

VICTORIAN STATE BRANCH FINAL REPORT  
ON  
1992 AUSSI MASTERS NATIONAL SWIM MEET

The 1992 AUSSI National Championships were held in Melbourne from March 11 - 15 at the State Swimming Centre. There were 796 individual entries, with each state and territory being represented by at least one swimmer. The in-pool part of the meet was a success whilst the open water swim left much to be desired.

David Gordon, the meet director did an exemplary job in pulling the meet together and making it a success. The other members of the final organizing committee - Dorothy Dickie, Bron Campbell-Burns, Rob McCartney, Bruce Ripper and Gary Spotswood also performed creditably under a great deal of pressure. Others, too numerous to single out contributed greatly to the meet's success.

The turmoil surrounding the organization of the meet during the final month prior to March 11 has been well documented at both Victorian State Branch and National level and did nothing to help the organizing committee. Despite this, the meet was successful, albeit, a number of lessons/issues emerged which should be taken account of in future.

SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS

The following conclusions can be drawn about the meet and lessons learned which will be of use to future meet organizing committees:

1. The Meet Itself  
The meet was a success despite the organizing committee turbulence and other ructions within the Branch. There were a record 796 individual entries and the social activities were well received.
2. Financial Result  
Financially, the Nationals showed a surplus of \$1829.73. This means a dividend of \$914.87 for the National Body.
3. Recording  
The Aussie recording software system must be perfected and made available for future meets.
4. Entries  
Entries should be (a) received VIA CLUB SECRETARIES, and (b) received by someone who is knowledgeable on swim matters and so is equipped to answer queries from swimmers.
5. External Management Assistance  
The use of a "non-swimmer", external organization to act as agents in running the meet should be avoided in future.

6. Open Water Swim  
The open water swim was a qualified success. The safety aspects of open swims should be paramount in organizers' minds and if an external group is assisting in the organization of the swim, then they must be closely supervised to prevent a repetition of Melbourne 1992.
7. Nationals Organizing Committee (ie at State Branch Level)  
First, a mandatory requirement of this committee should be to review the report of the last meet organized by that branch. Second, whenever possible, a member of the previous organizing committee should be a member of, or an advisor to, the current committee. There were too many changes of personnel on the Victorian Committee.
8. Supervision by National Executive  
The national executive should require the organizing committee to have its budget approved at least 12 months ahead of the meet date. They should then steward this budget carefully.
9. Media Coverage  
State & National media coverage was non-existent, despite the media being given adequate and timely information. Local suburban media coverage (mainly press) was excellent.

Further, more detailed discussion of the above nine issues is included below and in the attached reports.

### EXPLANATION OF ISSUES

#### The Meet Itself

The meet Director's report is shown in full at Attachment 1.

The in-pool part of the Nationals was a success. There were a record 796 entries, each day ran to time and our pool hire times were adhered to.

On the other hand, the open water swim organization was a failure. The blame for this can only be levied at the external organizers who let us down. The meet director's report deals with this issue. Suffice to say that the Branch has done all in its power to redress the failure to perform.

#### Financial Result

A copy of the audited accounts is shown at Attachment 2. These show an operating surplus of \$1829.73. This is an excellent result considering the low level of sponsorship. In all, we had \$1800 of sponsorship - \$1000 from Spank and \$800 from Exceed. Without this, there would have been an operating surplus of \$29.73, so, at least we can draw comfort from the fact that without sponsorship, the 1992 Nationals would have been self funding.

The fee paid to Regency was deducted directly from entry fees. This amount had been built into the entry fee structure as a contingency fee - ie the more entries, the greater the fee. My report of 5 March 1992, dealt with this issue at some length, so my final word on this subject is that the National Executive should, in future, avoid the use of an external agency.

### Recording

Two reports on Recording are shown at Attachments 3 and 4.

Attachment 3 discusses a number of issues which made the recorder's task difficult during and before the meet. These mainly relate to the physical arrangements for the recorder at the meet, communication, processing of entries, volunteers to help during the meet and the software.

