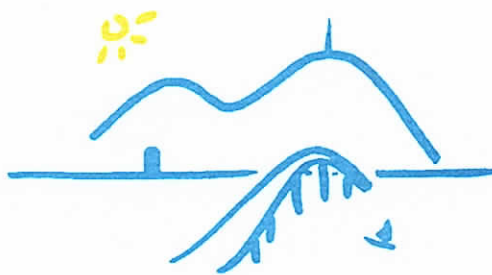


23rd AUSSI Masters National Swim



Hobart 1998

Report

AUSSI Masters Swimming in Australia (Tas) Inc

23rd National Swim Hobart, Tasmania 12–14 March 1998

Organising Committee

A committee was formed in February, 1997 comprising of Pauline Samson (Convenor) John Pugh, Katherine Daft, Megan Stronach, Mavis Fisher, Bill Stewart and Robert Bonney and later joined by Les Young and Rod Archer.

Each person took responsibility for management of a particular part of the swim meet -

Minutes Secretary	Katherine Daft
Marketing/Sponsorship	Robert Bonney
Accommodation/Transport	Megan Stronach
Finance/Budget	John Pugh/Les Young
Merchandise	Mavis Fisher
Publicity	Rod Archer
Safety	Bill Stewart
Functions	Pauline Samson
Entries/Program/Recording	Pauline Samson/Mavis Fisher

The members of the Committee had not been directly involved in the management of a major meet and only a few had attended a previous National Swim.

During the months before the swim, the Committee met formally on 4 occasions, all being held at Pauline's home.

Venue

The new Aquatic Centre was the ideal venue for the swim as good weather could not be guaranteed over the 3 days (as was experienced from 39^oC to 14^oC). As the pool was not available until September 1997, a swap was arranged for Sydney. The summer long course championships were held at the end of January so that we were familiar with the venue.

We had several meetings with the pool management prior to the swim, and hopefully tried to cover all avenues of concern. We were unable to have access to the other changerooms as without 90 days notice, they are for the exclusive use of the Dockside Centre and the members.

Dates/Duration

Our original dates of April 11th-13th (Easter) were changed to the earlier dates of March 12th - 14th on advice from the National Board in 1996. It was thought that Easter was not the best time to hold a National Swim, however this caused confusion in many newsletters which advertised conflicting dates, including the FINA Masters News which advertised the April dates in 4 editions from December 1996 – December 1997.

The 3 days were adequate for the events listed, however the pool wanted firm finishing times as they had made bookings with very little 'buffer' time.

With the swim meet prior to the Board Meeting and the Presentation Dinner on the last day of competition, all Board members were able to attend the dinner.

Sponsorship

This was hard to obtain in Tasmania due to the size of state and population. We were fortunate enough to receive small amounts of sponsorship (naming rights for events) from small businesses, individuals and clubs. Some sponsorship was given 'in kind'. A Special Grant was applied for through Sport and Recreation and although this was supposed to be 'automatic' we had to ask Tasmanian Swimming to apply on our behalf in their budget. This was overlooked and after some hard talking to Sport and Recreation, the grant was paid.

Opening Ceremony

His Excellency, the Governor, Sir Guy Green accepted our invitation to attend and open the National Swim. He would be accompanied by Lady Green and would also present the 200m Individual Butterfly medals.

The Minister for Sport and Recreation, Mrs. Sue Napier, the Lord Mayor Dr John Freeman and Len Yeats and Gary Kelly (Sport and Recreation) would also attend.

There needs to be an order of procedure for the Opening Ceremony - perhaps in the National Swim Meet Guide.

Social Activities

A Welcome Function was planned for the evening of the 1st night of competition - this was attended by 142 people (swimmers and friends) at the Hobart Vista Hotel.

The members forum was attended by a small group of people on the Friday afternoon at the conclusion of swimming.

The Presentation Dinner was also held at the Hobart Vista Hotel (original booking was for 150) and attended by 207 people. There were many more who would have liked to attend, however space was limited and the booking had been made - it was cosy enough. An enjoyable evening with many commenting that it was value for money and the best they had attended for some time. Having read the comments re the previous National Swim Presentation Dinner - that is - should we even bother ? - it was obvious from the response in Hobart that 'yes', we should definitely bother. The dinner needs to kept to a reasonable cost, have plenty of good food and kept to a tight schedule.

