



AUSSI Masters Swimming, Tasmania  
PO Box 5229  
Launceston, Tas 7250

## **2010 National Championships Report**

### **Overview.**

A new location, venue and short course program provided the incentive for people to attend. Conducting the event in a regional centre generated substantial support and interest from the local community, demonstrated in the level of sponsorship achieved by the event. Launceston is fortunate to be a tourist hub with excellent airline services plus the bonus of having most of the accommodation situated within walking distance to the pool. The Tasmanian Branch is also fortunate to have ready access to State Government grants supporting National Championships.

### **Venue.**

This was the first major event at the venue and I consider that it coped very well as it was operating at or very close to capacity. By providing an area on the upper level grouping administration (results, medals), merchandising and café provided a focus area that proved very popular with all attendees. There was a constant buzz - a very good 'vibe' from the area.

The Pool management and staff were constantly checking on the pool hall environment and were successful in maintaining a pleasant environment. The ability to regulate the ventilation by opening the sliding doors proved adequate. The Pool management also extended the opening season for the outdoor pool by 14 days to allow more public pool space during the event. There was also an extensive advertising campaign regarding pool availability, as a result there was only one complaint from the public regarding reduced access during the event

It was also commented on that this was the first time that Pool management had attended the Officials briefing on the day before the meet. They took the opportunity to introduce the day-to-day team leaders and also discussed the safety and evacuation plan for the venue.

There were adequate warm up/swim down lanes available even allowing up to three lanes for public swimmers. This was requirement of the pool booking as part of Launceston Aquatic's policy for large events.

## **Program.**

The short course program proved very popular and I consider it added a 'fun' factor to the event. The daily program, with the exception of day one, ran very close to schedule.

Teething problems with the timing gear and establishing a routine were the main factors for the day 1 program finishing approximately 1 hour late. Day 2 was 35 minutes late finishing; day 3 was 20 minutes late but day 4 we were ahead of schedule by 15 minutes.

## **Chief Referee's Comments.**

The efficient running of the event was a tribute to the group of 25 Officials who operated in a friendly efficient manner, especially Shea and Jane in the marshalling area.

I received a number of compliments regarding the officiating during the event.

We recognised the time and effort by the officials with a drinks and finger food function on the Friday night and made a presentation to Shea and Jane on the last day. One of our sponsors, Country Club Tasmania, provided distinctive shirt for the officials as part of their sponsorship package. I would also like to thank Paul Watmough for his expertise in operating the recording equipment.

There were only a small number of formal protests that were dealt within the stipulated time frame. Similarly, enquiries about results were dealt with in speedy manner.

The implementation of the swimsuit regulations was a non-event. Initial concerns from a couple of competitors were resolved quickly and easily.

Not allowing MD's for the National Championships reduced the workload for the recording group.

## **Health and Safety.**

There were 6 incidents that required first aid treatment: four incidents were treated at the Aquatic centre – two minor lacerations and two dislocated fingers – and two incidents that required further medical treatment off site.

One participant dislocated a finger that required resetting under local anaesthetic at the Launceston General Hospital.

The other major incident involved a younger female competitor suffering a heart disturbance on completion of the 200m Butterfly. First aid treatment by the pool lifeguards and a local medical practitioner (working as a pool deck official) stabilised the situation and the patient made a speedy recovery. We were also fortunate that a cardiac specialist, familiar with the patient, was on hand to advise on a further course of action. The person was advised not to compete in any further events until further medical tests. An ECG was organised for her, which detected no abnormality. In a subsequent discussion with the person involved, she disclosed that this was an ongoing problem, which strangely became more apparent when competing in the 200m Butterfly.

