



M.S.I. NEWS

The official Newsletter of
MASTERS SWIMMING - INTERNATIONAL

JAN 1990

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Welcome to this new look M.S.I NEWS. It is our aim to use M.S.I NEWS as the communication arm of MASTERS SWIMMING INTERNATIONAL, to keep YOU the swimmer informed of current issues and events, and introduce you to some of the World's more interesting Masters swimmers.

M.S.I NEWS will be sent four times per year to your Country or Federation, where we hope it will be widely disseminated. If you would like your own personal copy, a subscription coupon can be found in this issue.

This issue looks back at the major events of 1989, and what a busy year it was for Masters Swimmers. We look at our own New Year resolutions for MASTERS SWIMMING INTERNATIONAL and evaluate Where we are, and where we are going, and more importantly, give an explanation to those of you who do not know, about What we are.

There are thought provoking comments on the possibility of entry restrictions for our Masters events, and there is a calendar of events for those of you lucky enough to be globe trotting.

As the new Publicity Officer for Masters Swimming International, I wish you a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. I wish you happy swimming, and hope you will use M.S.I NEWS as your vehicle to be kept up to date on International issues concerning MASTERS SWIMMING.

Glenys McDonald, Editor.

WHO ARE WE? WHERE ARE WE?

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

Who are we? Well that is relatively simple. We are the voice of the vast majority of

registered Masters Swimmers in the World. MASTERS SWIMMING INTERNATIONAL was born as a result of a need for international co-ordination of Masters events. Three primary objectives were set when MASTERS SWIMMING INTERNATIONAL was constituted in April 1983.

- * The conduct of World Masters Swimming Championships.
- * The establishment of universally accepted World Records.
- * Recognition of Masters Swimming by F.I.N.A.

F.I.N.A the world governing body of swimming had not modified their constitution to incorporate Masters at that stage, so when 1,200 swimmers contested the 1st International Masters Swimming Championships in Christchurch, New Zealand, the first formal M.S.I meeting was held. The purpose of the organisation was to promote fitness, friendship and understanding through swimming and to bring stability and co-ordination to International Masters Swimming.

Member countries currently affiliated and representing more than 60,000 registered Masters swimmers are:- ARGENTINA, AUSTRALIA, BARBADOS, BRAZIL, CANADA, CHINESE TAIPEI, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, DENMARK, GUAM, ITALY, JAPAN, MEXICO, NEW ZEALAND, SCOTLAND, and the U.S.A. At the end of 1989, U.S.S.R applied for membership.

Where are we? Well it has been seven outstanding years for Masters Swimming, but not without some difficulties and controversies. However, we are growing in strength and as we mature, the groundwork which has been laid will provide a strong foundation for our future.

The first objective....the conduct of World Masters Swimming Championships....has been

enormously successful. Some might say, too successful, because this very success has highlighted new problems for swimming, which will require rule modifications or adaptations. After the immense success of the 1983 New Zealand Championships, Japan followed in 1986 with 3,500 swimmers contesting 9,848 individual splashes. If that was not enough, Australia had to contend with the problem of accommodating 16,070 individual splashes over a six day programme as 3,850 individual Masters Swimmers contested the 1988 World Championships.

The second objective....the establishment of universally accepted World Records....has also been a successful venture, with M.S.I. establishing both long course and short course World Records for all the age groups and events within Masters Swimming. A SPEEDO/M.S.I Top Ten for the World has also provided added incentive.

The third objective....recognition of Masters Swimming by F.I.N.A... has perhaps been the most successful objective, but the area causing most concern, often unnecessary concern, as both F.I.N.A and M.S.I come to understand each other.

At an historic meeting between representatives of F.I.N.A and M.S.I at Pasadena, U.S.A, in 1985, several agreements were reached which included the joint sanctioning of the World Masters Swimming Championships, and the formation of a FINA Masters Swimming Committee with equal representation of FINA and MSI members.

Obviously, as we have coped with the large numbers associated with our World Championships, and established rules for Masters, whilst we attempted to fit into the framework of FINA, there have been difficulties experienced on both sides. These are now well on the way to being resolved as a new meeting between both groups has agreed to allow delegates of each organisation to attend each other's Congress. There is also additional co-operation with World record recognition by FINA.