Presentations of the Branch Relay Shields were made by Branch representatives in most cases, the Board member - this hasn't been achieved for some time - the Board members were therefore not viewed as faceless people.

Merchandise

This was restricted to polo tops, windcheaters and badges featuring the embroidered logo, and with colours of white and navy blue. The merchandise was ordered and pre-paid with the entries.

Swim caps were available at the swim meet.

Some orders were taken during the swim meet and all merchandise was sold. Keeping the choices restricted and having good quality garments added to the success in this area.

Officials

During the swim meet, John Pugh and Megan Stronach were co-Meet Directors to deal with the day-to-day running of the meet.

Ivan Wingate accepted the position of Chief Referee and assisted by AUSSI accredited officials - Sandy Thomson, Elsa Wallace, Darryl Hawkes, Michele Burley-Jones, Alan Davis, Kay Cox., with many of these people also swimming. John Willems and Caroline Smith took on the role of Marshal(s) and assisted by trainees Scott Edwards and Helen Rubin. Scott Edwards and Judy Ford also took the opportunity to accrue Referee hours. Out Chief Timekeepers Judy Hyndes and Katherine Daft were also able to swim and were ably assisted by a number of Timekeepers who stayed over the 3 days. Ken Liddy alternated with Darryl Jacob and gave John Pollock the opportunity to hone his skills for Darwin. Michael Greatbatch from TSI operated the AOE with Robert Bonney on the SAT machine. Mavis Fisher and Helen Lane were kept busy with the recording.

The officiating standard was very high edged out only by the high standard of swimming in the pool.

Entries and Recording

Entries were received 3 weeks prior to the event - this gave plenty of time -with the use of the multiple entry form. There were some problems with times written on the wrong line and therefore 3 swimmers entered in the wrong event with peculiar times and there were also some 'interesting' nominated times. With the use of the registration data base this helped where some names were almost unrecognisable.

Program

This was a low budget item without the glossy pages - it was felt that this was easier to manipulate, and quite often rolled up in the swimmers bag. Swimmers did appreciate the label on the front cover with details of the swims entered, the heat and lane number (if there were any glitches, these would be noted early rather than the swimmer having to search through the program). The page listing all swimmers and their events, also gave others an indication of the opposition without having to search the events.

Welcome Packs

This was kept simple with a local business supplying the plastic bags and most swimmers commented and appreciated the inclusion of the 'gold medal'.

My thoughts

- use of the registration data base for entries - this meant that names and dates of birth were correct - some registration numbers were *incorrect* on the entry forms and some secretaries sent entries for *unregistered* swimmers (swimmers could still be entered into the program but tagged without points)

- multiple entry form - this eliminated the work in processing and handling of cards 435 swimmers and 2092 individual entries (if swimmers complete individual cards, these would be handled a minimum of 5 times before the swim meet.
- recording okay - however needs to be provision for DNS, DISQ, DNF so that every swimmer is accounted for - if the swimmer is not told of a DISQ and they are missing off the results, then they would approach the recorders to ask why their time was missing and then receive the news from the Recorder of a disqualification - this is not the responsibility of the Recorder(s)
- swimmers unable to read information re medals - 30 mins protest time/ time on result sheets - some thought they should have the medals as soon as the results were posted or in some cases where there were a few in an age group, then before all heats had been swum.
- registered MD's - placing a tick in the box does not mean that a swimmer has a registered MD - also swimmers are not aware of the appropriate form - some had temporary MD's
- heat seeding vs deck seeding - would not have saved time in the individual events, however the relays need to swum with all lanes used and not just in age groups - as relays entries are received on the day - these events could be deck seeded.
- adequate number of officials - there were 5 false starts over the 3 days - the 'tone' of the written protests received for the disqualifications was very disappointing.
- official morning tea was excellent, however the officials were overlooked for lunch; this was rectified on the following 2 days. Although the people in the cafeteria were informed about the swim meet - the standard and quantity of food was lacking - the cafeteria is not managed by the pool. The hire of the water coolers was an important inclusion, especially on the 1st day.
- daily newsheet - this was well received, well written and almost scandalous

Generally it was hassle free and there were only some minor problems - but as Sir Guy Green indicated to me - if they (the people over in the stands) don't know, then it's **not** a problem.

We were grateful to the people who took the time to come and thank us for a great swim meet and generally people were very happy with the event.