## **Participation.**

97 Clubs attended the Championships with a total of 563 competitors

Age Group	Women	Men
18 - 24	7	7
25 - 29	11	4
30 - 34	14	12
35 - 39	23	12
40 - 44	18	25
45 - 49	27	32
50 - 54	38	30
55 - 59	33	30
60 - 64	41	34
65 - 69	36	23
70 - 74	19	17
75 - 79	18	10
80 - 84	12	9
85 - 89	5	4
90 - 94	0	3
<b>Totals</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>255</b>

### Relay Participation

Number of teams per age group - number of composite teams shown in brackets

Age Group	4 x 100 Women Free	4 x 100 Men Free	4 x 25 Women Medley	4 x 25 Men Medley	4 x 25 Mixed Free	4 x 25 Mixed Medley
72 -119	1	4	2	0	2	2
120 - 159	3	4	4	4	8 (1)	7
160 - 199	3	4	5	6	13 (1)	11 (1)
200 - 239	3	9 (1)	10 (1)	10 (1)	15 (1)	17 (5)
240 - 279	3	4	17 (2)	7	12	15 (1)
280 - 319	2	4 (1)	2	5 (2)	8 (1)	6
320 - 359	2	1	2	0	3	2
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>60</b>

Medal	Number awarded	Number ordered
Individual Gold	546	600
Individual Silver	503	575
Individual Bronze	461	525
Relay Gold	164	172
Relay Silver	168	172
Relay Bronze	128	172

The excess in Individual medals can be attributed to ordering medals to cover the Women's 90 - 94 age group that eventually did not attract any competitors and low participation numbers in the younger age groups. It is of note that in 16 out of the 22 individual events every competitor received a medal.

### Branch Challenge Relay

This event proved very popular and a fitting end to the overall event. A large number of people remained for the event providing very vocal support for their respective teams. I have attached the initial proposal for the 2005 National swim that could be used to firm up the guidelines for the event. My suggestion is for the event to be a 50m event as the 25m did not allow sufficient time differences to add to the excitement. A mathematical error led to awarding the handicap honours to the Victorian team instead of the Tasmanian team.

Overall Times (1 <sup>st</sup> over the line)		Closest to nominated time	
State	Time	State	Time difference
SA	1.12.02	TAS	0.00.69
Internationals	1.13.79	NSW	0.01.38
QLD	1.16.93	WA	0.01.48
NSW	1.20.38	QLD	0.02.07
WA	1.20.78	NT	0.03.54
TAS	1.20.89	VIC	0.03.94
NT	1.22.13	Internationals	0.05.21
VIC	1.23.13	SA	0.06.98

### Social.

The National swim committee utilised funds from sponsorship to subsidise the cost for both functions. The Welcome function at the Queen Victoria Art gallery and Museum, Inveresk, was free of charge and attracted just over 300 people. The total cost of the welcome function was \$6690 that equated to just over \$20 per person.

The Presentation function proved to very popular. We were fortunate that the venue was able to absorb an additional 40 people on our original booking of 250. Although there was very little spare room at the venue due to the increased numbers, everyone appeared to be enjoying themselves. The function was subsidised at approximately \$25 per head

## **Finance.**

The event generated a surplus of \$13,520, approximately \$5,370 more than budget. We achieved this surplus with an entry fee of \$50 and \$5 per event, the amounts we initially submitted to the National Board for approval. The National Board of Management only approved the levels of entry fees after considerable and frustrating discussion. I consider that this effort was unnecessary as the organising branch is carrying the financial risk with the event. I feel we would have somewhat embarrassed by the possible surplus if we had been obliged to charge the \$60 and \$7 that we were initially directed to charge.

Although the Tasmanian Branch does not receive on-going State Government support, we were successful in obtaining funding from National Championship programs of Events Tasmania (\$7,500) and the Department of Sport and Recreation (\$3,000). Local support included \$8000 from the Launceston City Council as in-kind for approximately half of the facility hire fee.

At the time of printing we are still awaiting a refund from IMG for excessive fees deducted from the transactions for entries.

An unadudited profit and loss staement is attached.

## **Problems:**

### **Prior to the event.**

With the benefit of 20/20 hindsight, the entry systems were nowhere near as good as could be. I consider we were trying to be too flexible by allowing, in essence, four methods of entry to run simultaneously:

1. The normal club entry manual paper system.
2. Email entries – originally intended only for overseas competitors but used by a number of Australian competitors mainly from clubs with only low numbers of competitors (82 in total).
3. Club entries utilising Meet manager zip files (12 clubs)
4. On-line entries utilising the Clubs on line systems (170 entries).

