



MSI NEWS

The official Newsletter of
MASTERS SWIMMING - INTERNATIONAL

Number 18

MAY/JUNE 1994

Editor's Note

Hello everyone. This is most probably my last newsletter as editor, as after five years in the role, I think it is time for a change. Also, with my role as President of AUSSI Masters Swimming in Australia, I do not want it thought that my views expressed in this journal are necessarily the views of my country's Masters Federation.

In my report to the MSI Congress to be held shortly in May I mention that my aim as editor of the MSI Newsletter was to develop a high quality image of MSI and to inform swimmers of the work MSI has done and continues to do, on their behalf.

I attempted to correct misunderstandings that had occurred in the past, as to the aims, objectives and role of MSI. However, despite all the work that MSI has done in establishing structures for World Masters Meets for in excess of 3,850 swimmers; despite establishing Masters Rules, World Records, Top Ten Times and participation programmes for Masters; despite goodwill and negotiation with FINA all the way - there still appears to be those in the swimming world who are threatened or challenged by the existence of an organisation such as MSI. Perhaps it is the fact that MSI gives a 'voice' to many individuals, that is of worry to them.

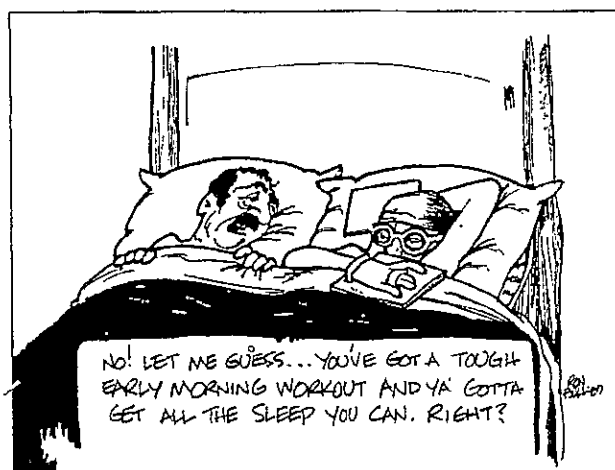
But for Masters, run by Masters, these individuals have always been able to be heard, have always been vocal in what they approved or disapproved of, and MSI listened. My five years with MSI NEWS has shown me that this concept has not changed. Masters swimmers still wish an avenue to share their concerns, and some are not too sure now that FINA has totally encompassed Masters, how that voice will be heard. For example, in the European UK Newsletter "Master Swimmer" their editor Geoff Stokes listed the agenda and topics of discussion for the July FINA Masters Congress, (probably obtained from MSI NEWS). Geoff states, "This is quite a meaty agenda and the outcome will be watched with interest. One may well ask how the views of UK Masters will be canvassed for this important congress."

In this newsletter I print a letter of complaint from FINA and LEN official Arthur Knudsen. Arthur's comments are as welcome as the swimmer who complains about inappropriate drug testing for Masters, lack of warm up procedures, or starting procedures at Meets. If we don't complain and praise, and we don't listen, then Masters Swimming will suffer.

Congratulations to FINA Masters Committee member June Krauser (USA) on being recognised as an Honour Contributor in the 1994, ISHOF Honourees. Many Masters will know June very well and join in our good wishes.

The Montreal World Championships entries closed on May 25. My very best wishes to the organisers. Being heavily involved in the Brisbane World Masters Championships in 1988, I know what pressures they are under as the July date looms upon us. I, and my fellow countrymen are really looking forward to the trip, and to seeing something of beautiful Canada.

Glenys McDonald
Editor



Reproduced from Swim Magazine

What is ailing MSI?

Arthur S. Knudsen

I have noticed for some time that MSI has developed a tendency to pay negative visits to FINA and LEN. One way of doing this is to misquote FINA rules and then spin a yarn about it. When I read the MSI NEWS, I sometimes wonder if the letters MSI have been given a new meaning; More Slanted Information. I find this hard to understand and not conforming to the frequent referrals to the motto "Fitness, Friendship and Understanding". This goal is definitely not reached by the technique of using wrong and incomplete quotes, but maybe this is what can be expected when MSI cannot follow its own rules. As far as I have been able to ascertain from MSI documents, MSI have been without legally elected officers since their last Congress.