Pauline Samson
Convenor

AUSSI Masters Swimming in Australia Inc

23rd AUSSI Masters National Swim

Hobart, Tasmania – 12th – 14th March 1998

Meet Directors' Report

The task of Meet Director depends on the efficient organising of all the things that precede the Meet itself and our organising committee, and especially its Convenor Pauline Samson, went about their business meticulously. If you want to swim and manage a meet of this magnitude you need help, and my Co-Director Megan Stronach provided that. In fact this is our joint report.

The Swim Program

We had useful information from previous organising committees about the sequencing of events and how long each event was likely to take and we used this as a guide in setting the program. We made sure that strokes followed in sequence and that on each day there was an appropriate mix of short and long distance events. We decided to end the meet with the popular, but lengthy, 400 freestyle. We also decided that we should not have any relays on the last day and allow everyone to prepare themselves for the presentation function.

Our program was approved and worked well. There were no complaints.

Entries

We timed the events on the assumption that entries would number around 350 and that there would be about 100 relay entries, added some time for unforeseen delays and booked appropriate pool times. We were pleasantly overwhelmed when 435 individual entries and more than 200 relay entries came in. The good number of entries affected finances very favourably but did pose some problems in finishing events within the allotted pool time.

Registrations

Registration was at the Hobart Aquatic Centre the evening before the meet started and most participants registered early. 'Show bags' contained each person's program, their ID tag, tourist information and a gold chocolate medal. People were able to look over and familiarise themselves with the facilities at their leisure and ask numerous questions of the local helpers. We were not aware that anyone had any problems in registering.

Facilities

- *The Pool*

From the comments made during the Meet and afterwards, competitors were very happy with the pool and its surroundings. The number of records broken and best times done showed that the 50-meter pool was 'fast' and instantly eliminated turbulence. The 25-meter pool was always fully used for warming up and cooling down and was never excessively crowded.

There were some problems with other parts of the facility and these are addressed under the headings given below.

- *Changing rooms*

The change rooms were generally satisfactory and were kept clean but the Ladies section became crowded at times. The problem was that part of the changing facilities are leased to a fitness organisation which requires three months prior notice before they are available for use, and we did not know this.

- *Acoustics*

Acoustics are a problem at both ends of the pool and announcements cannot always be heard distinctly, especially by some of the older participants. Unfortunately, this affected marshalling at times.

- *Marshalling area*

The marshalling was cramped, difficult to isolate (swimmers were continually passing through to warm up or to swim down) and the seating arrangements are dangerous. It is remarkable that no one was injured stepping over ranks of seats as heats moved forward. The marshals and swimmers were patient and generally observant, although one batch of swimmers were distracted by the general activity and missed their heat.

- *Metal expansion joint covers*

These joints run down several of the stairways and are dangerous for people with wet feet. Several people slipped and two required some medical treatment. This defect has been pointed out to the pool managers.

- *First Aid room*

There is no properly equipped room for first aid in the general swimming area and the St John's Ambulance had to make do with a spare office. Again, the pool managers have been informed.

Conduct of the Meet

- *Officiating*

The team of referees, judges and starters did an excellent job throughout the meet and kept the events rolling. There were very few protests about disqualifications and the referees judgements were not seriously questioned.

Starting was quick and efficient once the check starter had the swimmers in place and there were remarkably few false starts. A minor problem was the 'bleeper, which was too faint for some swimmers.

Timekeeping is always a problem in large meets but we were always able to pull in willing competitors to fill gaps.

Marshalling was a real problem at times. The marshals found it difficult to establish their authority on the first day and were not helped by the acoustics and seating arrangements. This slowed up a few events. Marshalling the enormous number of relay teams was a minor nightmare but order did emerge from the seeming chaos.

- *Opening Ceremony*

The opening of the Meet by Tasmania's Governor was short and appropriate and afterwards Sir Guy Green and his wife were appreciative guests. The ceremony kept to the budgeted time and winners of the 200 butterfly appreciated receiving their medals from the Governor. The State Minister for Sport, Sue Napier, was also present, as was the Lord Mayor of Hobart.

- *Recording*

There were only two serious 'glitches' in the recording in which several surprised people achieved world records, but these were soon fixed. Results were posted promptly, but there is no notice board so a wall was used. Unfortunately the wall was in a main thoroughfare and sometimes caused congestion.

