

President's Report

Report on the year September 1995 - August 1996

Despite the record long winter (or maybe, because of it?) 1995 - 1996 was a very busy year for Masters Swimming Ontario. Even though membership was down slightly, 2005 swimmers, the number of clubs was up to 81. So far, we are again going to be able to hold fees for 1996-1997. The number of swimmers competing was up, (see statistician's report), but Ontario had record low attendance at Nationals in Winnipeg in May. 1996 Provincials, hosted at the Etobicoke Olympium by the Master Blasters, in April, was a great success with an unofficial record number of entries. Sixteen swimmers from Ontario went to the Worlds at Sheffield, UK. (This was considerably down from the previous Worlds' attendance of 382 in Montréal!)

Although it felt like there were more meets, there wasn't. But many of them were concentrated together in February. And according to the statistician, attendance at the February meets was generally down, while attendance at the lone meet in March was up. Please, if your club is planning a meet, check the schedule. It's sent out every five or six weeks with the Board meeting minutes or you can call the registrar, Bruce Fairbrother, for the latest update.

The new handbook was printed and distributed in the new year and is now available from Bruce Fairbrother. We have also developed some additional handouts to help meet management. (See officials report.) We now have a complete history of the members of the Boards of MSO, dating back to before incorporation when we were still a committee of CASA (Swim Ontario). This was a laborious research project by this year's secretary, Patti McVetty. It will be entered in the official minutes record and if anyone is interested in a copy, contact Bruce.

While things seem to have been running pretty smoothly at the provincial level, there are still difficulties at the national level. (See MSC representative's report.) We are still hoping things will be resolved and that we will ultimately have a smooth-running, effective national board.

In an attempt to establish closer ties with swimmers and clubs and to determine how we can better serve the membership, MSO has developed two questionnaires, one for clubs and one for swimmers. Now that many of the competition matters have been attended to, we need to hear from the more than half of you who do not compete. These questionnaires were sent out early in the season and we hope for a good response.

MSO is also entering the electronic age. We have budgeted for, and are hoping to set up, an MSO web page on the internet sometime this year. Suggestions and ideas are welcome contact any of the Board members.

Participation at last year's AGM was disappointing. I hope to see more of you there this year.

Once again, thanks to the MSO board, they're a great team to work with.

Heather Davies
MSO President
MSO Annual Report 1995-96

Delegate to Masters Swimming Canada

1995-96 has been a challenging year at the MSC level. The new executive of MSC, Brian Turnbull of Manitoba (President), Roger Massy of Quebec (Vice-President), Martha Saunders of New Brunswick (Treasurer), and George Lyle of PEI (Secretary) experienced a fairly steep learning curve as the previous president, Alex Herman of Nova Scotia, tended to keep most information on a need to know basis. It was further hampered by the requirement to keep the national office in Nova Scotia, home of the executive secretary, Jackie Spry.

The annual general meeting, held in October 1995 in Toronto, proved to be a contentious event, as feelings ran high over non-consultation of the provinces on several matters. The subsequent January 1996 teleconference resulted in substantial change, as Quebec recalled their delegate, and Martha Saunders moved to another province. This necessitated the replacement of half of the executive, less than halfway through their terms. Mary Lou Monteith of BC was acclaimed the Vice-President, while Ian McGill of Nova Scotia was voted the new Treasurer. The new Quebec representative is Paul Guerard, a longtime Montreal swimmer.

Combined with this mid-year change was the disorganization of the Newsletter committee, headed by the former President, which produced only one inferior edition of the newsletter all year, immediately prior to Nationals. As well, Canada's delegate to the FINA Masters technical committee, a position held by Ontario's Bruce Rogers, came up for reappointment at the Olympics in July, and neither MSC nor MSO were informed of the opening until after the meeting at Nationals in May. A last minute meeting of MSO decided to propose Beth Whittall, and this was approved by the MSC board after much discussion, but Beth's name was rejected by FINA in favour of the incumbent in order to ensure continuity at the FINA level.

On an overall basis the membership of Masters in Canada has dropped in 1996. This is partly due to the World championships being held in a foreign country rather than Montreal, and the Nationals being held in Manitoba, an expensive place for most to reach. In addition, the almost total collapse of MSI following confrontation with FINA has left Masters Swimming without a body to represent all aspects of the sport, and not just elite competitive needs.

