement for more focus and action from the national body. A better understanding of the inequities and inefficiencies at MSC resulted. It is clear that MSC in its current structure is not servicing the needs of Masters Swimmers in Canada.

Swim Ontario will simply be asked to support MSO's endeavours in refocusing and restructuring MSC which will in turn support Masters Swimming (and consequently all swimming) in Canada.

MSC has created an ad-hoc "Structure Committee" to analyze different possible structures. The current members of that committee are Christopher, Glenn Davis (MB) - chair of the MSC Planning Committee, Michael - chair of the MSC Rules Committee and Ed Evely (NF) - SNC Liaison. Since "form follows function" the more immediate task for MSC is to determine its direction. In the meantime, the MSC Structure Committee will explore alternative models, while perhaps leading the discussion about the vision of MSC.

Motion : MSO to present a motion to the Members of Swim Ontario at the Swim Ontario AGM to support the evolution of Masters Swimming in Canada
Moved by : Lesley Mason-Ward; Seconded by Charlie Lane
Carried Unanimously

17. Canadian Forces Swim Team

Prior to the MSC Confernece Call of January 14, 2003 there had been discussion about members of the Canadian Forces across the country joining a single club for a single competition each year in an effort to promote a stronger sense of team spirit. At the conference call, Christopher, on behalf of MSO, offered to register a club and suggested a method of registering out of province swimmers. A far ranging discussion ensued about the perception of "super relay teams", the impact on records, the mechanism for registering, the authenticity of members, promoting participation, de-registering the club at a specific point in time. It was finally noted that anyone could register a club in Ontario with a payment of \$45.00. It was further noted that there are no residency requirements for registration in Ontario if the \$20.00 fee is paid, although there are residency restrictions for holding Records and appearing in Top Ten. The discussion culminated in the following motion :

Motion : A Canadian Forces Swim Team (CFST) may be registered in Ontario accompanied by payment of \$45.00. Swimmers already registered with MSO may switch affiliation to CFST by notifying the MSO Registrar. Ontario resident swimmers not already registered with MSO may register with CFST by paying \$20.00. Out of province swimmers already registered with a Provincial Masters Organization may concurrently register with CFST for a fee of \$1.00 with the understanding that such memberships shall expire on May 20, 2003. Membership in CFST shall be restricted to those satisfying the eligibility requirements of the World Military Games
Moved by : Charlie Lane; Seconded by : Shona MacLachlan
Carried Unanimously

18. Finances – Chris

Chris reported that he had received all information and assets from Darlene Brown and that an inventory of medals, ribbons and pins had been completed.

19. Email

The distribution of reports prior to the meeting allowed for some thinking and discussion before the meeting. It was suggested that one week prior to the meeting was not sufficient. It was noted that not everyone received all of the emails. Some people thought that deleting the original message when replying was appropriate, while others thought that retaining the original message allowed for better continuity. It was suggested that the subject could be changed to indicate the order of responses. It was finally suggested that there must be resources available on email etiquette and Geoff was volunteered to investigate.

20. Other Business

Michael read an email response to the questionnaire that essentially said that the swimmer was unaware of MSO and didn't know that she had paid \$20. It is apparent that some clubs charge a yearly fee and don't tell the swimmers that \$20 of that fee is for MSO.

21. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Sunday, March 16, 2003 at 141 Adelaide Street West, Toronto at 1:00 pm.

22. Adjournment

Motion : to adjourn the meeting
Moved by : Patricia Davis
Meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm

Minutes prepared by : Julie MacLellan

Attachments

Swim Ontario Liaison Report – Jan 26, 2003

Submitted by Claus Koch

Summary of SO Issues of Interest to MSO:

A Swim Ontario Board meeting was held on January 11 as a conference call. This format was well received for improving attendance and reducing costs. It worked reasonably well and will likely be repeated. Topics of interest to MSO:

1. SNC is increasing their membership fees to Swim Ontario by \$2/swimmer. SO will pass this cost on to swimmers and is reviewing if they should add any additional increases at the same time. The finance committee will review.
2. AGM will be in Sudbury beginning of May. SO has invited MSO to participate in any way we please. Last year I manned an information booth for about 4 hours. **Plans open for discussion.**

3. SO strategic Plan is proceeding gradually. Presentation planned at AGM. CWK providing integral support

Meet Coordinator's Report - for MSO Board meeting - 1 Feb 03

By Charlie Lane

Meet Sanctioning

There are currently 3 scheduled meets awaiting sanction....