Both the recorder and the computer inputter (attachment 4) found inadequacies in the computer software provided by the National Recorder. The key problems with the software provided, were:

- (a) Incorrect version was given to recorder, not discovered until the Friday.
- (b) Point Score Program was still being written on the Saturday morning and not debugged.
- (c) Not compatible with National Registration Program. Requiring Victorian AUSSI data base to be modified taking some time.
- (d) Lack of time available for the recorders to learn to use the program, they were also involved in entering data.
- (e) Final results and Certificates are not generated by the program. Again someone had to produce programs, this took more time.

A suggested solution for the National Executive is to provide a computer program which is used at all Nationals and produces the following (this will result in consistency of results on both the day and after the meet)

- (a) Produce results in each event in age group order with places, points?
- (b) Calculate Points overall, giving a running total of individual members and/or club points.
- (c) Indicate World, National Records set at the meet similarly to the NSW program. (Also have facility for State Records since the Nationals usually coincide with State Championships. Should be purchased by States to run their meets. This compatibility would make it easier for the compiling of the National Top Ten since all would use that same base.)

- (d) Produce final Results Booklets: In lieu of this guidelines as to what is required in the result booklet and required format. Victoria followed what previous states had done. (Should it be a list of events results or a list of age group results?)
- (e) Produce labels for certificates.

### Entries

A number of issues in and around the processing of entries are discussed at Attachments 3 (2(e), 7(a) - (c)) and Attachment 4 (See "Entries" and page 4.3). The key issues for the future are:

- (a) Entries to come via Club secretaries so that all relevant data is verified before submission.
- (b) Entries to be handled by AUSSI and not an external agency.
- (c) Swimmers to receive an acknowledgement of their entry having been received.
- (d) Clubs to ensure registration numbers etc are current (see (a), above).
- (e) The checking and entering of entry data be done by one team.

### External Management Assistance

This has been dealt with at length in my 5 March 1992 report and by the Meet Director's Report (Attachment 1). Nothing further needs to be said.

### Open Water Swim

The external organizers of this let us down badly. There are too many safety factors around the conduct of an open water swim for there to be a repeat of what happened in Melbourne this year. In hindsight, it is difficult to identify what could have been done differently. During the week leading up to the swim, we had been given re-assurances that all those necessary to conduct the swim would be there on the day. They did not turn up.

Our advice, for future meets, is that if in doubt - cancel. If there are inadequate support people and facilities, do not take the risk of conducting the swim.

### Nationals Organizing Committee

As mentioned by the meet director in his report, the State's organizing committee had a high level of member turnover. This was due to a variety of reasons which included personality clashes, poor communication and lack of personal commitment from members. My March 5 report also tells a story.

The original committee paid little or no heed to the experience of the 1984 committee which ran a successful meet in Melbourne. Furthermore, some of that committee were still involved with AUSSI but their input was not sought. David Gordon, who was eventually co-opted as meet Director, had, "surprisingly", been a member of the 1984 committee.

A lesson for future organizing committees is learn from past experience - the wheel was invented a long time ago!

#### Supervision by National Executive

This issue has been dealt with in my 5 March Report on the appointment of Regency. My main point here is that, to avoid the "surprise" of another appointment of a management company, and the consequent cost, the National Executive should closely steward the Nationals' Organizing Committee Budget.

#### Media Coverage

The meet directors' report deals with the inadequate state media coverage. The rapport with media is probably a local phenomenon. Our experience was that the major media (ie, state level, daily papers etc) were uninterested - there were two brief mentions on radio 3UZ only.

However, the local media was keen and gave good coverage of individuals in suburban newspapers.

#### CONCLUSION

I commend the detailed reports at Attachments 1 - 4 to the Darwin Committee charged with organizing the 1993 Nationals. The Victorian branch has seen many changes in executive as a direct result of the 1992 Nationals. We hope that a stronger branch will emerge as a result of the experience

12 October, 1992



(CLYDE McMILLAN)

Branch President

REF:SP110AUSSI.REP

**MEET DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

The 1992 Aussi National Championships, despite the last minute complications and change of organising committee, eventuated in a successful Swim Meet. There were a lot of lessons to be learnt and these have been well documented.

