

Final Gwangju Blog

Entries close 24 June - no chance after that date. Go! Go!!

Having worked diligently for some months on these pages, I submitted my entry for the Pulitzer Prize for Blogging.

The judges returned my entry with the suggestion that I might be better at something else so I have decided to concentrate on swimming.

I derive some comfort that, because of my age, the numbers in my age group have dwindled.....don't be fooled! For 26 years, the same 4 names recur at the top of the Leader Board – some distance from 5th. We always share the medals so it gets no easier, really. I don't go to these meets to come second but, should it happen, I know where they live!!!!!!

Anyway, this has been fun and this will (probably) be my last Blog as I need to do some training.

Incheon – The Key Airport

Incheon is very important historically as well as being the site of Korea's international airport since 2001. It is 40km from Seoul and is Korea's 4th largest city – the destination for most of us when we arrive in that country. It is situated on a reclaimed tidal flat lying between two islands. It replaced Gimpo which is now the domestic airport.

Incheon is the place where General Douglas Macarthur effected a highly successful amphibious landing and subsequent capture of Seoul during the Korean war. This was the turning point and the Freedom Hill Memorial is testament to this military success.

The Demilitarised Zone (DMZ) since 1953

Strongly recommended is a visit to the DMZ – a short journey from Seoul to the fortified border between North and South Korea. Technically, the two Koreas are still at war. The DMZ marks a zone of truce from hostilities.

Take a trip to Panmunjom on the 38th parallel of latitude (the border) on an organised tour, which is the only option. The recommended operator is Koridoor Tours – online at www.koridoor.co.kr – at least a few weeks in advance. There are others but make sure you go to The Third Tunnel of Aggression. This is the tunnel used to sneak troops into the South. A much longer tour also takes in Pyongyang.

Hop on – Hop off Bus Tour

We have travelled widely and have always found these buses very useful in working out where everything is and being able to hop off when something of interest pops up.

In Seoul, the bus is very inexpensive. (Montreal was over \$100). This one is about \$20 pp. The buses do not run on Mondays and operate from 9am to 5.30pm on 3 routes with varying itineraries. Your Seoul hotel will be helpful.

“The Last Post”

Did you like that? Nice touch, I thought.

This does not complete my Ambassadorial role as I see it. You are all very welcome to contact me at any time – right through to the end of the swimming. Remember to read **ALL** Blogs before you ask questions when the answers might lie therein. Some swimmers have admitted that they have not read them and even that they did not know there were Blogs. Such is the life of a correspondent.

It is now the twilight of the Blog and, as Dylan Thomas once said, “Rage, rage against the dying of the light” etc #

From “Do Not Go Gentle into that Good Night”. This is a short poem about the end of life. If you saw “The Mule” with Clint Eastwood you will understand what he meant by, “Don’t Let the Old Man In”. You are only as old as you feel.

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Remember these sites:

1. Registration – masters@fina-gwangju2019.com
2. Accommodation – fina2019@globaltour.co.kr

Both sites have managers who are happy to help.

Thank you for your many positive comments about the Blog. Never done one before but lots of fun for me and, hopefully, a guide for the Ambassador to Fukuoka in 2021.

Lastly – sounds like John Farnham’s concerts

Please do me a huge favour...

Let me know that you are coming with your name and accompanying persons’ names, so we can create a Group. Who knows what we might get up to.

The End – that’s all, folks. Kum a sum ne da (thank you).

Tony Goodwin – Manly Masters and occasionally, Malvern Marlins