MSC is now at a crossroads: is the organization as currently constituted responsive to the needs of its members, providing a service that is needed or appreciated, and able to

act in a prompt and effective manner? The level of expenditure of the group is increasing, with ever grander programs that never seem to get off the ground. Internal wrangling and arguments are slowing the work of those volunteers ready to give their time. All is not negative, however. Beth Whittall has discontinued her magazine Wavelengths, after 16 years, to take up the co-editorship of the MSC News, and she, her co-editors, and Aart Looye of Alberta plan to put out four issues in the coming year. In addition, a new version of the MSC rulebook (albeit unapproved by the MSC Board) is planned for Fall '96 release.

1996-97 will be a quiet year, since there are no world championships, and it will give the provinces a chance to reflect and consider which way we all want Masters Swimming representation to move forward in Canada and internationally. Please let your voices be heard. Speak to your provincial delegates. Write to Beth at MSC News. This is your best chance to influence the future course of Masters Swimming over the next five years.

Geoff Camp
Masters Swimming Ontario

Awards Report

Masters Swimming Ontario provides medals and ribbons at cost to clubs hosting meets designated as Provincial Championships. For the 1995-1996 season these were the Short Course Provincial Championship at the Etobicoke Olympium hosted by Master Blasters Swim Club, April 26-28, the 1,3,5 and 10 K open water Provincial Championship hosted by Welland Y Masters, July 20, and the 1/2 and 1 Mile open water Provincial Championship hosted by 1000 Islands Swim Masters on August 17.

Swimmers who wish to return M.S.O. medals may do so by sending same to the address below. A donation of one dollar per medal shall be made in their name to the Heart and Stroke Foundation, the swimmer will receive a tax receipt.

Chris Smith
152 Duncairn Road
Don Mills, Ontario
M3B 1E2
(416) 444-1885

September 20, 1996

Officials Chairperson

This past year has had a full schedule of meets held including long course, short course and open water. The hosting clubs have been able to "man the decks" adequately but very often with some difficulty. We have all seen wet bathing suit clad bodies operating stop watches!! We would be in even more difficulty if it were not for the many Age Group Officials who have given up their weekends to help us out. We owe these great friends a huge vote of thanks for without them we would not be swimming.

It is often difficult for officials to know what the "Rules" are. Every swimmer received a new handbook this year. The rules for Masters Swimming Ontario were included in the book. Unfortunately rules change frequently. FINA changes rules, Swim Canada accepts the changes and may modify them for Canada. Provinces, depending on the level of the meet will use one or the other and sometimes a combination. There are ongoing efforts to standardize rules internationally. Master Swimming Canada has also put out a new rule book this year which some of the Provinces have modified. The MSO rules committee has put together a comparison list which will be sent to the Meet Referee for each sanctioned meet.

The Warm-up Procedure has improved the safety factor in the pool during the warm-up period but it is sometimes not monitored adequately. The Procedure is now available in French and English. This information is sent to the hosting club Meet Manager and to the Meet Referee by the Meet Co-ordinator.

I urge all masters swimmers to get involved in officiating. I particularly recommend taking the Stroke and Turn Clinic. You will find that your own swimming improves and those pesky touches and turns will be a thing of the past! Try to take one clinic and work one swim meet this coming year. Offer your services to an Age Group Club, they will be very happy to have you and will invite you to attend their clinics. If all of our two thousand swimmers do this we will not have any trouble staffing our meets.

Respectfully submitted
Pat Niblett
Officials Chairperson

Meet Co-ordinator

Looking back at this past season I would like to start with the OWS (open water swims). All OWS were held as per previous years. St. Mary's, Brockville, Georgian Bay (which actually became a Harbour Swim!) and Welland. Brockville was the Provincial Championship for the 1/2 and 1 mixed mile swims while Welland hosted Provincial Championships for the 1, 3, 5 and 10 K distances.

Indoors - ie the pools - thanks and congratulations to Master Blasters for hosting the short course Provincial Championship at Etobicoke. The full complement of scm / lcm / scy meets were available. February seemed to be meet month for everyone. It was

"chock-block" full! A few months experienced some 'down time' as only a few or no meets were offered and the 'fall' seemed to be off to a slow start.

Overall the season was quite busy and successful. Thanks again to competitors and officials and supporters for making this all happen.

Comments should be directed to the MSO Board of Directors regarding meets, sanctions and scheduling.