My role was one of a rescue mission and the result was the best that could be achieved in the time available with the existing commitments. Never again should the organisation and management of a Swim Meet such as this be put into the hands of inexperienced and expensive management organisations.

The resultant organising committee did a splendid job with the facilities and time available and I wish to thank them all sincerely for their hard work and efforts.

Our venue, although the only one really available in Melbourne suitable for this type of event, was ideal in its geographical position for public transport and the standard of pool facilities, despite the fluctuations in air conditioning levels and pool temperature.

The programming of events and the timing of events were very successful and in no instances did we exceed our time limitations for pool hiring times and the running of events was kept on all days within 30 minutes of our anticipated program. This mainly came about through the excellent job of marshalling and as a result caused no delays in the starting of events.

The support at the marshalling area by the assistance of Swimming Victoria and their officials was greatly appreciated for their expertise and experience in making sure that all events went according to the rules, regulations and program.

The main area of concern, which is something that is going to have to be resolved and mastered before the next Nationals is the recording system, the "Aussi Recording Software System" has not yet been proven and accordingly the results were often inaccurate, delayed and finally unavailable for the presentation night. Results are what the sport is all about and particularly at National levels these should be available without question. This is not a reflection on our members of the organising committee who worked hard and diligently to do the best they could with the available system.

The social events were well attended and as usual created an opportunity for all participants from all clubs, in all States, to mix and to renew friendships.

The daily catering for officials, lunches, morning and afternoon teas, were also well handled by the Clubs and were greatly appreciated by those participating.

One area that was not to an acceptable standard was our media coverage, although all media were notified and kept informed during the Swim Meet, very little coverage was obtained through the State media, however quite a lot of local media was obtained by individuals covering their local area.

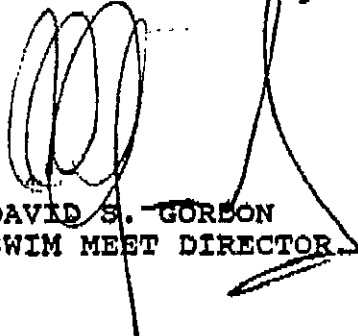
Finally, the Open Water Swim, despite very careful planning leading up to the final week, was a disaster and the blame could only be levied at the hired organisers on the day. Not only were the officials late in arriving, the course was inefficiently and incorrectly laid and the safety precautions not fulfilled as requested.

On top of this an extremely bad day for both the weather and surf conditions eventuated in an unfortunate result despite the Swim Meet Organising Committee's attempts to rescue the event. On the day a decision had to be made as to whether the event be cancelled altogether or run in an inadequate form. In retrospect the decision may have been incorrect at the time and to this end I take responsibility. The alternative of being "lynched" by a whole lot of angry swimmers may not have been a pleasant alternative either.

In summary, I would like to make the following comments for future National Swim Meets.

- 1. The Aussie recording software system must be perfected and made available for future events without question.
- 2. The organisation of the Open Water Swim must also be considered before all else, a "safety issue".
- 3. That in no circumstances should any organising committee become involved in any Management Organisation agents who are inexperienced in the organisation of a Masters Swim Meet. Not only does it affect the financial outcome of the Meet, it also leads to great inefficiencies.

Next time we'll get it right like we did in '84.



