

AUSSI MASTERS
SWIMMING IN AUSTRALIA INC.



DEVONPORT, TASMANIA
12th - 16th MARCH, 1991

FINAL REPORT

MEET DIRECTOR'S REPORT.

The 1991 AUSSI National Championships were extremely successful and did a lot to support AUSSI's objectives of Fitness and Fun in swimming.

It was the first time that AUSSI held its National Championships in Tasmania and one of rare times that such a Championship was convened in an open air pool. Also, the venue, Devonport, is not a capital city and this is another first.

The success of the championships, whether it be measured in friendly atmosphere, competitive rivalry or financial return can be attributed to the efforts of the organising committee.

This event was no one-person-show, but a meshing of wide and varying talents in a true team spirit - a total necessity for any volunteer organisation to function effectively.

The organising committee comprised of the following team members:

Hector Beveridge:	Open Water Swim Convenor
Trish Beveridge:	Secretary
Jane Duff:	Finance Controller
Chris Guesdon:	Marketing/Publicity
Chris Holloway:	Recording
Ron Knight:	Hospitality
David Yeomans:	Venue Co-ordinator

Our greatest uncontrollable fear, which proved unfounded was inclement weather. Thanks to one and all who assisted in arranging perfect weather.

As the championships were to be conducted under the auspices of the Tasmanian Branch an attempt was made to encourage participation from all clubs within Tasmania to assist in organisation. The end result was a team of all Devonians except for Chris Guesdon, who is from Hobart. Our Marketing efforts commenced some eighteen months before the actual championships with issuing of brochures and flyers at all National and State Masters Swimming Events plus the Second Australian Masters Games in Adelaide and the Central Australian Masters Games in Alice Springs. Tireless efforts by our Marketing team resulted in over \$10,000 of sponsorship (in kind as well as cash). This formed a solid foundation for the financing of the Championships.

Mr. Don Blew acted as chief referee and he was ably assisted by other members of the Tasmanian Swimming Inc., members of Aussi and volunteers from various other swimming clubs to make up the necessary pool officials, timekeepers and runners. Sought advice from Michelle Schofield on a couple of technical matters was thankfully received.

The reports from the various team members follow, with their various recommendations. There are several points, however which I make irrespective of whether they are covered elsewhere in this report.

1. A successful National Championship can be conducted in
(a) Tasmania; and
(b) in an open-air pool but more significantly
(c) not necessarily in a capital city.

Extending this point - significant advantages may well be found in considering centres beyond capital cities as places of interest to conduct future Nationals.

2. Reinforcing our Recorders recommendations: format changes, as we had with the relays on the death knock, throws organisation out of kilter requiring additional effort in an extremely stressful situation to be overcome.
3. We must have an "AUSSI Recording Software System" tried and proven immediately. There is no excuse for this!
4. The Open Water Swim was very popular and its combination with ASI did not cause a problem. Similar shared activities could be encouraged for the benefit of masters swimming generally.
5. Management of cash funds can result in interest bonuses.
6. Our philosophy of tempting swimmers to come to Tasmania and hopefully stay for a holiday afterwards was the basis of much of sponsorship support. The timing was geared for the Easter break and considering the extremely difficult economic factors affecting us all seeing over 350 swimmers was heart warming.

BRIAN EDWARDS.

STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE
16TH AUSSI NATIONAL SWIM
CONDUCTED DEVONPORT MARCH 12-16TH 1991

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>\$</u>
OPENING DEPOSIT	1.00
LOANS - NATIONAL	1000.00
- BRANCH	100.00
ENTRY - INDIVIDUALS 350 @ \$30	10500.00
- RELAYS 194 @ \$ 6	1164.00
SPONSORSHIP	9300.00
SPONSORSHIP - OPEN WATER SWIM	1000.00
T SHIRT SALES	3525.00
WELCOME FUNCTION	838.00
PRESENTATION DINNER	6810.00
CAPS/PATCHES - SALES	537.00
COACHES	588.00
RAFFLES - POOL SLIDE	283.50
*COACHING SEMINAR	45.00
POOL SLIDE	30.00
MASSEUR/ENGRAVER	53.50
TENT HIRE	32.00
*CASH FLOAT	100.00
*REFUND - BRANCH PRINTING RAFFLE BOOKS	245.00
PURCHASE OF RESULT BOOK	12.00
CASH MANAGEMENT A/C INTEREST	572.23
	<u>36736.23</u>

