

Masters Swimming Ontario  
Annual General Meeting  
Saturday, December 6, 1997  
Douglas Snow Aquatic Centre

## **PRESENT**

### ***Club Delegates***

Cheryl Blay GBAY  
Darlene Brown EYH  
Ian Christie NTMC  
Bruce Fairbrother UNON  
Jack Galvin NYG  
Don Hambley UWO  
Charlie Lane ETOB  
Ronald Legge ETOB  
Barrie Malloch ETOB  
Ken Minshall ETOB  
Doug Munn GBAY  
Patricia Niblett TECH  
Kalis Rasmusen ETOB  
Grant Sinclair MBLA  
Roy Smith DAM  
Chris Smith MBLA  
Michael Stroud EYH  
Doug Vanderby NTMC  
Carmen von Richthofen NTMC  
Steve Whitford MASC

### ***Club Voting Powers***

ATB Alderwood Teddy Bares 2 (proxy - Barrie Malloch)  
CAPS Carleton White Caps 2 (proxy - Pat Niblett)  
DAM Dufferin Aquatic Masters 1  
EYH East York Hurricanes 2  
ETOB Etobicoke Olympium Masters 4  
GBAY Georgian Bay Masters 1  
MBLA Master Blasters 2  
MASC Mississauga Masters Adult Swim Club 2  
NTMC North Toronto Memorial Community Centre 3  
NYG North York Gators 3  
TECH Technosport Swim & Triathlon Club 2  
UNON Unattached 1  
UWO University of Western Ontario 1

## **CALL TO ORDER**

President Pat Niblett, acting as chair, called the meeting to order at 2:50 P.M. Pat welcomed the members to the meeting. She thanked Jack Galvin and the North York Gators for hosting an excellent meet and providing MSO with the meeting room.

## **ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA**

**Motion:** Chris Smith / Kalis Rasmusen

To accept the agenda.

Carried

## **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF THE 1996 AGM**

**Motion:** Darlene Brown / Steve Whitford

To accept the minutes of the December 8, 1996 AGM.

Carried

## **REPORTS**

**Corrections** On page 17, the first line of the Statistician's Report should read: Number of swimmers who swam this season : **434** women, **536** men.

**Motion:** Michael Stroud / Doug Munn

To dispense with the reading of the reports and to accept same.

Carried

## **NOTICES OF MOTION**

Lynn Marshall's motion has been withdrawn but Geoff Camp has submitted a similar motion.

### ***Scoring***

**Motion:** Michael Stroud / Barrie Malloch

It is hereby moved that the following rule be added to the MSO rule book. There shall be no scoring, individual or team, at the Ontario Championship.

### **Comments on Purpose of Motion**

Michael explained the events leading up to the motion. The 1995 Provincials in Nepean were scored. Michael brought up the point at a Rules Committee meeting in May 1995 and it was suggested that the swimmers should be asked for their opinion. The questionnaire was prepared and released in time for the 1997 Provincials hosted by the East York Hurricanes. The Board of Directors directed Darlene and Michael (as co-meet directors) to implement scoring at the 1997 Championship. The Board further directed

that the clubs in the province be divided into 3 groups based on the number of swims entered by each club. Participation (bonus) points were awarded based on the ratio of the number of swimmers entered in the meet to the number of swimmers registered with each club.

Michael received 3 comments about the scoring: Doug Vanderby asked if the North Toronto men beat the Etobicoke men; Charlie Lane asked for all the figures and Lisa Cowan asked if Rob Stoddart and Kristin Bartoch won their age groups. Neither Darlene, nor the President of MSO, nor the registrar of MSO received any comments.

Based on this limited response from the swimmers, Michael put forward his personal opinion that scoring is contrary to the ideals and philosophy of Masters Swimming.

### Discussion

Charlie Lane and Doug Vanderby contended that if swimmers had known that a response was required then the board would have received more opinions on scoring. Charlie Lane will be asking for a response on scoring on the entry form for the 1998 Provincials.

Ian Christie stated that scoring makes the meet more interesting for club swimmers. Clubs encourage more members to participate and individuals are motivated to train harder and improve their times. In the end it promotes both Masters Swimming and participation at swim meets.

Carmen stated that points are also given for participation and not just times. Steve Whitford said that only 10-15% of clubs are large clubs and scoring is an incentive to large clubs. Doug Vanderby asked what the group breakdown was. Michael stated that there were three divisions A, AA, and AAA according to club size.