It will take too much time and space to try to correct all their allegations, so I will go into some of the recent ones based on MSI NEWS number 16.

1. RECORDS

During the European Masters Championships in Sindelfingen there were no problems in timing the swimmers for the 400 and 800 metres freestyle. Seven records in the 400 metres and eight records in the 800 metres freestyle events were properly timed and recognised.

The LEN age determination rule is NOT, I repeat NOT IN CONFLICT with the FINA rule. The FINA rule MSW 2 states clearly "For all purposes pertaining to Masters World Records and Masters World Championship meet competition, the actual date" The European rule has been properly made in a democratic way at the LEN Congress with a vast majority of European swimmers behind it.

I don't see why you try to make a problem where none exists, (sic) namely how to get a time recognised as a European and/or a World Masters Record. A European Masters Record is not necessarily a World Record, but if it qualifies according to the FINA rules, an application on the appropriate form will be filled out according to the rules for a World Masters Record and sent in for approval. Believe it or not, the European Masters Swimmers know how to do it, and they know the difference between a European and a World Record.

2. AGE DETERMINATION

The 31 December rule has been used without problems for as long as anyone can remember. In response to Gary Stutsel's flippancy, when he talks about "breeding potential Masters Swimmers", when

children shall start school at the age of six, shall they start on their birthday or at a date common for all? There are other factors determining performance that are of much more importance than the age. Bear in mind that we compete in five year age groups, not one year or one month. What about a swimmer that can train only one day a week as opposed to a swimmer than can train twice a day seven days a week? Is it fair that they shall compete in the same age group? What about body build or weight? Age is one of the minor factors for swimming performance.

I don't know where Gary Stutsel gets his information about Europe from, but in his New Year's reflections he comes up with a statement that Europeans "are still being subjected to meets which do not provide an age group for every competitor". Of course we do, we use the standard five year age groups up to and including 90 years and older, but as you know with the year of birth as the determining factor, and so far there has been no problems. If an organiser does not invite the whole range of age groups because of lack of competitors, that is his prerogative in the same way as he does not have to include the whole range of events.

The MSW 3.2 (start rule) has been adopted in Europe.

3. MASTERS OFFICIALS

Another wrong quote, the FINA NEWS Vol XX No 7 DOES NOT call for "recognised Masters Officials". It asked for proposals for Officials from the FINA list. That is something quite different. FINA has for the time being two lists for swimming officials, referees and starters. Unfortunately we do not have a FINA list of Masters Officials, but it is on the agenda for the FINA Masters Committee.

There is an unwritten rule about officiating that we all try to follow: "it is the duty of every official to see to it that all competitors compete under equal conditions and that no one gets an unfair advantage to the other competitors". The rules are there to be followed.

4. STARTING PROCEDURE

You refer to the "false start rule for Masters". What false start rule? There is no special FINA false start rule for Masters.

Regarding the complaints about the starting procedure in the European Masters Championships, I must say that I am very surprised to read about this. I was present for the duration of the Championships and neither I nor anybody else received any protests or complaints about how the starting was handled.

By the way, the European Championships are a matter for LEN not for MSI. If anybody has any complaints or

proposals regarding LEN or FINA rules or events, the line of communication is to LEN or FINA, not to MSI. If there should be anything to complain or protest about during a competition, the complaint or protest should be lodged then and there and not several months later in a publication that has no link-up with the organisations mentioned.

I have checked with both LEN and FINA regarding communication of any kind from Masters swimmers. So far there has been none. If the editor of MSI NEWS is as worried about things as she appears to be, why doesn't she quit juggling her responsibilities and put on her hat as President of AUSSI Masters Swimming and take up any questions she may have directly with FINA? The line of communication does not go through MSI NEWS.

In closing, I wholeheartedly concur with Gary Stutsel's closing remarks in his New Year's letter about co-operation and understanding between the swimmers of their federations. We must not forget that Masters Swimming is NOT MSI nor FINA or LEN but the individual Masters swimmer in his/her club.

It is my challenge and hope that we can all work together in harmony for the advancement of Masters Swimming and refrain from using half truths and slanted statements, but join hands in unison instead of trying to split the international Masters society.



MSI's President Responds

Gary Stutsel

Arthur's comments are most welcome because we know that as well as being an official of both LEN and FINA he is more importantly an active Masters swimmer, and obviously an avid reader of MSI NEWS.