The on-line system created the most problems and was the most time consuming area. The issues involved with the on-line system were discussed at length at the National Board meeting immediately after the event.

The issue of passwords and usernames also provided a source of constant enquiry. The average club members do not realise that having paid their fees does not automatically make them active members.

The most frustrating problem was the inability of the on-line system to transfer data to the Meet Manager program, necessitating the manual input of the data – a very time consuming process. As this was the major selling factor of the system, it failed miserably. It was only due to a massive effort by Pauline that the event program was done within the printer's time frame.

### **During the event.**

The main problems during the event were a flow on from the registration system problems but centred mainly on event polo shirt merchandising and presentation function tickets. Both issues were eventually resolved with only a few disappointments.

There was only one vocal complaint at the event with regard to the position of composite relay teams in the results. Even after arriving at a compromise, the person involved continued to voice his disapproval to anyone he could corner.

### **Conclusion**

We received a large number of compliments at the event and in the period following regarding the conduct of the event, the venue and even the work of the cleaning staff. I feel that we conducted a very successful and popular event in a regional centre.

An event of this size when staged in a regional centre attracts considerable attention and in our case attracted a wide range of sponsors.

From the comments received during the event, I would recommend that the Board consider having a short course Championships once during the 7 year National Championship rotation. I would also recommend that other Branches investigate staging the Championships in regional centres with adequate facilities.

Ray Brien  
Meet Director

*Attachment 2: Draft guideline Branch Challenge Relay*

Reprint of draft guidelines from 2005 National Swim for Branch Challenge Relay – amendments in italics represent current rules.

## **Re: DRAFT GUIDELINES AUSSI Branch Relay Challenge Nov 2004**

I hope that all branches will enter into the spirit of this competition - which is to promote friendly rivalry and competition. The idea is to encourage participation from swimmers who would not normally be selected in the existing challenge relay format. We welcome any suggestions or comments that may assist in staging or improving this event.

All National Swim entrants will be asked (on entry form) if they wish to be considered for this event. Responses will be sent to respective branches as soon as possible after the close of entries for team selection. The respective Branch executive is responsible for team selection.

Possible team selections may include the youngest and oldest swimmer from the branch, a swimmer with notable history –past Olympian, Commonwealth games competitor, FINA Top ten or someone who represents the AUSSI purpose – fitness and fun - perhaps the Branch President, a member of the branch executive or National Board member? We would like something to make the event newsworthy and assist in increasing the media profile of AUSSI.

*Aim:* To provide an event to encourage participation and foster friendly rivalry between the eight AUSSI Branches. The teams will compete for fastest overall time and/or closest to a nominated time. See rules of conduct below for details of team composition.

*Event:* 4 x 50 metre Mixed Freestyle Relay with one team from each AUSSI Branch *and International entries (if applicable)*

*Rules of conduct:*

Applicable AUSSI Relay rules (SW8.3) will apply with the addition of the following

1. Participants are to swim in the Branch of *their 2005 registration (needs to read current registration)*
2. No more than two swimmers from any one club in any team
3. One swimmer from each of the following age ranges: 20 – 34 (*requires changing to 18 – 34*), 35 – 49, 50 – 64, 65 and over.
4. Teams will be mixed as per SW 8.3.
5. Teams will be required to submit a 50-metre swim time for each swimmer.
6. No coaching or time guidance will be allowed during the event

7. Lane allocation will be from slowest overall time to fastest. Slowest nominated time will start on the gun; faster teams will start on handicap time
8. If a dead heat occurs with the handicap overall time, the winner will be based on count back to each team's 100 metre split time.
9. Rules 2,3 & 4 may be varied at the Meet Director's discretion to accommodate smaller branches with limited National Championship attendees

*Awards:*

Trophy/award for fastest outright team.

Trophy/award for team closest to handicap.