Cheryl stated that it was not detrimental to the running of the meet and it made the meet more interesting for club swimmers.

If there had been more feedback than there would be a larger base line to reach a decision.

Carmen stated that it adds fun to the meet and promotes fun and friendship within the club. Scoring should be done unless the workload is onerous.

Barrie Malloch stated that over 50% of MSO registered swimmers are not primarily competitive therefore MSO should not be primarily competitive. Steve Whitford said that competition encourages winning over losing but scoring does not discourage participation.

### Voting

The motion was defeated 9 in favour to 10 against with 1 abstaining.  
Defeated

The membership then suggested that Charlie, as meet director for the 1998 Championship, present his ideas for scoring (which may be different than last year) to the Board.

### ***Proxy voting and removal of 200k distance factor***

**Motion:** Pat Niblett /Doug Munn

Be it resolved that delegates may cast their votes by special delivery, registered mail, or proxy to the maximum of their allotted votes.

#### Purpose of Motion

Pat explained the objective of her motion was to remove the distance factor and add proxy to the current rule. Clubs concerned with a specific motion but not able to attend the AGM would still be able to have their vote presented at the meeting by proxy or special delivery or registered mail.

#### Discussion

Steve Whitford commented that he was surprised by club voting rather than individual voting. He attended his first AGM as an unattached swimmer and unattached swimmers are only allowed one vote as a group. Michael replied that this is something that the committees would be looking into.

Chris Smith stated that he is against proxy voting because it gives the Board too much power. They can get proxy votes and outvote the clubs represented at the meeting. Total control is given to the Board rather than the club delegates attending the meeting. If proxy voting is allowed it should only be based on notices of motions that are circulated before the meeting. The motion should be amended to include only circulated motions.

Grant Sinclair asked why a club would not be able to attend the meeting if they live closer than 200k. Barrie Malloch replied that weather conditions are a factor at this time of year.

Does the proxy automatically go to Board members or to a designated club delegate? It would go to whomever the club wishes but probably a board member because they would be aware of the notices of motion.

The proxy vote would have to be in writing for confirmation at the meeting.

#### Voting

**Amended Motion:** Pat Niblett / Doug Munn

Be it resolved that delegates may cast their votes by special delivery, registered mail, or proxy to the maximum of their allotted votes on circulated notices of motion.

The motion was carried with 10 for, 1 against and no abstentions.

Carried

### ***Age Determination Date***

**Motion:** Geoff Camp / Charlie Lane

Be it resolved that MSO adopt an age determination date the same as other Canadian provinces and MSC, in order to standardize record tabulation and reduce confusion for swimmers.

### Comments on Purpose of Motion

The change to the age determination date was made at the FINA meeting held at the 1994 World Masters Championship in Montreal. FINA voted for the change and MSC voted to change to the FINA rule at their AGM. MSO voted to maintain the age determination date as the last day of the meet. The current system means that Ontario swimmers compete under different age groups for out-of-province meets and the Canadian Nationals. The Canadian records and Top Twenty differ from Ontario records and Top Ten.

### Discussion

Michael stated that there is no extra work involved in producing top ten or processing records with the 2 age group rules in effect.

Steve Whitford stated that it doesn't really matter what system is used. Chris Smith replied that once you get into the older age groups 6 months becomes a major factor.

Barrie Malloch stated that the Top Twenty age as of year end. Pat Niblett said that different rules apply at different meets so during a year the swimmer could be competing under different ages depending on where they compete: other provinces, other countries Ontario.

Chris Smith officiated at a meet in Latin America where the age was calculated on the last day of the meet. They ran a FINA sanctioned meet and did not use the FINA rule. Countries still using age on last day of meet are United States, Latin America, Australia and New Zealand.

Michael Stroud stated that the FINA rule was decided at the FINA meeting at the Montreal meeting in 1994. 15 European countries outvoted the Americas who had fewer votes.

Cheryl Blay stated that Ontario and United States might be right and everyone else is wrong.

### Voting

In favour 7, against 13, abstained 0.  
Motion defeated

### ***Residency***

**Motion:** Geoff Camp / Charlie Lane

Be it resolved that MSO permit out-of-province resident swimmers who are registered with MSO and who swim/train in the province for at least six months each year to be eligible for Ontario Records and Top Ten. Listings of these exceptions are to be maintained by the MSO Registrar. They must also satisfy Canadian (MSC) residency and nationality requirements as well.