MSI and MSI NEWS attempt to act as the voices of the Masters swimmers, because how else can they speak?

Arthur talks of lines of communication to FINA and LEN but to the swimmer who does not have Arthur's connections, this means going to his club, the club to the Masters Committee/Masters Association, the Masters body to the Federation, then the Federation to FINA/LEN. If everything works well and the message is conveyed properly through each "filter" level, then it may be possible to effect a change within a time span

which can be from 12 months to three years (to meet deadlines for submissions of motions for Technical Congress when necessary).

Arthur says the European Championships are a matter for LEN not for MSI. This is true when speaking of their conduct but then the opinions of the individual swimmers can be expressed in MSI NEWS. Their views are published, as are Arthurs', and are open to challenge, as are his.

Criticism and comment is something which we welcome and in matters of technicality, which is Arthur's speciality, we must agree that indeed there is no "False start rule for Masters", that is, it is the same rule for all swimmers. However, equally, Arthur must accept that the MSI President who wrote the July 1991 MSI Constitution/By Laws, is not only very conversant with them, but also ensures that he follows their words precisely.

The comment "MSI has been without legally elected officers since its last Congress" is both wrong and mischievous. It is also a case of Arthur, if he speaks for LEN, acting contrary to his own teachings, that is, interfering in an outside body, MSI.

Assuming as we have already stated, that Arthur speaks as a Masters swimmer, then he has every right to ask this question. The answers are to be found as follows:

The last MSI Congress was held in Indianapolis on the 28-29 June 1992. As the Minutes of that Congress record, "Item 13.6. Election of MSI, moved USA, seconded Germany "That the current officers be nominated for the positions they now hold and that nominations be closed and a unanimous ballot recorded. Adopted."

This meant the officers were Gary Stutsel (President), Steve Gosse (Vice President-Finance) and Kevin Kelly (Vice President Programmes).

Subsequently the death of Kevin Kelly left a vacancy. After consultations with the MSI Council and United States Masters Swimming, Gary Stutsel appointed Joe Kurtzman of USMS as Vice President Programmes.

This was done under MSI By Law IX 10 which states: "Any vacancies occurring in the Council shall be filled by the appointment of the President".

Definitions: page 3 of MSI handbook states: "Council": The Council shall be comprised of the officers of MSI and the Directors of each division as found in Article VI of the MSI Constitution."

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The next MSI Congress, and therefore the next elections, is to be held in Montreal on 3 July 1994. The meeting held in Hamilton, New Zealand on 9 April 1993 was a Special Meeting, convened under By Law VII 2, by the President.

In conclusion, we endorse Arthur's closing comments that we all work together for the harmony and advancement of Masters Swimming and especially for the individual Masters swimmers.

Thank you Arthur for being such an avid reader.

(In his letter Mr Knudsen mentions his perception that MSI NEWS edited by myself "pays negative visits to FINA/LEN". This might give the impression that as editor I am anti-FINA/LEN. For my views on FINA I draw readers attention to an article I wrote in newsletter No. 10 - April 1992 titled "Masters Swimming - Who is responsible?". The views expressed in that article, (which incidently was praised by Mr Knudsen and the then Secretary of FINA, Ross Wales) are the views I still hold. I defy anyone to determine that I am anti FINA, however, the concerns I had in that article are more relevant today, because the FINA machine seems much too slow in addressing them - Editor.)

Postal Events

MSI Vice President Programmes, Joe Kurtzman, is compiling a list of Postal Events which are open to swimmers from around the world.

It is planned to promote these events through displays at

World Masters Championships, Montreal, July 1994

World Masters Games, Brisbane, Sept/Oct 1994

Hawaii Masters Festival, Honolulu, Aug 1995

and in a brochure which will be available to all member associations.

If your association conducts postal events which you wish to have included in these displays and the brochure please send the details to:

Joe Kurtzman
Vice President Programmes MSI
90 Chadwick Drive
Charleston
SC 29407-7470
USA

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Participants Wanted

Masters Clinic at Montreal Championships

The FINA Masters Swimming Committee, in co-operation with the FINA office and the organisers of the Vth World Masters Swimming Championships in Montreal 4-11 July, plan to conduct a Clinic covering medical and training matters pertaining to Masters during the Championships. The proposed programmes for the Clinic is as follows:

1st DAY

Physiological and medical problems of age swimming and participation of "Masters" swimmers in competition.