<u>EXPENSES</u>	
MEDALS/RIBBONS/TROPHIES	4164.50
CAPS/PATCHES	1390.40
PROGRAMME	2448.00
RESULTS BOOK	1332.70
MEDICAL	500.00
PRESENTATION DINNER	6127.60
WELCOME FUNCTION	375.00
T SHIRTS	2577.70
OPEN WATER SWIM	855.50
SITE ESTABLISHMENT	579.93
COACHES	295.00
*CASH FLOAT	100.00
DEBRIEFING	358.00
STATE DUTY AND FEDERAL TAX	66.84
OFFICIALS REF/POOL CATERING	25.00
POSTAGE/STATIONERY/PHONE CALLS/EQUIPMENT	1363.84
*COACHING SEMINAR	45.00
DONATION T.S.I.	200.00
REFUND/SOCIAL FUNCTION	33.00
MARKETING	50.00
MEET DIRECTOR EXPENSES	130.22
*PRINTING RAFFLE BOOKS	245.20
RELAY CERTIFICATE PRINTING	295.00
	<u>23558.43</u>
	<u>13177.80</u>

<u>LESS LOANS</u>	<u>1100.00</u>
<u>SURPLUS</u>	<u>12077.80</u>

*CONTRA ENTRIES

SPLIT UP OF SURPLUS

NATIONAL BODY

50% OF REMAINING	5565.25
ADD LOAN	1000.00
	<u>6565.25</u>

BRANCH

T SHIRT SALES	947.30
50% OF REMAIN	5565.25
	<u>6512.55</u>
ADD LOAN	100.00
	<u>6612.55</u>

AUDITORS REPORT

I report that I have examined the Statement of Receipts and Payments of the 16th Aussi National Swim Body, in respect of the period ended 5th July, 1991. In my opinion such statements and other information detailed is in accordance with the books and records of the Group and is correct and that the Rules relating to the administration of the funds of the Group have been observed.

SIGNED:

QUALIFICATIONS:

9 ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE:

9 DATE:

RECORDERS REPORT

EQUIPMENT:

Hardware -	PC86 Olivetti 20mb Computer
	PC286 Unysis 20mb Computer
	Mouse
	Epson 400 Cps Draft Printer
	Lazer Printer
	Photocopier
Software	MS-DOS 4.2 Version Swimmeet Program
	written by David Haley Queensland.

STAFF:

Unysis Rep.	Neil Opbroek
Branch Recorder	Christopher Holloway
D'port Devils Recorder	Margaret Smith
Assistants (Full Time)	Ern Challen
	David Duff
(Part Time)	Kathy Smith
	Mandy Reynold-Smith
	Richard Colbeck
	Carmel Whittle
	Helen Flanagan
	Ann Rataj

RECEIPTS AND ENTRIES:

We received 2,241 entry cards from 347 swimmers from 56 clubs. Entries were received from all States and Territories. Three swimmers entered the 16th National Swim swim meet to participate in the 5km Open Water Swim only. Ninety entries were received for the Open Water Swim.

Cut off date for entries was the last post 25th January, 1991. Five swimmer's telephoned to say their entries would be late arriving and were accepted. One swimmer had his entry cards and money go astray in the post and was therefore not entered into the swim. He was allowed to swim in a vacant lane but no times were recorded. One competitor's cards arrived fifteen days before the start of the Swim meet (i.e. 31 days after the closing date) and was not accepted.

We posted out a flyer with an order form and summary sheets to all clubs and apart from several minor mistakes on some summary sheets all forms, entry cards and sheets were well documented and legible.

All entry fees, sports shirts and dinner monies were entered into a database on a separate computer to calculate the receipts and I was able to pass the Function/Order form with progressive totals onto the Finance Controller. This enabled us to double check

receipts at any time as well as have an accurate record of receipts.