- Kenora on Feb 15
- Etobicoke on Mar 9
- Milton on Mar 23

Etobicoke and Milton are in final stages of prep for sanctioning and may be ready for the meeting. Kenora continues to be a problem again this year. I received their meet package on 14Jan03 requesting sanction for 15Feb03. This was first contact with no application process beforehand. On 17Jan03 I sent out the application form and there were a few problems in wording that I asked to be changed. The key item was the same one as last year, namely the use of "24 and under" as their youngest age group. (They like to include their home club senior age-groupers in the masters meet but they do so without seeking dual sanctioning nor acknowledging the dual nature of the meet in their package.) I asked that this be changed and brought into line with MSO requirements for a sanctioned Masters meet.

I have not yet received further word from Kenora.

Last year Pres Ralph intervened to "massage" the bruised egos after my suggestions were rebuffed by the head coach. After a few phone calls we granted sanction after receiving assurances that swimmer registrations would be properly checked for Masters membership. Of course nobody was there to report on what really happened. I never did receive a meet report from them, and Lesley finally received results some 9-10 months later.

Barring an unlikely sudden recantation I suggest that we not grant sanction to Kenora this time. When attending swimmers from Manitoba realize their times will not be recognized, then maybe Kenora will fall into line in future, at least on paper. But that is an optimistic hope, since the club management seems to be unconcerned with any dictates from "Toronto people".

Otherwise the meets seem to be going well this season with 75-100 or so entries at all meets except the typically smaller numbers at the monthly TECH meets.

Statistician's Report

January 2003

Submitted by Lesley Mason-Ward

2002 was another banner year.

Our database now contains records of 8635 personal swims from 44 meets held in 2002. More meet managers are now reporting their results using Don's software or Hy-Tek (or both) so that typing is no longer the drudge – just editing and computer filing.

NOW

Of course, we are still in learning mode, and, in any case, no system is perfect, so (as I pointed out to some afficianados) so there are glitches.

For this reason, (and probably for others too) Past President Ralph as agreed to be T-Rex (Temporary Resolver of Extraordinary issues) one of which is the preweb complications concerning results of Masters Swim Meets.

Specifically this involves addressing a number of currently complicating factors:

- a) How can we insure that the Statistician actually receives results from every meet in which MSO members participate?
- b) How can we get these in a useable format?
- c) How can they be verified for registrants and for age groups?
- d) What can be done about members 'changing horses' midstream in order to swim permanently or temporarily elsewhere (for instance, if they re-locate physically during the swim year, or if they change clubs – or their club folds during the year – or if they wish to swim relays at a particular meet with another club)?
- e) How can the Top Ten reflect a 'primary' club regardless of temporary dislocations?
- f) How can we ensure that records are recognized quickly and in accordance with our rules and that back-up recording is effectively maintained in case of computer disaster or personal tragedy?
- g) How can we publish on the web draft results (subject to review) and permanent results (upon which any changes have been made- and on which no further changes can be contemplated)?
- h) How can we get to the web, quickly and efficiently, the results of the last meet of the year (the Pentathlon) which, by nature, is an extraordinary meet (ie not amenable to the usual input constraints) so that the Top Ten can be published to coincide with the New Year (when folks are making their good resolutions and need a bit of encouragement, praise and guidance to do better the next year)
- i) What kind of relay records do we wish to keep? At the moment the instruction is that we keep only the first-place winners of relays – but, in point of fact, I have input all relays of which we have any record. This has proved problematic in that I have had to get names, ages and club affiliation in order to enter any result – and this has not always been forthcoming from Meet Managers. Additionally, some of the relays have been 'fun' entries (a case in point being the first meet of 2003 in which 4 guys entered a 'mixed medley' – and I tried to exercise tact in questioning which of the 4 were 'girls')

Another difficulty has been that Don has yet to enter the software enabling me to transmit relay results to the web – so, as some have complained, there are no recent results up on the web! Do we want to keep relay results? If so, which ones?

Any brainwaves would be gladly heard by myself, Pat, Ralph or Michael on these topics!

THE PAST

Incidentally, when I agreed to take over the Stats from Michael (in 1997) it was with the hope that this could become an interesting and historically-relevant activity for MSO. If anyone wishes to take over this job (particularly if that person is computer-literate) I would bow out gracefully – I have no wish to outstay my welcome. I have to acknowledge that it is only with the help of Don Clinton and Michael that I have scrambled along thus far – and, of course, with the good-natured cooperation of Pat and Barrie!!