DAVID S. GORDON  
SWIM MEET DIRECTOR

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT  
FOR AUSSI Nationals 1992

as at

06-Sep-92

<u>NET INCOME</u>	<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>PAYMENTS</u>	<u>NET</u>
Entry receipts - Individuals	\$23,880.00		\$23,880.00
Entry receipts - Relays	\$1,920.00		\$1,920.00
Welcome function	\$1,758.00	\$1,758.00	\$0.00
Sponsorship - Spank	\$1,000.00		\$1,000.00
Sponsorship - Exceed	\$800.00		\$800.00
INTEREST	\$220.21		\$220.21
Raffles	\$218.05	\$135.45	\$82.60
Late Entry fees	\$64.00		\$64.00
Sale of Patches	\$14.20		\$14.20
Others	\$100.00		\$100.00
<b>TOTAL NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$29,974.46</b>	<b>\$1,893.45</b>	<b>\$28,081.01</b>
<u>NET EXPENSES</u>	<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>PAYMENTS</u>	<u>NET</u>
Hire of Pool		\$7,025.00	\$7,025.00
Medals, Certificates		\$4,126.27	\$4,126.27
Swim meet programmes		\$3,480.00	\$3,480.00
Marketing & Advertising		\$1,424.90	\$1,424.90
Swim Caps		\$1,348.98	\$1,348.98
Swim patches		\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00
Contingencies (fax, stationary)		\$1,198.79	\$1,198.79
Postage	\$84.20	\$909.27	\$825.07
Donation to Swim Victoria		\$795.00	\$795.00
Result Booklets		\$666.44	\$666.44
Open Water Swim		\$666.06	\$666.06
Catering and Refreshments (officials)		\$644.46	\$644.46
Computer costs		\$627.93	\$627.93
Administration		\$507.52	\$507.52
Donation to St John		\$400.00	\$400.00
Happy Hour venue / assoc. expenses	\$506.10	\$849.00	\$342.90
Photography		\$250.00	\$250.00
Hire of P.A		\$230.00	\$230.00
Presentation Night Refunds		\$220.00	\$220.00
Auditor		\$150.00	\$150.00
Taxis & Couriers		\$86.50	\$86.50
Bank Charges & Fees		\$35.46	\$35.46
<b>TOTAL NET EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$590.30</b>	<b>\$26,841.58</b>	<b>\$26,251.28</b>
<b>SURPLUS OF INCOME OVER EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$1,829.73</b>		
National / State Split of NET profit	50% Of \$1829.73		
<b>Net Profit to AUSSI Vic</b>	<b>\$743.42</b>		
National	\$914.87		
Happy Hour expenses reimbursement	\$171.45		
<b>Total to AUSSI Nationals</b>	<b>\$1,086.32</b>		





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I hereby certify that the accompanying Statement of Income and Expenditure for AUSSI Nationals 1992 have been prepared from the books and records and other information provided by the officers of the Association.

The statement presents a true and fair view of the AUSSI Nationals for the period ended 30 September, 1992.

Whilst it is not possible to properly reconcile the accounts I am of the opinion that the difference does not impact significantly on the accounts.

Dated this 5th day of October, 1992.

*A. S. Wehrens*

A. S. WEHRENS A. C. A.

REPORT ON 1992 NATIONALS

by

STATE RECORDER

PROBLEMS IN RUNNING NATIONALS:1. Structure of Committee.

- (a) Continual change in key personnel. This resulted in the eventual committee not being aware of decisions made by the previous committee. No correct hand over from old to new committee members ever took place. (Site the Regency agreement, only 2 committee members from the original committee had attended the meeting in June with Regency and knew any details of that agreement.)
- (b) No Sub-committees. When I arrived 2 weeks prior to entries closing there were only chairmen for subcommittees and no committees. (This apathy is the reason for Regency being sort to handle the work load in the first place)
- i.e. all chiefs no indians

2. Lack of Communication.

- (a) No hand over procedure. When members resigning and new members joined the committee insufficient information was handed on. (re Regency Agreement)
- (b) Victorian AUSSI members. Requests for help, I suspect never reached the bulk of members with enough urgency.
- (c) Recorders Room During Meet: Room used by recorders was also used by the programmer and people producing the News Flash. This was a mistake. The recorders room should be off limits to ALL, only the Meet Director or Chief Referee should have access to the recorders.
- (d) Decision Makers. The Meet director and Chief Referee should only produce solutions to problems that have occurred not more problems. e.g. the buck stops at that point.
- (e) No Receipt on Entry: Swimmers were not advised that their entries had been received. A list of swimmers entered was sent to Branch Secretaries requesting conformation of members registration. This lack of feedback led to innumeral problems during the carnival.