Swimmingly yours,
Cheryl Blay
MSO Meet Co-ordinator

Proposed Budget 1996/1997

Revenue

Club Registration	(81 * \$45)	\$ 3,645.00	
Club Swimmers	(1923 * \$20)	38,460.00	
Mailing Members	(10 * \$15)	150.00	
Unattached	(27 * \$35)	945.00	
Miscellaneous		500.00	
Total Revenue			\$ 43,700.00

Expenses

Bank Charges		130.00	
Donations		50.00	
Insurance	(2005 * \$2.80)	5,614.00	
MSC	(1923 +27 * \$10)	19,500.00	
Meetings:			
Rooms	450.00		
Materials	2000.00		
Postage	400.00		
Travel	1,900.00	4,750.00	
Stipends:			
Recorder	2,000.00		
Registrar	7,500.00	9,500.00	
Supplies		1,500.00	
Editorial		1,000.00	
Accountants		1,000.00	
Miscellaneous		100.00	

Internet	500.00	
Total Expenses		43,644.00
Net Income		56.00

MSO Statistician

Competitors :

A total of 944 swimmers competed last year, 432 women and 512 men. This is marginally (1 %) below our five year average of 953 swimmers. Relatively more women were active (432 versus the average of 423) than men and, in fact, the men were considerably below the five year average (512 compared to 530).

Records :

A condensed set of records will be published in October, effective to September 30. Distribution will be to all registered clubs and unattached swimmers. The records will be separated by course. Current records are sent to each swim meet during the year. A copy is to be posted at the meet for all competitors to see.

More and more swimmers are preparing their own Record Application Forms and collecting the appropriate documentation to support the record claims. Thank you.

Records Set and Pending :

	LCM	SCM	SCY	Total	Last Year
Women	37	61	21	119	114
Men	35	85	46	166	105
Women Relays	0	11	0	11	2
Men Relays	0	10	1	11	6
Mixed Relays	0	10	0	10	9
Total	72	177	68	317	236

Top Ten :

The Top Ten will be published in October, effective to September 30. Distribution will be to all registered clubs and unattached swimmers. All swims throughout the swimming season will be converted to short course metres using the conversion factors of 1.11 for SCY and .98 for LCM. Separate LCM and SCM listings will be sent to the National Statistician.

The number of competitors appearing in the Top Ten has been rising consistently over the last 5 years, from 57.98 % of the competitive swimmers in 1992 to 63.87 % this year.

Current Status :

Processed : SCM : Ottawa, Pentathlon, Kenora, Pickering, Etobicoke, Burlington, Arnprior, Ancaster, Montreal, Hull, Ontario Championships, Trois Rivieres

Processed : LCM : London, Nepean, Winnipeg, Holland, Buffalo, Syracuse, Sheffield, Canton, Ann Arbor

Processed : SCY : Buffalo, Alderwood, Canandaigua, Cleveland, St Petersburg, Schenectady, Cupertino

Awaiting Results : Carelton, Rideau Speedeau, Downtown Swim Club, Ann Arbor (relays)

On an individual basis we swam in fewer meets this year and swam in fewer races in those meets.

	Number of Meets Per Swimmer Per Year	Number of Swims Per Swimmer Per Meet	Number of Swims Per Swimmer Per Year
1985	3.05	3.98	12.15
1986	2.15	3.87	8.30
1987	2.29	4.02	9.21
1990	2.26	4.19	9.46
1991	2.27	4.21	9.56
1992	2.25	4.19	9.41
1993	2.33	4.21	9.84
1994	2.29	3.90	8.95
1995	2.21	4.23	9.37
1996	2.11	4.14	8.74

The total number of swims was down 3.56 % from last year and the lowest since 1990.

The Legal Stuff :

Ontario Records and Top Ten are processed based on the swimmer's age on the last day of the meet. Only swimmers registered with MSO, representing an MSO club or competing as Unattached Ontario and resident in Ontario are considered for an Ontario Record or inclusion in the Top Ten. This also applies to all members of a relay team.

The Past and The Future :

Masters Swimming organizations and individuals around the world are plunging into the electronic world via the Internet. Results from many meets are posted almost instantaneously on the 'Net. (So how come it takes hours to get those same results posted on the wall at the meet and delivered to the awards table so I can pick up my award before I go home ?). There are plans for MSO Statistics to be available on the Internet within the year. (Although I have had only one such request !)

There was a question about the Top Ten conversion to short course metres. After a study of the most active swimmers in the province, the 11 % and 2 % were determined to be valid factors. The times are converted in Ontario simply to save the photocopying and mailing costs that would be required to publish 3 separate Top Tens. Swims in short course metre pools account for close to 80 % of all swims.

The new order of events at the Ontario Championship resulted from a study of the more than 80,000 swims that have now been recorded for Ontario swimmers. And of course, the inclusion of 4 X 100 relays rewrote the record book.

Let's endeavour to keep the Statistician busy this coming season by swimming more and by swimming faster.

Respectfully submitted
Michael W Stroud
September 14, 1996