The summary sheets were then used to check competitor entries against race cards where we found some errors between the two. Secretaries were phoned to check these errors. There were also some cards with wrong times entered. Some errors were detected at the time of data input and corrected but we were not able to read a person's mind and therefore some swimmers were entered into wrong heats.

Some swimmers were able to be moved to correct heats when their errors were pointed out to us on the day of the swim as the software program allowed for this. For example, a swimmer that had a time entered that was much slower than normal and wished to swim in a fast heat could not be moved as all lanes were filled, but a swimmer with a fast time who wished to swim in a slower heat could be moved to a vacant lane - either heat one or two as these two heats usually have at least two lanes vacant. We also had a swimmer put herself in the wrong club (she had transferred but we were not informed).

Data entry into the computer was done each time cards were received and after the closing date a "Check-a-thon" was carried out by a number of Devonport Devils swimmers to double check summary sheets against cards, lane allocation against computer generated program pages and finally all race cards were numbered with the appropriate lane and heat numbers.

M.D.'s were forwarded with entry cards but some cards were not marked. Some swimmers approached us on the day of the swim with M.D.'s which made it very difficult as we had to pass on that information to the referee which had already been organised. All Referees were given a Programme with the M.D.s listed. More attention must be paid by swimmer's and race secretaries/Club Officials when forwarding summary sheets and race cards.

All cards should be marked and a separate list forwarded with copies of Doctor's Certificate and "AUSSI Medical Disability Certificate". (See Recommendation #1).

RELAYS:

The Meet Director and National Swim Committee ruled that as many relay teams could enter the National Swim Meet as per the current rules and Clubs were advised of this. However, the weekend before the competition the National Board of Directors ruled that only a club's "A" team was eligible for points. This left the recorders in total disarray as we were not too familiar with the software program which had to be modified to allow more than one relay team to gain points and we had little time to redo the entries.

Relay team entries were entered the same way as the individual entries and program pages were printed and included in the official program and therefore any changes made would not be as the official program. To change the ruling hours before the swim

meet was totally unfair on me and the recording staff and to those clubs who were led to believe all teams would score points.

We spent countless hours on one computer trying to organise teams so only the "A" team could score points. This meant we had to redo the program pages, call for all clubs to submit relay teams which had already been done once and then being sure we had all teams entered and there were no errors as there was very little time to check teams entered.

The Tasmanian Long Course Summer Championships were run in conjunction with the Nationals and all Tasmanian "B" and "C" teams were allowed to score points. We therefore had quite a time trying to sort points and teams with a software program we were not too clever with.

The current ruling states that it is the discretion of the Meet Director that club's "B" and "C" team can score points. This question was brought up at the Mid Year National Conference before the National Swim Meet and our ruling of more than one team from each clubs being allowed to score points was allowed to pass with no objection from the Board.

We therefore were promoting and encouraging participation. I have yet to hear officially why our decision was over-ruled and feel that some explanation could have been forthcoming considering the problems it caused. (See Recommendation #2).

DURING THE SWIM MEET:

Our biggest problem were the interruptions. Because we were close to the swimming pool we were at the mercy of swimmer's complaints. Officials and general queries that could have been handled elsewhere.

Our procedure for entering results was as follows:
The cards were returned after each heat, placed in lane order (from 1-8 ensuring that all cards were returned then the official time was entered onto the bottom of the race cards from the electronic timing or the average time if stop watch times were used.

The times were then entered into the computer. A copy of each time was printed as each time was entered. When all data entry was finished the print-out was then checked against each card to double check for errors. While this was being done a screen was produced to check for any unusual times. Any errors were corrected and once all this was completed the points were awarded to the swimmers.

It had been decided to post results at the end of the day at the Happy Hours but this proved not to be a good idea as first thought because we had to make several changes to some data and it was necessary to reproduce the results again and post them again the next day. Points allocated to each of the clubs which included relays had a few problems again because of the relay changes that were made and we were forced to redo some of the points allocation.

It was our intention to deliver the results booklets to each of the participating clubs at the presentation dinner but were unable to do so because the total results could not be collated as we needed to check results and edit the Tasmanian Championship results and reproduce the national results. We also had a problem with the copier and were unable to get a repair man on the Saturday.

