

Masters Swimming Ontario

Board of Directors Meeting

Date: Saturday, April 28th, 2007

Aurora Public Library, 15145 Yonge St

Aurora, Ontario

Present :

Sally O'Brien President
Olenka McKee Meet Coordinator
Jim Talbot Director
Hillary Richardson Director
Marion Wyatt Director
Lesley Mason-Ward Director
Cindy Bertelink Director

Committees, Representatives and Staff :

Brian Croker Registrar
Jacqueline Odlum Recording Sec
Chris Smith OSOA
Steve Goodwin SO
Craig Zimmerman Web Master

Regrets: Michael Heath-Eves

Guests: Sean Warburton - Granite Club, Barrie Malloch - Alderwood

01. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 11:35 a.m. with Sally O'Brien presiding as chair.

02. Motion: To adopt the agenda with an amendment to include "Statistics"

Moved by Olenka McKee, seconded by Jim Talbot

Carried

03. Motion: To approve the minutes of Board meeting of March 3, 2007.

Moved by Olenka McKee, seconded by Hillary Richardson

Carried

Barrie Malloch thanked the Board for her OSG award which was presented at the banquet at the Provincials in Sudbury – then she left the meeting.

Business Arising

1. Swim Direct – Michael still does not have a response to his phone calls. He plans to present this information at the June meeting.

Motion: To invite Lindsay Patton to our next teleconference meeting in June to answer procedural details of registration within MSC.

Moved by Marion Wyatt, seconded by Olenka McKee.

Carried

2. Newsletter – Lesley made a number of suggestions which were distributed to the Board; Sally asked if there were any more ideas. Marion asked each group leader to contribute his or her own section and have this to her by May 5th. The final version will be sent to each person and a one day turnaround is requested. We need to find a way of getting people to read the newsletter on the website – the club contact has the responsibility to distribute to club members.
3. There was discussion regarding the discrepancy in number of registered swimmers and dollars received. It was suggested that the reports be "as of the end of the previous month" in order to balance. It was also suggested that Lesley use Accounts Receivable rather than showing cash. This item was not resolved.
4. Caribbean Swim Camp – Sally will get more information from Claus. MSO is willing to put the details in the newsletter and on the website – this is a service for fitness swimmers as well as competitive.
5. Chris gave an update on the rule books – there are FINA, SNC and MSC rule books but officials want Masters rules in one book, possibly with a one page amendment for MSO.

Board Reports

President's report

The workshop on "Innovative Participation Project" has been rescheduled for April 26th and I hope to have a report on it for the meeting.

The Provincial Championship has come and gone and it appears to have gone over very well.

There still is a problem with diving during the warm up. I looked around after the incident I witnessed but could not find an official on the deck at the time. Perhaps we should look into specific shirts or the old orange vest so that **this** official is more visible.

I was approached by Sean Warburton who is interested in coming to the board meeting in April as a guest and hopefully continue as a board member.

Perhaps at this meeting we can set up a nominating committee to further chase people to become board members at the AGM

Vice President's report

To bring you up to date, I spoke with Ted Hayes about SO's Swim Direct around March 15, 2007.

Ted instructed me to call John Vadieka of SO. John at that time was at the Junior Championships and did not return my calls until April 3, 2007.

John had been briefed by Andrew Moss of SNC about MSO's interest in using Swim Direct. John thought there may be a charge for the use, especially a start up charge. I stated that MSO would not want to see any further increase in our membership fees to cover Swim Direct as the majority of our swimmers do not compete. We discussed the \$2.00 /swimmer fee that MSO pays to SO. I said that we did not want to impose on SO services as we had our own registrar and office and did not want to change that. We just want to use the software.

John will speak with his Board and agreed to get back to me before the Aurora meeting with an offer for the use.

Will keep you posted.

Reports from Workgroup Leaders

Treasurer – Lesley Mason Ward

MASTERS SWIMMING ONTARIO						
WORKING BUDGET 2006-2007						
REVENUES						To March 31,2007
Swimmers			80,000			
Clubs			4,300			
Unattached swimmers			\$0			
Mailing members			\$0			
Interest Income			\$1,200			
Awards (sales of medals for Championship)			\$2,000			
Total Revenue				\$87,000		64,520
EXPENSES						
1.Affiliation Fees						
Masters Swimming Canada			\$32,000			
Swim Ontario			\$6,400			
OSOA			\$1,000			
Total fees				\$39,400		39,102
2. Insurance						
Total Premium			\$10,100	\$10,100		10,988
3. Finance						
Audit Expenses			\$2,000			Pending
Bank Charges			\$200			
Total finance				\$2,100		102
4. Board Meeting Expenses						
Directors Travel			\$7,000			
Hotel			\$1,000			
Teleconferences			\$5,000			
Presidents Banquet			\$700			
Recording Secretary			\$900			
Total Board expenses				\$14,600		12,714
5. Annual General Meeting						
Room and Meals			\$1,700			
Copying			\$500			
Postage			\$500			
Supplies			\$300			
Other						
Total AGM expenses				\$3,000		1,400