(f) Logistics: Transport of Programs and Spank gear to the pool, storage and distribution of items on the morning of carnival. Items were stored in the recorders room, hence recorders moved programs etc to distribution point. This time would have been better spent setting up the recorders room and having a natural flow of cards. Spank gear which was unclaimed as left in the distribution point for "someone" to pick up.

3. Contractual Agreement.

(a) Agreement with Regency. Regency never intended to enter data but the agreement suggested they were.

There was a query early in 1991 as to UNISYS helping with recording, no further mention was made.

Thus, who was doing the entry and recording - never actually formally decided.

4. Lack of Volunteers and General attitude of those who did.

(a) Prior to Nationals. The entering, checking and producing the program was left to one or two people. Hence they were exhausted prior to the meet. These same people then worked both during and after the meet.

(b) During Nationals.

Recording required at least six recorders (refer page 8 of proposal 17th April '91) only three, two who were swimming, were available for the majority of the carnival. (One was State Recorder). Recorders also had to do jobs not related to recording.

Timekeepers, continual call for timekeepers meant continual rotation of timekeepers, eventually leading to inexperienced uninstructed people performing this duty. On three occasions timekeepers recorded the incorrect times on cards for at least 10 heats. (If Timekeepers are checking cards against swimmers, and are handing in a card for each heat then how can this happen).

5. Lack of Expertise.

- (a) Computer knowledge. Prior to these Nationals Unisys has always handled the computer entry and recording. Therefore this was the first time Victorian AUSSI Branch have attempted it on their own. The State Recorder only last year learnt how to use a computer and no time was set aside for recorders to become familiar with the system. Where are these "Computer Experts" I keep hearing about, why aren't they helping to get the system off the ground instead of criticising after the event.
- (b) Officials. Guidelines need to be set, areas of responsibility defined. Although Swim Victoria Officials were used there were some confusion over who was responsible for diferent phases of carnivals e.g. timekeeping, judging.

6. Computer Program

Generally well structured and usable, though:

- (a) Incorrect version was given to recorder, not discovered until the Friday.
- (b) Point Score Program was still being written on the Saturday morning and not debugged.
- (c) Not compatible with National Registration Program. Requiring Victorian AUSSI data base to be modified taking some time.
- (d) Lack of time available for the recorders to learn to use the program, they were also involved in entering data.
- (e) Final results and Certificates are not generated by the program. Again someone had to produce programs, this took more time.

7. Entries:

- (a) Incomplete Information. Entries were sent direct to Regency by individuals and not via club Secretaries to be checked if all information was correctly entered. Regency (not being swimmers) were unaware of the importance of some information. Hence Regency queried only incorrect money, other queries had to be handled by recorders when we finally got the entry forms. (Often this resulted in duplication of phone calls) Entries should have been sent direct to AUSSI for checking and recording then onto Regency.

Time was waisted by the Recorder checking registration numbers of swimmers and chasing information in relation to a dishonoured cheque's for Regency. Since Regency received all entries these checks by the Recorder should not been required, Regency should have done all.

Entries received with information not included (e.g. AUSSI ID) were not returned to the swimmer due to the delay in delivering of entries to the person entering the data and the concern that there would be insufficient participants. Imagine the problems this cause

(b) Data Entry. One operator entered all data onto the computer. Some entries were photocopies and were very hard to read. This led to mistakes in incorrect names, ages, registration numbers etc. Written entries were also illegible leading to further problems.

(c) Individual Entries not available at the pool. If a swimmer was not entered in an event and a query took place no evidence as to the validity of their claim existed therefore they had to be included. Much of this running around was handled by State Recorder. (see 1f)

6. Final Results: No guidelines are set down on what results should be included in the results booklet.

7. Sponsorship: All talk and promises, no action. A dead line must be set by which time a firm commitment must be entered into otherwise forget it. (This must be done prior to the program going to print)

SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS:

Golden Rule: Ask How, When, and Where things are to be done

1. Structure of Committee.

(a) Subcommittees should be formed. Should be stressed the amount of work involved. If insufficient help

- (1) advise National Body unable to handle Nationals.
- (2) Clubs to pay for help (as in NSW)

(b) Organise the logistic movement priot to the carnival for both before and after.