The software that was used during the swim meet was in no way a problem in that it caused delays etc. and I found it very efficient in it's handling of our swim meet. For someone who is not too familiar with this program it can be a problem and I had only been given the minimum amount of time to become computer literate.

My most valuable assistant, Margaret Smith (Devonport Devils) who steadied the boat many times was to me, our success in the recording room. Margaret was efficient, level headed in every way and kept any eye on detail and made those few days as Recorder worth-while. To the other assistants and helpers my heart felt thanks for a fine job under the circumstances and to Unisys for Neil Opbroek who we would not have survived without. My personal thanks to Unisys also for the provision of the hardware comprising a computer, printer and mouse.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. A National list of swimmers with permanent disabilities should be kept and updated each year and forwarded to the National Swim recorder before the commencement of the competition. A copy of the Doctor's certificate should be sent with the list.

All cards should be marked as per the ruling.

(Page 14. Rules of Swimming (b) Medical Disabilities:

Any swimmer that has not been registered as "M.D." should forward a copy of the appropriate certificates to the Recorder at the close of entry otherwise the "M.D." should not be accepted. The only exception would be a recent accident where injuries can be justified.

No medical Disabilities will be received after the commencement of the swim meet. i.e. the first event started.

2. That the current ruling with regards relays be amended to clear up any confusion that may occur in future with regards to the power of the Meet Director.
(Page 10 (c) Clubs may enter as many teams in a relay event as the Meet Director allows.

CHRISTOPHER HOLLOWAY.

HOSPITALITY

AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY: (a) Welcoming Function
 (b) Happy Hours
 (c) Transport
 (d) Presentation Dinner

WELCOMING FUNCTION:

Venue: Devonport R.S.L. Club
Catering: Finger Food supplied by R.S.L. Ladies
 Auxillary.
Cost: \$3.00/head
Attendance: Approx 250

OVERVIEW:

The function was generally well received by AUSSI members, however, those who arrived more than half an hour after the opening time found catering hard to come by.

The catering was attacked with gusto as soon as it arrived and what seemed a good amount turned out to be short of the mark by the end of the evening.

In hindsight, 50% more catering would have been justified, even if a higher entry charge was applied.

The overall results of the event was a profit for this function.

HAPPY HOURS:

The organisation of the Happy Hours was handed over to the Devonport Devils Aussi Club who provided entertainment on each night after the swim. The Devonport Gentleman's Club was the venue for the Happy Hours which became regularly well attended with finger food being left over on most occasions with everyone adequately satisfied. Cost for these evenings was \$3.00/head.

Although a medal presentation took place at the first of these Happy Hours it was found to be too time consuming so at further Happy Hours it became the point for collection of daily event medals and ribbons.

Other socials comprised of a smorgasboard dinner at the Tamahere Hotel and a Sixties Night at the Devonport Surf Club. All social functions were extremely well patronised.

VENUE:

The Latrobe Memorial Hall was selected as a venue for the dinner mainly for the reason that no other venue was capable of coping with between 200 and 300 people. In its bare state, the hall was dauntingly bare and drab but kitchen and floor space made up for this. Plenty of equipment was provided in the low hall hire cost of about \$240.00. This included a quantity of trestle tables and huge amount of stackable-transportable chairs.

Supplementary trestle tables were provided by the Devonport R.S.L. and East Devonport Bowls Club, very kindly on a free of charge basis and were transported to and from the venue in an Ansett Air-Freight 10 tonne truck that was solely for our use for a very low (and partially liquid) cost.

Lighting for the stage was provided in the hall cost and consisted of half a dozen superannuated Rank Strand spot lights and basic incandescent top lighting. Despite their vast variation in focal length and coverage they proved quite adequate with a bit of fiddling.

A presentation podium was organised free of charge through the local Rotary Club and a radio microphone and P.A. system were hired for \$100.00 from a local radio technician.

Two young musicians were hired for the evening for a reasonable fee of \$200.00 plus dinner and they provided excellent entertainment during the evening.