2nd DAY

Methods of preparation of "Masters" swimmers.

- planning of preparation
- structure of annual training cycle
- structure of training session
- training loads

3rd DAY

Swimming techniques of different strokes. Starting techniques. Relay swimming. Competition regulations. Special devices used in training of "Masters".

Athletes and coaches wishing to speak or present papers at the clinic should contact:

Sergey Fessenko
St Burmestinko 9/10, Ap 27
252040 KIEV
UKRAINE

Papers must be written in English on A4 paper in the following format:

- Name of report
- Main questions for discussion
- Ways and methods for their solution
- Explanation of results achieved
- Conclusions

Papers may be tabled or presented by speech as desired.

Sergey Fessenko is a member of the Masters Swimming Committee who lives in Kiev. His specialty is Butterfly and he was a gold and silver medallist at the 1980 Olympic Games. He has a Bachelor Degree in Physical Culture and a Ph.D in Pedagogics and has had extensive coaching experience.

venue for MSI Congress Montreal 1994

Archipel
4543 Pierre-de-Coubertin Street
Montreal

Sunday July 3 - 9.00am to 3.30pm
Saturday July 9 - 9.00am to 4.00pm

Hawaii Swim Festival 1995

The entry book with full details will be available at the Montreal World Championships. Preparations are well advanced for the type of event that Masters will rave about for years to come. Keep your eye out for more details in future MSI NEWS.

World Masters Games Brisbane, Australia 26 September-8 October 1994

Entries for the World Masters Games close on JULY 15, so get your entries organised prior to leaving for Montreal.

The Swimming competition will be held in the Chandler Aquatic Centre (the venue for the World Masters in 1988) from 28-30 September and 2-3 October. Worldwide interest is high and the social events should top off a great Meet. Activities include "Welcome

Ceremony" (1 October); "Closing Ceremony and Carnival" (8 October); "Masters Day at the Races" (5 October); "Aussie Bush Night" (28 September); "Business Breakfast" (3 October) and a "Gala Masters Ball" (30 September).

For further information:

Telephone: 61 7 405 0900

Facsimile: 61 7 221 0137

Places to Swim

MSI is promoting the preparation of the listing of places to swim around the world.

In hard copy this would be as thick as a major city phonebook. So we have decided that each National Association or its regional offices create database listings. To ensure maximum compatibility it would be in everyone's interest if this was done on an IBM compatible using a common database such as Microsoft "Access".

The USMS already prepares a hardcopy booklet and one of its members N. Robert (Nabob) Anderson has started an international listing which presently runs to 10 pages. However, Nabob's list does not include one pool for Sydney, Australia where there are over 70 known places to swim. This serves to illustrate that hard copy is not the way to go.

The information we suggest would be recorded is:

- City or town - suburb if city - pool name - pool length
- indoor/outdoor - heated? - restrictions on opening
- fax/phone numbers - Masters contact fax/phone.

Masters visiting another country could write or fax for information regarding places to swim in specified areas, stating where they will be staying/working/studying etc.

In return they would receive the above information for the nearest available places to swim.

It may be possible or even necessary for Associations to exchange computer discs at a future date which is why it would be better to adopt a common standard.

Your comments are welcome, please write/fax to

Judy Ford
33 Collicott Circuit
MACQUARIE ACT 2614
Australia
Fax 61 6 205 7745

Calendar of Events

1994

July 2-10

V FINA World Masters Swimming Championships
Montreal, Canada

August 25-28

US National Masters LC Championships
Buffalo, New York. Tel (716) 823 3873. Fax (716) 823 8556

August 25-28

French National Masters Open
Brive, France. Tel (1) 47 30 4310. Fax (1) 47 23 1221

September 10-11

Schweiz Masters-Wettkampfe in Thun
Tel 025 34 1030 (Bus) 025 34 2641 (Pvt)
Fax 025 34 3747

September 25

Dutch Masters Open Championships, Zwolle, Netherlands
Tel 010 31 38 215015

Sept 26-8 Oct

World Masters Games, Brisbane, Australia
Tel 61 7 405 0900. Fax 61 7 221 0137

September 28-29

Barbados Masters International
Tel 809 429 7946. Fax 809 436 2272

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