2. Contractual Agreements.

(a) Agreements in writing and signed. Clauses should state if not signed within stipulated time agreement is null and void. We should gain or use someone with compeance to handle this area.

3. Enteries: Should be received, checked, receipted and entered at the one place, by a team.

4. Communications:

(a) Contact person to handle all enquiries, participats should be notified via the flier and should have a PO Box address, FAX and photocopier.

5. Lack of Volunteers:

(a) Clubs provide members or be charged a fee so work can be paid for.

(b) Officials. Set of Guidelines / Duty Statements e.g. for timekeepers, meet directors, recorders etc.

5. Meetings: Committee meeting should be run correctly with properly produced minutes and corrected lead in time for changes to motions, minute motions should not be ammended.

6. Computer Program: Nationals provide a computer program which is used at all Nationals and produces the following (this will result in consistency of results on both the day and after the meet)

(a) Produce results in each event in agegroup order with places, points?

(b) Calculate Points overall, giving a running total of individual members and/or club points

(c) Indicate World, National Records set at the meet similarly to the NSW program. (Also have facility for State Records since the Nationals usually coincide with State Championships. Should be purchased by States to run their meets. This compatability would make it easier for the compiling of the National Top Ten since all would use that same base.)

(d) Produce final Results Booklets: In lieu of this guidelines as to what is required in the result booklet and required format. Victoria followed what previous states had done. (Should it be a list of events results or a list of agegroup results?)

(e) Produce labels for certificates.

- 7. Dry Run of all Officials or lets get people qualified to be Meet Director, Timekeepers, Judges especially for Nationals. Those who work get free entry to carnival.

The final members of the National committee should be congratulated for their efforts considering the problems they were faced with. Remembering that it is always easier to criticise in hindsight and come up with solutions to problems encountered.

NOTE: As laid down in the "AUSSI National Swim Meet Guidelines" the information should be ACCURATE. Due to the above problems I was unable to be 100% sure of the accuracy of the results hence they were not announced on the night. Despite the criticism we were correct in what we did.



AUSSI NATIONALS 1992 - ENTRIES , RESULTS AND RECORDING

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ENTRIES

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1. The decision to employ an agency for the acceptance and compiling of entries was an error in judgement . I do not think it is an error to employ a person or persons for this onerous task , but they must have an excellent understanding of swimming , swimmers and competition ( as was the case of our people who eventually vetted the entries and compiled the programme ) .
2. There should have been some form of receipt returned to the competitors with a copy of events they had entered immediately their entry had been received . ( It must have been difficult for our interstate colleagues flying in not knowing whether they would get a swim . )
3. It would have saved a lot of time , effort and money if all entries had come via the club secretaries - with their AUSSI NUMBERS .
4. The closing date was four and half weeks prior to the Nationals . That should have given plenty of time to put the programme together . It didn't! The final heat draw was available one week after entries closed . But , it was put together , when the proof reading was supposed to be done. I still don't know who was supposed to lay out the program.

THE COMPUTER PROGRAM

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- 1.Originally we were ~~also~~ told the National AUSSI Database would be available to us . We wrote and asked for it as at the closing date . The idea being , instead of typing all relevant information about a competitor , by entering his or her Aussi No the information would automatically go in. Then all that was required to go in was the 5 event no's and estimated times. We still haven't received the database.
- 2.The competitors were entered in the multi-entry database This worked well ,although the number of changes that had to be made because people made mistakes on their entry forms was a pain - but that's not the computers fault .

3. Once all entries have been completed and are correct the program is told to extract the 25 event databases . It does this automatically when given the command .

4. When the databases have been extracted ,the heat draw and swim cards can be printed out . This was completed without any problems , although the printing does take some hours .  
NOTE : Each swimmer receives a record number on their card.