Local Radio Station 7AD were kind enough to provide the services of Breakfast Show announcer Rod Shephard as Master of Ceremonies and despite his scant knowledge of swimming and swimmers, he did an excellent job of the presentations and generally kept the audience amused.

Set up of the hall was done in the early afternoon of the day of the dinner with the assistance of one of the caterers staff. Club banners were solicited to dress up the walls of the hall and plants were hired from a local nursery for \$55.00 to dress up the foyer and stage. In retrospect, this was left too late and the plants on hand were not of the standard I would have liked.

LIQUOR LICENCE:

This was the responsibility of the committee and was obtained at a cost of \$20.00.

SUPPLY AND STAFF FOR REFRESHMENTS:

The Gateway Motor Inn provided Bar staff and provisions on a user pays basis. Thus three staff were provided to man the bar at no cost to us and liquor was paid for by individuals as required. This way there was no surplus paid for and a wide range of spirits and mixers were also on sale. In retrospect I should have requested a quantity of quality bottle wines to be on hand as some diners proceeded to a local Hotel to purchase same.

TRANSPORT:

(A) Airport Transfers:

Airport transfers were organised with the bus company that normally services this run. The run was extended to cover all Hotels and Motels as required by swimmers. The normal charge of \$5.00 was applied to this service, but no service operated on Saturday or Sunday as potential demand was not enough to justify the service.

(B) Hotel-Venue Transfers:

Hobart Coaches were approached to service the venue on a schedule basis during training times and competition. A special fare below normal multi-sector fare was struck and every service within the required time frame was run via the venue. This service was popular and well patronised and despite the difficulty of negotiating a crowded carpark with a large coach.

NOTE: The Committee received no money out of either of these services as the Coach operators went out of their way to provide the service to the competitors.

(C) Open Water Swim Transfers:

A coach service was offered for competitors from Hotels to Lake Eugena and back. This service was offered at \$6.00 per head return and a load factor of 90% on a small coach ensured a small profit to the Committee. As Lake Eugena is not accessible at all by public transport. This service was much appreciated by those who took advantage of it.

PRESENTATION DINNER:

Two large coaches were chartered to transport competitors to and from the Presentation Dinner. Once again, a charge of \$6.00 per person was made for this service and both coaches operated at around 95% load factor, ensuring a tidy profit to the organising committee and good value for money safe return transfers for the competitors.

The coaches were organised on a manifest basis where names were listed on a boarding manifest only when monies were paid in full and then sorted into pickup lists by Hotel or Motel or centralised home address for local competitors, thus simplifying the logistics of multiple pickups for the coaches and ensuring as low a cost as possible for the charter of the coaches.

Competitor comments indicate that this service was both well priced and well appreciated as it removed the dangers of drink driving and navigating an unknown area at night.

CATERING:

The contract for catering the function was given to a local businessman, Mr. Peter Smith. Mr. Smith is caterer for all Eastwest and Ansett flights out of Tasmania and Canberra and has had many years experience in bulk catering including the dinner at the First Australian Masters Games Swim Meet. His quote was cost-effective and menus, provided and costed 6 months from the date of the event looked very appetising. This was borne out on the night as only good comments were made about the quality, presentation and quantity of the meals.

Staffing levels were more than adequate to ensure hot and prompt delivery of each course and table settings were attractive and well laid out. Extra crockery and cutlery were hired in through the caterers at an extra cost of \$198.00. Washing up and kitchen cleaning was all done by the caterers.

LOGISTICS OF THE EVENING:

The glaring omission on the evening was the lack of an accurate seating plan to seat by number in each group. This resulted in a minor bunfight with server tables being purloined to extend existing tables. This would need to be organised at the initial booking level on a club by club basis and then table allocated via a firm seat plan prior to the evening.

CONCLUSION:

All went fairly satisfactorily, but let's not do it again for a while.

RON KNIGHT.

VENUE CO-ORDINATION

Due to the fact the the Devonport Pool is an open air eight lane Olympic pool with a 16m x 12m x 1m warm up pool and no shelter or facilities to conduct a National Swim to the standard desired the position of venue co-ordinator was invented.