The only panic occurred on the Saturday morning when the 'guest' with sole knowledge of the computer program set up went shopping without linking it the printer. The meet director's son was hauled out of the water after a 50 meter sprint to put everything in order again!

- *Announcing*

The announcing was continual, informative, encouraging and amusing. It was also controversial. Some people complained about the continuous noise and others thought that it was a highlight of the meet. The consensus in post-meet reports and feedback was in favour, and several swimmers said it livened up a potentially boring event.

- *Timing*

- *Individual events*

In spite of having 85 extra unanticipated individual entrants the time taken for individual events was not far off target.

- *Relays*

The 100 extra relay entries and the problem in getting the teams marshalled caused us to run over time on the second day and it became necessary to postpone two relay events to the beginning of the next day. This was unavoidable as another organisation had booked the pool and we had to give way.

In spite of vociferous protests at the time the two events ran smoothly the following morning.

Safety

Safety is the subject of a separate report so we will only give brief comments.

- *St Johns Ambulance*

St John's Ambulance were in attendance and treated many minor and two more serious injuries. They were late in arriving on the second day and the Referee took us to task for starting the swimming without noticing their absence.

- *Access to equipment and to Royal Hobart Hospital*

The facilities of the Hospital were three minutes away from the pool. Fortunately they were not needed.

- *Injuries and incidents*

These are reported on separately.

Distributing medals

Except for the ones presented by the Governor, medals were handed out at regular intervals. The occasional bottleneck occurred when people turned up on the last day to collect several medals at once. This meant paging through previous days' results which slowed the process.

Conclusion

In spite of our duties we enjoyed the three days, got some good experience and were pleased by the responses from swimmers and officials.

John Pugh
Megan Stronach

Meet Directors

AUSSI Masters Swimming in Australia Inc

**23rd National Swim
Hobart, Tasmania 12-14 March 1998**

Financial Report

As the attached financial statement shows, the meet was a success financially and achieved a surplus of \$13 125. This amount exceeded the budgeted surplus by \$6 250 and was due some very careful spending and to the 85 participants whom we had not anticipated.

Our approach in budgeting for this meet was influenced by three factors. The first was our distance from other states and the cost of getting to Hobart, which we thought, might limit the number of entries. The second factor was the financial history of the 1991 Meet held in Devonport, and the third was the difficulty in getting sponsors from a relatively small business community.

Consequently, we decided that the revenue anticipated from individual and team entries should cover the costs of running the Meet and that any sponsorship would be a welcome bonus. Based on our own past experience and the number of entries to the National Meet in Canberra we thought 350 individual entries were a reasonable and safe target for budget estimates. We were pleasantly surprised when the final count showed that 435 individual entries had been received.

The financial report shows that we effectively met our expense estimates and that revenue from entry fees was \$4 825 above target. This shows that the 'secret' to achieving a Meet surplus is in attracting swimmers; the more people who enter the tournament the greater are the chances of financial success. Sponsorship is not necessarily the main criterion.

We were able to keep our costs down through the efforts of our team of local helpers, and I thank them very sincerely. Feedback from participants showed that keeping down costs did not reduce the quality of the service the swimmers received for their entry money, nor did it reduce their enjoyment of the Meet.

Attendance at the presentation function exceeded our expectations and almost exceeded the capacity of the Hobart vista Hotel. After squeezing up some of the tables we managed to fit in 204 people. All costs of the function were covered.

Merchandising and the welcoming function were the responsibility of AUSSI Tasmania and not part of the Meet finances. It is enough to say that both activities gave our branch a small surplus.

My thanks go to Les Young who collected the money, paid the expenses, did most of the record keeping and gave me the information for this report. I trust that AUSSI National appreciates its share of the surplus as much as we will enjoy our share.