### Comments on purpose of motion:

The motion specifically concerns Ottawa area clubs who have several members who work and train in Ottawa but reside in Quebec. It applies to any club located close to the Ontario border such as Windsor and Sault Ste. Marie. These swimmers swim under an Ontario club banner but are not eligible for Ontario records or the Top Ten.

### Discussion

Roy stated that the motion as presented was unenforceable.

Michael stated that the swimmers are eligible for Canadian records and Top Twenty. Pat contended that relay records don't count so the swimmers are automatically disqualified from holding relay records if an out-of-province swimmer participates.

Steve Whitford commented on the fact that the military serving in Germany can still vote in Canadian elections, so it should not matter where the swimmer resides.

Grant Sinclair said the problem is the word residency. Once you know why residency is in the rule then you know the answer. The rule is there to restrict Ontario records to Ontario residents so that a Canadian swimmer cannot hold all the provincial records.

Pat Niblett contended that a swimmer competes for a club rather than country or province. Michael stated that the residency rule applies to records and top ten and members can still compete at Ontario meets and their times are eligible for Canadian records and top twenty.

Steve Whitford stated as an example that a swimmer in the NorthWest territories who wants to swim but the only available facilities are in Ontario then he should be able to

register with an Ontario club and hold Ontario records. For that matter if he joins a British Columbia club he should be able to hold BC records.

### Voting

In Favour 3, against 16, abstained 1.  
Motion defeated.

### Reworded motion

Steve Whitford proposed the same motion but removing "who swim/train in the province for at least six months each year" but keeping the Canadian citizen requirement.

#### **Motion:** Steve Whitford

Be it resolved that MSO permit out-of-province resident swimmers who are registered with MSO and who swim/train in province to be eligible for Ontario Records and Top Ten. Listings of these exceptions are to be maintained by the MSO Registrar. They must also satisfy Canadian (MSC) residency and nationality requirements as well. There was no seconder / motion died

### ***MSC's request for names***

#### **Motion:** Geoff Camp / Chris Smith

Be it resolved that MSO permit the name, age and gender of each MSO registered swimmer to be forwarded to MSC for their statistical base. The information will NOT include addresses, and under NO circumstances is MSC to release any of this information to any other person or body without explicit release from each individual.

### Comments on purpose of motion:

MSC has requested the names, age and gender for statistical information. The list would also be used for confirming the registration of swimmers for out-of-province or world events.

### Discussion

Geoff Camp stated that it would give MSC a database to confirm that a swimmer was registered in Canada. But Quebec doesn't do it because of their freedom of information law.

Michael stated that if the purpose of the request was strictly a statistical list, then names were not needed.

Bruce stated that with email access MSC can easily confirm if a swimmer is registered by contacting the provincial registrar.

### Voting:

In favour 0, against 13, abstain 1  
Motion defeated

### ***One per lane versus two per lane***

**Motion:** Geoff Camp / Pat Niblett

Be it resolved that at the discretion of meet management, for local competition and in all cases at Provincial Championships in Ontario, that swimmers be permitted to swim one per lane in 800 and 1500 freestyle events where time constraints require doubling up. When a swimmer wishes to swim in a lane on their own, they must wait until all doubled up heats have been run. Swimmers must indicate their choice in advance of the meet (on the entry forms) and cannot change an election of two per lane to one per lane at the meet.

### Discussion

Darlene stated that MSO could not compel the meet manager at provincials to rent the extra pool time and recruit extra timers required to run one per lane heats.

Jack Galvin expressed concern that if it is a required option on the entry form than everyone would check the yes box because swimmers prefer to swim 1 per lane.

### Voting

In Favour 0, against all  
Motion defeated

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### ***Insurance***

Jack Galvin asked if there is a possibility of getting a lower priced membership for insurance purposes only for swimmers who train with a club but don't compete and don't want the benefits of a full membership. Geoff Camp stated that the insurance policy only becomes effective after all the other insurance policies are processed such as insurance for facility, city, building etc.

Darlene Brown replied that she and Grant Sinclair are looking into the insurance policy and will find out more at a later date.

## **NEW BOARD STRUCTURE - Michael Stroud**

### ***The strategic plan***

Pat gave a brief overview of the work carried out this year to restructure the committees and to put our strategic plan in place. A copy of our plan is attached.

The Strategic Planning Committee consists of Pat, Geoff and Michael, who presented some of the highlights from the plan.