Preparation began with a photocopy enlargement of the Olympic Pool and surrounding lawn areas. An assessment of people movement and requirements was made by a committee of three.

Spectator seating, marshallng tents and seating, seating for time keepers, site sheds for recording and officials etc. Locations of all the necessary facilities was then decided.

ELECTRONIC TIMING EQUIPMENT:

The electronic timing gear and touch pads were loaned by the Tasmania Swimming Inc from Hobart. The electronics were delivered and returned by the Shearing family. The bulky touch pads were picked up and returned to Hobart by Devonport Devils Club members.

Wave reducing lane ropes were borrowed from the Burnie Swimming Club and were transported to and from the pools through Frank Webb with the co-operation of the Marine Boards of Devonport and Burnie.

FIRST AID REQUIREMENTS:

The possibility of health problems minor or serious were taken into consideration and St. John Ambulance Volunteer Service were in attendance throughout the swim meet. A fully equipped Ambulance on stand by was very reassuring. Hospital facilities however were only fifteen minutes away and two Doctors were active participants at the swim.

SEATING:

Seating for the event came in two forms, the spectator seating was hired from the Devonport Recreation Centre and was delivered and paid for by the Devonport City Council. A crane and small truck were required for this task.

The individual seating was supplied by the Devonport City Councils "mobile function" chairs and housed on site in their transportable trailer.

SITE SHEDS:

Three large site offices plus their desks, tables and chairs were obtained from Royce Fairbrothers Constructions for housing the electronic recording equipment guaranteeing their security and guarding against the possibility of inclement weather. A second shed acted as officials tea room and general enquiries for dinner

tickets T-Shirts etc. The third was not required but was provided should the need arise for a area to discuss disputes and protests. The provision of these offices was greatly appreciated.

Probably the biggest and most difficult obstacle to overcome was the transporting and setting up and position of these offices. This task was carried out very professionally by Chas Kelly Transport personell using three semi trailers and their large crane, again we very much appreciate their services.

TENTS:

To provide shelter in case of unfavourable weather a number of tents were provided. The Advocate Newspaper arranged for us to use their large Marquis. Nigel Harris delivering and directing its erection. This proved ideal as a marshalling area and venue for our two coaching clinics and Aussi Forum. Seven 12 x 12 tents were set around the pool grounds so as to provide for such things as announcing, change rooms, club displays, massaeur and general storage. They came from private individuals, the Surf Club, Devonport Swimming Club and the Boys Brigade. Provision was made for any Club wishing to hire a tent throught the Boys Brigade and at least two clubs took advantage of this facility.

TOILET FACILITIES:

Mid morning nerves, warm up sessions etc. saw the existing toilet facilities strethed to and beyond their limits so three mobile toilets were hired from a local supplier and literally eased the pressure. Two of these toilets were transported to the site of the Open Water Swim at Lake Eugenana on the Saturday.

PROVISION OF FIRE HEATERS:

In the event of cooler weather eventuating a number of half drums and a supply of fire wood was on hand but fortunately was not required. However the tents prooved to be sun shelter to some swimmers suffering the effects from the night before.

PUBLIC TELEPHONE:

As no public telephone exists at the complex Telecom were approached to provide an STD phone for the duration of the swim meet. This was well patronised and was provided in the form of sponsorship.

PUBLICITY OFFICE:

The Manager's Office was made available for the direct telephone link ups with the local radio station 7AD for on the spot live broadcasts. This office was also utilised by Mr. Chris Guesdon in contacting reporters from both the newspapers and television networks.

POOL CATERING:

Catering at the facility was provided by the Pool Contractor Mrs. Trish Beveridge under the guidance of her kiosk Manageress Mrs. Judy White. A variety of food in copious amounts was provided every day. Salad Rolls, apple strudle slices and buttered fruit buns were very popular. One suggestion that a choice of wholemeal rolls be available was welcomed. A provision of sustagen and fresh fruit salad was made available especially for the event. A staff of five proved to be kept occupied and interacted sociably with the swimmers when serving time permitted.