6.Registrar									
Salary			\$6,000						
Phone			\$500						
Internet			\$850						
Supplies			\$500						
Copying			\$200						
Postage			\$1,000						
Total Registrar budget				\$9,050		5,032			
7. Communications									
Web Master			\$1,500						
Web connection			\$550						
Total Communications budget				\$2,050		890			
8.Competition									
Medals, ribbons			\$4,000						
Records Keeper			\$500						
Statistician			\$500						
Total Competition				\$5,000		4,605			
9. Health and Lifestyle									
Marketing			\$500						
Total Lifestyle expenses				\$500		0			
10.Leadership									
Survey Expenses			\$500						
Special Awards (eg OSG)			\$300						
Total Leadership expenses				\$800		139			
				Projected	Actual				
				2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	
Total Budgeted Expenses				\$86,600	\$83,548	\$74,938	\$76,382	\$75,311	

Competition – Olenka McKee

PROVINCIALS

Thank you to Laurentian Masters, the Age group club, Varsity team, officials and various other volunteers for putting on a good meet. Feedback has been positive

Recommendation by the MM - reduce number of relays.

CLUBS = 36 SWIMMERS = 343 (MALES = 173 FEMALES = 170)

30 Ontario records and 22 Canadian records

STATISTCIAN

Most of the results are up on the MSO web site

RECORDS

Pat and Lindsay have been working to get Ontario records on the MC site

Lindsay succeeded in reading the Ontario SCM and LCM records into the database and they can now be viewed on the mymsc.ca site by selecting Ontario in the record set drop down box (which defaults to National). One can either look up the records for a particular age group and gender, or view a matrix of the times by sex. Now that the times are in the database Lindsay can produce customized views to match our current listings, should we desire.

Another useful feature is that you can go to the results for a particular meet and select Ontario in the drop down box that defaults to All Provinces. When you then list the results it only shows Ontario swimmers and any record times will be highlighted in yellow. A recognized record, or a time that equals a current record will be shown in pale yellow. A time that is faster than the current record will be shown in bright yellow.

Merritt, Cathy	55	F55-59	Nepean Masters/NEP	100IM	1:20.23*	<u>1</u>
Oliver, Sandra	66	F65-69	North York/NYG	50Back	35.46*	<u>RS</u>
Wilkin, Dave	55	M55-59	Aurora M. Ducks/AURO	50Breast	34.73*	<u>1</u>

Pat has been set as the record maintainer for the ON records and as such keeps the task of verifying and updating the records

YARD TIMES

At the present time Lindsay is not planning to list yard times as Ontario is the only province that keeps these. Pat has indicated she would be glad to maintain these

SANCTIONING

2006-2007 season

Of the 14 pool meets sanctioned only 2, both on May 5, remains to be run. The open water season begins June 30 with 5 swims on the books ranging in distance from 750m to 5K

2007-2008

The 1st event of the year will be the St Mary's 5K open water Sept. 9

Already 3 clubs have confirmed dates for the coming year

Oct 28 DSC

Dec 9 NY

Feb10 London

Sanction process – Craig and I have been working on a streamlining project for sanctioning meets. Presentation at the meeting

Olenka added that we do not have a bid for 2009 Provincials. November 11th is confirmed for Etobicoke followed by the AGM. August 12th there is an open water swim in Brockville in aid of Parkinson's Research.

Regarding the statistician, Lesley cannot put results from four meets into the system because of the format. MSC can put it on their database and it was suggested that Lesley only maintain yards information (as Ontario is the only Province doing this).

Leadership - Hillary Richardson, Director

SURVEYS

To date we have received about 350 responses to the swimmer survey and almost 30 to the coach survey. I would like to see more but am not sure if this is likely. Craig has extended the time the surveys will be available online to the end of May. **I suggest we send a brief email to all club contacts informing them of the extension and offering them a "last chance" to participate.** If agreed, I will draft this and Brian could perhaps send early next week.

Some interesting information is coming back from the surveys.