THE COMPUTER PROGRAM CON'T

5. The above process saved much time and effort and the only problem occurs if the program is altered after this has been completed .

6. The completed Heat Draw went to the printer . The time cards were sorted into lanes and distributed to the time-keepers. We found this the most efficient way to work apart from the two examples to be discussed shortly .

7. When a heat had been completed the time cards and slip from the electronic timing were taken to the recorders . The recorders entered the official time on the cards and handed them to the computer operator . The operator enters the event number , the record number and the time . When all swims for that event have been entered the results are printed out and the time cards are checked with the results.

8. The computer originally printed seeded lists for the 400's and 800's .When registration of these had closed it was a simple matter to make the swimmers who did not register inactive and print out a heat draw and time cards .

9. The final results do take a lot of number crunching by the computer and thus a fair amount of time . The computer did produce event results , overall club results ,relay results club summaries , individual points and aggregate placings . While these were accurate to the information entered there were some problems .

10. The main problem being on Presentation Night. The reason for the mess-up was when eal8.dbf (event18-200m freestyle database ) was copied . The disk on which it was copied had a eal8.dbf file on it and when the file was copied it was

copied in the wrong direction . That is the blank file was copied over the one with the results. The computer sees this as zero points for any competitor who swam in that event . Therefore 300 competitors had incorrect scores on their aggregate that night .

11. As this report is being completed so is the computer program for the results labels . ( The certificates are available but we are waiting on the label printing )

12. Overall the computer program worked satisfactorily . The only two points of contention were that it should have been available by Oct-91 for our testing and familiarisation and it was not flexible enough .

#### MISTAKES

The vetting of entries by Dorothy and Bron eliminated most entry errors . There was only one entry (Faxed) as far as I am aware which we did not receive. There were a few minor hiccups in relation to the number of I.M.'s and freestyle and there were mistakes, with peoples names , ages and clubs but I think those acceptable considering some of the entries .

The worst errors occurred in the results and this was not acceptable . To explain what occurred a review of the computer system .

A person enters an event. The computer seeds them and gives a record number for that event. The record number is what ties them to the system .

Now if an official changes a person from their original heat it is possible that the competitor :

(a) Has no time on their swim card because it has already been sent to the recorders room and entered as a no swim .

(b) Has their time written on the person they are replacing's swim card and sent to the recorders room where the person who has'nt swum receives a time, points and a placing

(c) Gets their actual time recorded correctly .

All the recorders see is a card and a time . They dont know there is a mistake until the results have been posted and a protest has been lodged .Unfortunately a precedent was set on the first day allowing competitors to change heats .

My argument is that we are running an Australian Championship. We are trying to cater for the smooth running of the Championships , not individual needs and if you are competeing in a Nationals , you should be able to get to your heat on time .

There were two legitimate excuses in the registrations for the 400's and 800's , but this was different and did not affect the program or the results .

The debacle of the Presentation Dinner was a recording error. As I am in charge of this area , I take full responsibility . The specific reasons why have already been covered , but the points to come out of those errors are :

- 1) We should have been running a manual tally in conjunction with the computer program .
- 2) The full computer program should have been tested months before , not still being written on the day .
- 3) Every person involved should have <sup>been</sup> well educated in their task whether timekeeping, recording or marshalling .
- 4) There should have been an over abundance of workers in each area instead of having to scratch for available people constantly .

A brief word of thanks to Libby Gordon , Bob Campbell-Burns and Andrew Gibson with who's voluntary effots in the recording area kept us up to date with results .

To briefly sum up the Nationals in the entries , recording and results area one could say an adequate job was done . It could have been a whole lot better and possibly a lot worse , but the essential jobs were completed . I think our area as did others suffered from lack of manpower , accurate instruction , problems arising that should not have reached us and being illprepared as Bron and I were not involved until the last three months . Also the constant stream of resignations did nothing to aid the situation . It was fortunate that David took charge because before that the Nationals <sup>were</sup> rudderless .

Bob Mc Cartney