CONCLUSION:

Overall things moved forward with only a few minor problems and with plenty of helping hands available. I feel sure everyone was pleased with the standard of the facility which displayed banners from clubs and sponsors. Patrons especially enjoyed a watersliding session at the conclusion of the competitions on Friday which brought some revenue into the coffers for the swim.

DAVID YEOMANS.

OPEN WATER SWIM.

The Open Water Swim was included in the National Swim for the second time. It attracted 90 entrants. 72 of whom started.

The venue, Lake Eugena, and course was the same one as used for the First Australian Masters Games. Despite the success of that event I am sure many people chose not to enter this championships because of an unfounded and mis-informed belief the water would be too cold.

In an historical "first" the ASI 1991 National Long Distance Championships was conducted in conjunction with the event. Following an approach from ASI Committee saw it as a unique opportunity to establish co-operative links between ASI and AUSSI. In doing so we were mindful of our responsibility to members of AUSSI Masters Swimming and accepted ASI's request to conduct their event in conjunction with ours on the basis the service available to participating AUSSI swimmers and the rules of AUSSI Masters Long Distance Swimming were in no way compromised. An undertaking to this effect was received.

The inclusion of the ASI event caused considerable comment. Both the National Board and Tasmania Branch Committee ruled that competitors would not be able to compete in both events.

The events were conducted to fit the ASI Championship around our AUSSI event. Consequently the thirteen ASI competitors were started one hour before the AUSSI swimmers who in turn finished well before the ASI giving them free water for their first hour and last hour plus.

The numerous fears expressed on conducting the joint events did not eventuate. It is considered this was primarily due to clearly defining our requirements to ASI and the conditions under which they were permitted to participate.

Overall the exercise proved a success. The presence of the ASI "National Name" swimmers attracted media coverage. ASI donated \$1000.00 towards conducting of the event. Most importantly the common bond of an interest in swimming shone through.

VENUE AND FORMAT OF EVENT:

There were few difficulties in selecting Lake Eugena as venue for the Championship because of its acceptance following the A.M.G. event. Selection of the distance over which to conduct the event was not as straight forward. There were proponents for 10km (it is after all meant to be long distance) and 3km (AUSSI) is, after all, meant to encourage participation).

Eventually 5km was chosen and hopefully satisfied both arguments. It is not too far for a well prepared average swimmer to achieve but far enough to stand as an endurance event, especially for the older age groups.

The age groups, themselves, also caused some deliberation. AUSS1 conducts pool events in 5 year age groups but has not anywhere defined long distance or open water criteria. The possibility of attracting only one or two competitors in each 5 year age group resulting in virtually no competition for medals and thereby denigrating their value lead to consideration of 10 year age groups. Greater support was, however, given to the theoretical incentive of five year age groups offering individuals greater potential of a medal, i.e. using the shorter age group as encouragement to participate.

I believe the chosen format was proven. Ninety entries were received of which 72 started, one of the eighteen scratchings swam in the ASI 20km Long Distance championship. Twenty age groups were contested, twelve of which had more than three competitors.

The scope for many more competitors exists and should be encouraged. The basic philosophy under which the event was staged was "If one swimmer gets in the water, we ensure one gets out". With this in mind the time may come when restricting the size of fields could become a consideration however should be more of a logistics problem than a restriction on participation.

Swimming the 5km event helps greatly in this regard, as does the circuit course. The thought of conducting a 10km event and having to organise one support craft for each competitor is seen as a large impediment to organising longer events.

ENTRY FEE:

No extra charge was made to enter the open water swim although it was not part of the age group point score championships. It could be argued 75% of competitors at the Nationals subsidised the Open Water Swimmers however, the entry fee was set before a decision to conduct the open water swim was made.

AWARDS:

Gold, Silver and Bronze medals were presented to all age group place getters at the Nationals Presentation function on the night of the swim. These were similar to the championships medals, were well received and are considered suitable reward and recognition.

After the event Award Certificates were produced and posted via clubs to all contestants who completed the event. The separate certificate was awarded because logistics made it impossible, by virtue of the software used, to include the Open Water Swim on the championship certificates that were distributed at the presentation ceremony.