Swimmer survey:

- the vast majority (72%) of participants give "fitness" as their primary reason for swimming; only 23% state competition is their number one reason
- some feel that coaches place too much emphasis on competition and not enough on fitness
- swimmers are looking for more stroke correction
- some swimmers feel that the "faster" and the more novice swimmers get more coaching attention; the "average" or "middle of the pack" swimmer gets left out
- swimmers want more attention paid to starts and turns
- a variety of requests for practices at different times
- only about half of respondents gave "technical knowledge" as their coaches' main strength
- a good number of swimmers offering to assist with clinics, etc and providing good ideas for growth in the area of leadership
- request coaches receive training on motivation and mental skills training

Coach survey:

- most coaches have lifeguard/instructor background and/or NCCP level I
- most coach masters only but many also coach age group swimmers
- less than half feel they have good technical knowledge
- the main reason coaches do not participate in clinics, courses, etc. is that they either don't hear about them or they are simply not available
- most feel that NCCP applies to Masters swimming "somewhat" or "a little"
- requesting info/courses on:
 - physiology and training of older adults
 - strength and injury training
 - stroke development
- all coaches state they would be willing to take extra training
- most prefer a one-day weekend course (interesting that NCCP is mandatory 2 days, 2 weekends!)
- most give early fall as ideal time for courses
- suggest using the SO conference in the fall to hold a Masters workshop...

I am gathering my "committee" and once all the results are in we will begin work on tabulating and interpreting them. I hope to form a rough outline of clinics or potential clinics to be offered as soon as we can get them put together – for sure for 07/08 and maybe some for this fall.

Health and Lifestyle

No report

Communication – Marion Wyatt

There was no newsletter sent after the last teleconference meeting.
A quick request to clubs for any email changes will be sent out before the next newsletter.

I have not had any negative feed-back from clubs regarding the last newsletter. I hope that the clubs will get used to receiving the quarterly report and it will generate more interest in coming to the AGM in the fall.

A reminder to Directors to get the information to Marion no later than May 5th.

Staff Reports

(a) Registration, Brian Croker – As of April 27, 207

Clubs	84
Mail memberships	4
Total swimmers	2852
Club swimmers	2805
Unattached swimmers	39

8 OSG members – Beth Whittall, Ted Roach, Geoff Camp, Michael Stroud,
Brian Croker, Chris Smith, Pat Niblett, Bryan Finlay

New Clubs: Elliot Lake, U of T Mississauga
Old returning clubs: Norfolk Hammerheads
Renamed Club: Fitness Institute now Toronto Athletic Club

(b) Web Master, Craig Zimmerman –.

Craig and Olenka made a presentation regarding streamlining the sanction process. On line form would be used to ask for the date; then later get the sanction approved once the meet package has been submitted.

Motion: To pay to have the sanctioning forms put on the website – the cost not to exceed \$300 as a one-time expense.

Moved by Marion Wyatt, seconded by Jim Talbot

Carried

Reports from External Reps

(a) Swim Ontario, Steve Goodwin – SO conference weekend booked for September 21-23 – lots of suggestions as to what MSO could do for a time slot (including avoiding injury, mental training, masters as a natural follow on from age group etc)

(b) Officials/MSO, Chris Smith –

OFFICIALS AND RULE BOOKS

The Canadian volunteer swimming officials play an essential role in our sport; we wouldn't have any competitions without them. Those that stick with it after their children have left the sport, either because they enjoy it or they want to contribute to what they see as a valuable service to our sport or society, play an even greater role. They not only serve on Boards and Committees at every level of our sport, they also keep themselves informed of what is going on and often act as the conscience of our sport.

Ontario, because of its size in part, has a somewhat different swimming structure compared with other provinces, in that it has three separate corporations, Swim Ontario, Masters Swimming Ontario and the Ontario Swimming Officials Association serving swimming in the province. OSOA broke away from SO several years ago because of a number of reasons and set up a separate corporation.

OSOA tends to be the lead organization in Canada in dealing with many officiating matters in particular swimming rules and officials training. Because of a number of factors including the abundance of experience available to them they have tended to develop the strategies and clinics for training officials, also clarifications and rule interpretations, all of which they have then passed on to the SNC Technical Committee and the National Officials Committee for use across Canada.

OSOA has a very close and amicable working relationship with MSO which is highly beneficial to all involved in aquatics in Ontario. Because of the numbers of Masters meets in Ontario, many Ontario officials are very knowledgeable about Masters Rules and Masters issues. OSOA is most supportive of MSC and many Ontario officials are aware of the significant difficulties faced by Masters in Canada as they work to achieve the full potential for their organization and sport. OSOA also has a close and usually amicable relationship with SO.