John Pugh

John Pugh

Meet Treasurer

AUSSI Masters Swimming in Australia Inc

23rd National Swim

Hobart, Tasmania 12-14 March 1998

Financial Statement

		Budget		Actual
		\$		\$
Revenue				
Individual entries	350 @ \$45	15 750	435 @\$45	19 575.00
Relay entries	100 @ \$8	800	225 @ \$8	1 800.00
Special events grant		2 000		2 000.00
Sponsorships		1 500		1 400.00
Presentation dinner	150 @ \$35	5 250	204 @ \$35	7 140.00
Total Revenue		25 300		31 915.00
Expenses				
Pool hire	19 hours @ \$175	3 325	24 hours @ \$175	4 156.25
Medals, ribbons, trophies		5 000		3 387.62
Printing and stationery		3 000		1 688.52
Postage		400		739.39
St John's Ambulance		300		300.00
Refreshments		200		563.42
Result books		300		244.10
Telephone		100		153.55
Miscellaneous		350		421.75
Travelling, car hire		200		402.70
Presentation dinner		5 250		6 732.00
Total Expenses		18 425		18 789.30
Surplus		6 875		13 125.70
To AUSSI National		3 438		6 562.85
To AUSSI Tasmania		3 437		6 562.85
		6 875		13 125.70

Technical Report

Over the 3 days there were 2092 individual entries in 15 events with 6 disqualifications, compared with 6 relay events which had 5 disqualifications. There were 3 formal protests.

Event		No of heats	No of swimmers	Disq	Reason
Day 1					
1	200 Bu	7	56	0 (2 dnf)	
2	50 Br	19	146	0 (1dnf)	
3	200 Ba	14	109	0	
4	100 Fr	27	214	0	
5	400 Me	12	60	0	
6	X Me Relay			0	
7	M Fr Relay			0	
8	W Fr Relay			0	
Day 2					
9	200 Fr	25	200	0	
10	50 Ba	21	167	0	
11	100 Bu	10	69	2	(1) alternating kick (2) broke stroke
12	100 Br	17	122	2	(1) uneven touch/shoulders at turn (2) 1 hand touch
13	200 Me	17	132	0	
14	X Fr Relay			2	(1) 1-2 break (2) 2-3 break
15	M Me Relay			2	(1) 2-3 break (2) 2-3 break
16	W Me Relay			1	1-2 break
Day 3					
17	50 Fr	29	231	0	
18	100 Ba	16	126	1	stroke on front at turn
19	50 Bu	18	139	0	
20	200 Br	13	112	1	1 hand touch at 150m
21	400 Fr	22	175	0	

Safety Co-Ordinator's Report

- Day 1 No incidents
- Day 2 One incident -
Female swimmer during an event severely strained the left shoulder muscles, treated by St Johns First Aiders and medication for pain
- Day 3 Three incidents
* following an event, a male swimmer developed angina trauma, required medication, monitored by medical personnel until stabilised and withdrew from later event.
* a female spectator slipped and fell while using the mid aisle steps on the stadium, twisted her ankle, treated with first aid and sent for x-rays for possible fracture.

Cause of incident - stainless steel inspection plates are fitted on each step. These are slippery for persons with wet or bare feet and also slippery for those wearing sneakers. The pool management was immediately notified of the dangerous nature of these plates by St John personnel.

It is recommended that each step plate be covered with safety tread.

Evaluation

A major problem is there is no separate room equipped with the basic items for administering first aid cases during a major swim meet i.e. a sink, hot and cold water, washing facilities, bench/bed for treating a patient.

It is understood that the First Aid room situated at the change room end of the main pool is manned by Aquatic Centre staff, qualified in First Aid. This area is only available for these staff to treat person(s) injured or requiring treatment while using areas supervised by Aquatic Centre staff.

The provision of a suitable First Aid room/area during major swim meets needs to be further investigated and negotiated with Aquatic Centre management prior to any further AUSSI Swim Meets.

Discussion with Dr Ted Giblin

The National Medical Sub-Committee is considering recommending that a defibrillator be made available at future major AUSSI Swim Meets.

In view of the age range and potential for cardiac trauma(s) occurring in our AUSSI population this is a logical and acceptable safety precaution.

Current limitations of implementing this measure are that only trained personnel can operate this equipment.

In Tasmania, the first call is the Tasmanian Ambulance Service, paramedics, then specialised staff and doctors in Emergency, Casualty and Intensive Care units.

Currently St John Ambulance Tasmania is conducting courses to accredit their first aid personnel to use defibrillators and the Agency is also raising funding to purchase the necessary equipment this year.

A future probability may be to have a security locked doctors kits equipped with a defibrillate and appropriate drugs on standby at a meet.

If a trauma occurs required a defibrillator the doctor can authorise qualified St John personnel in attendance to open and use the kit.

Bill Stewart