WATER CONDITIONS:

Conditions for the event were ideal, almost too good for an Open Water Championship. There was no tide, current, swell or chop to contend with. There was no wind, it was a calm, sunny and warm day. Water temperature was 19 C at commencement of the 20km event and 20 C during the 5km.

The water was tested by the Food and Environmental Microbiology Section of the State Laboratories prior to the event and readily fulfilled the prescribed conditions for an event of its kind. A copy of the test results is attached.

SAFETY:

Medical Officers for the event was Dr. John O'Sullivan of Devonport, who although unable to comprehend why people would want to swim that far, was well satisfied with the safety and precautionary measures in place and the efficiency with which the event was conducted.

Water safety for the event was in the hands of the Devonport Surf Lifesaving Club with assistance of members from the Penguin Surf Lifesaving Club. There was one LRC and ten surf ski-boards available with fourteen (14) qualified personnel.

The St. John Ambulance were present with a fully equipped site van and three officers. The Devonport Ambulance Station was made aware of the event and visited the site early in the day to check access and conditions onto the site.

The organising committee is particularly indebted to these people for their assistance and support, without which the event could not take place

FACILITY:

The site itself was acquired free of charge in return for sole catering rights for the proprietors of the Caravan Park. A recorder's tent and two toilets were positioned on site for the convenience of the spectators and competitors.

The finish line and a feeding bay where swimmers could talk with spectators and coaches was secured and well defined. An area was set aside for competitors to grease and de-grease for the event. It was necessary to survey the site on a second occasion due to vandalism of the original bouys.

CONDUCT AND CONTROL OF THE EVENT:

As there is no AUSSI documentation on recording, timekeeping or judging an event of this nature, I consider it worthwhile outlining the method adopted as a guide for consideration by future convenors.

For both the 5km AUSSI Championship and the 20km ASI Championship the following was provided.

Timekeepers:

A Chief Timekeeper who was supplied a watch with printout capabilities. This person was responsible for time keeping their event and the activities of all other time keepers and lap counters assigned to their event.

When the race commenced two other standard stop watches were started as backup to the main watch.

As swimmers crossed the finish line their time was taken by the Chief Timekeeper who simultaneously called their number which was recorded in order by an assistant on a separate sheet. This list was then copied in order onto the printout as soon as time permitted. The printout sheet was removed from the watch for this purpose and each sheet numbered successively. The number of recorded times and people finishing was thus cross checked regularly.

As a back up to this a second timekeeper and recorder kept an independent list of times and numbers in case of malfunction of the Printout watch.

This procedure proved invaluable as one of the printout watches inexplicably stopped printing and the back up became the official watch.

Judge:

As the event was a true race and not decided on times, a judge was appointed to determine the finishing order of all competitors as they crossed the line. As the competitors finished the judge placed them in order and an assistant recorded their numbers. This list was used as a check against the timekeepers to ensure the timekeeper had correctly identified the swimmers number, finishing in the correct finishing order and had a time for all swimmers.

This, in effect, gave three independent records of finishing order and two of time. In the event of any discrepancy the judges list took precedence.

This did not occur although two matters are of note:

- (a) The timekeepers awarded the same time to two swimmers and the judges list was necessary to place them.
- (b) One swimmer re-entered the water for a cool down and crossed the finish line a second time. The judges list recorded this second crossing whilst the timekeepers did not, the latter obviously being aware of the "cool down". Had it been a swimmer legitimately finishing the judges record would have correctly placed the swimmer although there would not have been a time recorded.

Lap Counting:

Counting of laps was also under the control of the Chief Timekeeper.

Two Teams of three were appointed to each event and worked an hour on, hour off roster. Their duties was to record the order of swimmers as they completed each lap and keep a personal lap sheet for each.

Their respective tasks were - caller; who called the number of each swimmer as the passed to a - writer; who recorded the numbers in order on numbered sheets in a slim tear out pad. These were handed to a - recorder; each completed lap for each swimmer on a previously prepared set of master sheets which were drawn up in competitor number order.

It was the competitors responsibility to count, either personally or via a second, their own laps so as to know when to finish. The lap counting exercise was necessary to ensure everyone completed their required seven laps. The seventh lap actually being recorded by the judge.

HECTOR BEVERIDGE.