THE FUTURE

Some number-crunchers would possibly like other records (such as those calculated by Christian Berger) to become part of our legend. Is there a place on the web for this – and, if so, what exactly would you like to keep? The twentieth century was largely pre-computer so historical information is hard to come by – although Pat Niblett has a wealth of back-up material in boxes in her basement. 2000 onwards could be another story – if we make up our minds quickly what is of interest (Beth

Whittall probably has copies of Wavelengths that could be available and there are some pieces of Canadian relevance in SWIM magazine. Longtime swimmers like Brian, Michael, Geoff, Judy Oliver, Charlie Lane, Chris Smith and others might have some idea of what we should try to preserve.)

A Statistician is also an archivist – does anyone else care? About what?

Website Committee Report – Jan 4, 2003

Submitted by Barrie Malloch, Webmeister

Since the last meeting on Jan. 4, 2003 the following have been added to the website :

1. Ontario Top Ten for 2002 in both html and pdf formats – SCY, SCM, LCM – Lesley Mason-Ward and Don Clinton
2. Records Update in both html and pdf formats – short and long form for SCY, SCM, LCM – Lesley Mason-Ward, Pat Niblett and Don Clinton
3. Provincials Meet Package in word and pdf – Steve Goodwin
4. Minutes from October and December 2002 Board meetings – Heather Davies

Plans/Requests :

1. Board of Directors <http://www.mastersswimmingontario.ca/contacts/contacts01.htm> needs to be updated with new incumbents pictures – confirm for webmaster who is taking each position
2. Does the Board wish to activate the 10 email addresses we get along with our new service at sentex ? – suggested emails are listed below :
 - msoreg
 - msoweb
 - msomeets
 - msostats
 - msopres
 - msovp
 - msotreas
 - msosecty
3. Require updated Word version of meet schedule for conversion to pdf
Current version dated Nov. 4, 2002 is out of date
<http://www.mastersswimmingontario.ca/pdf/meetschedule2002.11.04.pdf>
4. Index page : comments have been made to the webmaster to go back to the old style main index page with no drop down menus – your choice?

Report on the 2003 Editorial

After a revision or two, discussion with MSC, printing of mailing labels and delivery of the package to Charlie, the 2003 Editorial was finally prepared and distributed by Mail Boxes, Etc #268 during the week of January 27.

A total of 2190 mailings were produced at a cost of \$ 1,984.07 or 90 cents a swimmer. Huge thanks are due to Charlie for procuring the services of MBE, saving MSO volunteers the onerous task of folding, licking, stuffing and stamping.

As an added quirk this year, due to the demise of the MSC newsletter Waves / La Vague, MSO offered to distribute the Meet Information Package for the Canadian Masters Swimming Championship with our Editorial (on behalf of the meet organizers at the expense of MSC), thereby ensuring that all MSO swimmers received a copy. After a couple of attempts, the MIP was reduced to 12 pages including an invitation, entry forms and hotel information. The total bill to MSC was \$ 2,980.36. The invoice was submitted January 28. MSC is currently revising its signing authorities and payment is expected within a week of so. MBE has not yet been paid in full.

Proposed Plan : Email the 2004 Editorial to at least 50% of the swimmers.

Proposed Plan : Include a questionnaire of some sort in every editorial.

Future Consideration : The meet organizers for the 2004 Ontario Masters Swimming Championship may wish to investigate combining the MIP with the Editorial, either in electronic or printed format.

Michael Stroud
2003.01.30

Participation Recognition

Please find attached a table with the 11 award winners for Event Participation and Meet Participation Awards. For those of you who have forgotten the award descriptions are provided on the website under "Swimmers" and then click on "Participation".

Items to be discussed and decisions to be made:

1. Certificates need to be designed and issued. Is there any precedent for this?
2. Draw prizes also need to be discussed and awarded. Again, is there any precedent for this?
3. Will this same program be continued in 2003? And if yes, who will manage it? (Presently Ann Gunther, past Board Director, has been coordinating this initiative with her contact information. I would suggest that this program is a marketing one and not education). If no, are there other suggestions for participation that will better fit our new and improved vision (yet to be determined!)

Shona MacLachlan
January 2003