The Motto of Masters Swimming Ontario shall be "Fun, Fitness and Friendship".

The Vision of Masters Swimming Ontario shall be "To be the Model for all Masters Swimming Organizations in North America". Geoff explained that through his dealings with the rest of the world, Australia and New Zealand have evolved further than MSO, but that we can certainly be the leader on this continent. Michael explained that we can lead by innovation and excellence.

The Mission of Masters Swimming Ontario shall be "To perpetuate life-long adult fitness through the sport of Masters Swimming".

The Board of Directors shall be defined as a decision making and approval granting body. Geoff explained that the Board was not abdicating responsibility, merely trying to spread the work around. He noted that every board member is a member of multiple committees.

The Communication Committee will publish an insert to the MSC News. An amazing opportunity to communicate directly with every swimmer in the province. A second printing of the third edition of the MSO Handbook will be printed in January 1998. A brand new fourth edition will be ready for January 1999. And we will attempt to understand and increase the communication between club contacts and the swimmers on each club.

The Membership Committee will analyze membership trends: who comes, who goes, how long we stay. We will define the roles of the regional reps and promote increased communication between the swimmers and these local reps. Multiple methods of recognition will be developed to cover all aspects of Masters Swimming.

The Board is lacking in marketing knowledge and will be looking for swimmers with the expertise to guide us.

The Constitution Committee will analyze whether the AGM should be held concurrently with the Ontario Championship and will analyze the existing voting procedures.

The Finance Committee will analyze and fulfil our insurance needs.

The Fitness Committee will be created to fill an educational void and to promote clinics as a means of stroke improvement for all swimmers.

The Strategic Planning Committee has completed some of its work by the presentation of our plan. A regular structured Board meeting will be held in Nepean to coincide with the Winterlude meet and an open meeting will be held in Etobicoke at the Provincials.

But the most important task to be completed this year will be to find the volunteers to make this organization as great as it can be ... to convince the 20 people in the room to give of their time ... and to encourage the other 2000 swimmers in the province to come forward to help make MSO the Model for all Masters Swimming Organizations in North America.

### ***Swimmers who have expressed interest in working on a committee***

Sue Ferguson and Jane Dowd have both expressed interest in working on the fitness committee.

The following people expressed interest at the meeting in working on a committee

Carmen von Richthofen NTMC  
Ian Christie NTMC  
Steve Whitford MASC  
Roy Smith DAM  
Ronald Legge ETOB  
Charles Lane ETOB (competition committee)  
Ken Minshall (ETOB)

**Motion:** Geoff Camp / Darlene Brown  
To accept the operating plan as written.  
Carried

**Motion:** Pat Niblett / Ian Christie  
Ratification of the board's activities for the past year.  
Carried

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

**Motion:** Darlene Brown / Doug Munn  
Accept the financial statements.  
Carried

Michael wanted to know why the honourarium for the statistician was included in the budget, since Michael had stated that he would decline the money this year primarily because of a 'stigma' attached to the funds. Darlene explained that the budget had been prepared prior to Michael's declination. Geoff stated that MSO should maintain the budgeted figure in the event that it was used and that it would simply show as surplus at the end of the year, if it had not been used. Pat felt that Michael thought the money

could be put to better use and that Michael should discuss the situation at the next Board meeting.

Pat thanked Michael for all his hours volunteered.

**Motion:**Darlene Brown / Geoff Camp  
Accept the budget.  
Carried

**Motion:**Darlene Brown / Doug Munn  
To appoint the auditors Whithy Addison for 1997/98.  
Carried

### **Termination of Directors**

To complete their two-year terms, there are 3 returning Directors: Don Hambley, Pat Niblett, Chris Smith

The 6 Directors whose term have expired are: Sharon Cockerton-Agnew, Cheryl Blay, Darlene Brown, Geoff Camp, Barrie Malloch, Grant Sinclair

Nominations have been received from the following candidates: Sharon Cockerton-Agnew, Cheryl Blay, Darlene Brown, Geoff Camp and Grant Sinclair. Barrie Malloch decided not to run for another term. No nominations were received from the floor.

**Motion:**Pat Niblett / Chris Smith  
The five nominees are accepted as directors by acclamation.  
Carried

Pat Niblett thanked the board for all the work done during the past year.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion: Darlene Brown / Barrie Malloch  
To adjourn the meeting.  
Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.