John Grootveld Sr. Memorial Meet

The Central Region (Greater Toronto) Officials sponsor an annual meet to commemorate John's contribution to officiating and swimming generally. It is hosted by a local swim club and all proceeds go to support training officials across Ontario. The meet itself is used as a unique training experience for up and coming officials, primarily Level 3s, who want to get experience in the higher positions; Referee, Starter, Clerk of Course and Chief Finish Judge under the supervision of an experienced official. A unique part of this training is that it is a double ended long course meet in a single tank. This is by far the most challenging meet to officiate at as you have two sets of swimmers swimming at the same time and they must not meet. An interesting concept if you have not seen one.

I had been asked by the Meet Referee to assist at the meet with the supervision of some of the new officials and agreed to do so. The meet took place March 30 to April 1 at the University of Toronto and I used the opportunity to raise the "Masters Rule Book" issue with a group of Ontario's most experienced officials during one of the breaks.

Rule Book Options

I suggested to them that we were effectively looking at four options as I understood it and invited their comments on each.

2005 FINA Rule Book, with or without the list of Masters exceptions. This book is not used by officials in Canada except for reference and as required to be available at major international meets. It is too large and contains vast amounts of information not needed at a meet. In addition, the wording to many of the rules is so minimalist that it invites misinterpretation, consequently both SNC and MSC previously added "Canadian Interpretations" in a number of instances.

2005 SNC Rule Book, with or without the list of Masters exceptions. This book is not suitable for Masters meets as it again has a great deal of information related to age group and elite swimming that does not apply to Masters, it does not give basic information on running Masters meets that would be useful to meet management and the officials involved.

2003 MSC Rule Book, with or without the list of Masters exceptions. This book which they all have and use is the most valuable to them at Masters meets. The biggest complaint is that the current one does not contain a complete set of Masters swimming rules or deal with other Masters issues that meet management or the officials need information on at a Masters meet. They pointed out that we had promised them in 2005 a new MSC Rule Book containing this information once the FINA Masters Rule issue had been resolved. It had been approved and the Ontario officials are willing to pay for the printing of a new MSC Rule Book.

List of Masters exceptions.

They felt that the draft of the Masters exceptions document which was been prepared by Olenka McKee, Ed Evely and myself would be a useful appendix for reference in the MSC Rule Book once it and the Rule book are completed.

Other Comments;

They pointed out that although they always carried a SNC or MSC rule book in their pocket, depending on the meet, they rarely looked at it. Its greatest use was when a decision was challenged or they were asked for a clarification by a coach swimmer or other official. This was because they officiated at so many meets over a year, including Masters meets, and it was rarely necessary for them to review the rules. They then pointed out that this was not true for the officials working at this, the Grootveld meet, who, because of their inexperience had studied the SNC Rule Book prior to the meet and several of them had referred to it during the meet in addition to asking the supervising officials questions. They suggested that many officials at Masters meets in Canada are in a similar position. In many cases there are few Masters meets in their area and often this is the first time that they have worked a Masters meet. It is really for these officials that we need a new MSC Rule Book. There are many more age group and elite meets than there are Masters meets in all parts of the country.

They also confirmed their agreement with Bill Hogan's position that MSC was responsible for Masters Rules across Canada and should be providing officials at Masters meets with a MSC Rule Book. They also felt that MSC required a Technical Committee to deal with all aspects of Masters competitions just as Bill's SNC Technical Committee dealt with all aspects of competitions for SNC.

They noted that some Ontario Masters meets were noted as being swum under MSO Rules and felt this was confusing. They believe that rules should always be dealt with nationally. This is a responsibility of SNC for age group and elite swimming and they believe this is true in all other national jurisdictions for all aquatic sports, including Masters where there is a national Masters organization. It was noted that MSO developed the first set of Masters rules in Canada in the eighties and these were subsequently adopted by MSC as the MSC rules. They felt it was no longer useful to have MSO rules.

Chris also mentioned that TOMS would be set up again for those swimmers planning to go to World's in Perth in April 2008. There will also be more discussion of the swim camp planned for January in the Caribbean.

Motion: To accept the reports as presented.

Moved by Marion Wyatt, seconded by Hillary Richardson

Carried

New Business

The room for the AGM at Etobicoke will be provided at no charge – food will have to be purchased. The package has to be out to clubs by September 11th and therefore all year end reports must be submitted to Sally by August 31st.

Nominations – Sally will approach Bryan Finlay regarding heading up the Nominations Committee.

Other Business

Lesley mentioned that Lynn Marshall had been voted the 2nd in the world according to the USMS magazine (a Japanese man was 1st). This is based on number of world records in different events and long and short course.

Motion: To appoint Sean Warburton as director at large

Moved by Lesley Mason-Ward, seconded by Jim Talbot

Carried

Next meeting – note the change to June 16th at 9:00 a.m. teleconference call

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 2:56 p.m.
Moved by Sally O'Brien