However, it must be stressed, that because the Masters Swimming movement is unique in both numbers of swimmers wishing to participate, and the modification to existing rules which those numbers place pressure on, an organisation representative of those swimmers is a must. As mentioned before we are the direct repre-

sentative body of more than 60,000 registered Masters swimmers, we also hear the views of other Masters swimmers from Europe affiliated directly with F.I.N.A. We have a duty to use the expertise and experience gained over many years as active Masters participants, to ensure the right decisions are made on our behalf.

Where are we going? Well one would hope that we are going from strength to strength. Adult sport is a growing phenomenon, and it is pleasing to see that we all now truly believe that you Don't stop playing because you get old...you get old because you stop playing. We can keep fit, train and compete sensibly, and enjoy the rewards a healthy lifestyle brings, right to the end of our days - hopefully after winning the 95+ gold medal for the individual medley. It is important to set personal goals and strive for excellence throughout life, and to achieve that for our swimmers, we have to set similar goals for our organisation.

We have, as I have stated, set solid foundations. The MASTERS SWIMMING INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS conducted every second year is the opportunity for you to be represented directly through your member Country or Federation. At these Congresses, decisions are made after discussion and debate, and the more informed your Country's delegate is, the better the resolution made on your behalf. It is our duty to keep M.S.I strong, so that we can be heard within the framework of F.I.N.A, so that the spirit of the Pasadena Agreement will live on in harmony.

An outline of our organisational structure is presented in this issue, and the next M.S.I Congress will be held in Rio de Janeiro immediately before the 3rd FINA/MSI WORLD MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS, August, 1990.

REVIEW OF 1989.

M.S.I SPECIAL CONGRESS, INDIANAPOLIS.

Under normal circumstances, M.S.I meets every two years, the next Congress is scheduled for Brazil in 1990. However there were a few issues which necessitated the calling of a Special Congress prior to M.S.I's Pan Pacific Masters in Indianapolis in October, 1989.

The Congress was chaired by M.S.I President, Mr. Gary Stutsel of Australia, and attended by the following persons:-

Australia:	Graeme McDougal Glenys McDonald	Brazil:	Sylvio Kelly dos Santos Maria Lenk
Canada:	Gordon Knowles		Marlene Pinto Mendes (Area Director Sth. America)
Czechoslovakia:	Vitezslav Svozil (Area Director Europe)	Guam:	Geoffrey Burke
Japan:	Kusuo Kitamura (Area Director Asia)	New Zealand:	Tom Logan (Area Director Oceania)
F.I.N.A.	Visitors: Artie Shaw (Vice Pres) Ross Wales (Secretary)	USA:	Tom Boak (Area Director Nth America)
Interpreters.		Treasurer:	Steve Gosse
		Championship Chair:	Kevin Kelly

M.S.I's role in conducting the Pan Pacific Masters Championships was established early in the meeting. These were the 3rd Pan Pacific Masters conducted within M.S.I, but the first to incorporate all Masters Aquatic disciplines. The Pacific Rim Committee, a sub committee of M.S.I sanctioned Indianapolis for the 1989 Pan Pacifics, and Japan for the 1991 Pan Pacifics. A discussion on the sanction fee was resolved.

Kevin Kelly in his role as Chairman of the Championship Committee presented his report on a joint meeting between M.S.I and F.I.N.A in Atlanta in March 1989. Issues of importance arising from those discussions and requiring Congress decision related to the: F.I.N.A Masters Swimming Committee; the joint sanction of World Masters Championships; and World Records.

Further decisions were taken on time frame for world record applications and modification of the proof of age requirement for World Records.

Steve Gosse presented an interim financial report prior to the Brazil Congress.

Decisions were taken to appoint a new M.S.I Publicity Officer, who would then become responsible for the continuation of the M.S.I NEWS publication, and the appointment of a new Top Ten Recorder for M.S.I who would be responsible for the 1989 SPEEDO Top Ten Time listing. The possibility of a glossy M.S.I YEAR BOOK is to be investigated by the new M.S.I Publicity Officer for the Brazil Congress.



Gary Stutsel
International President



Glenys McDonald
M.S.I. Publicity Officer

The new M.S.I. PUBLICITY OFFICER
is myself, GLENYS McDONALD
P.O. BOX 142
NORTHAMPTON W.A. 6535
AUSTRALIA

The new TOP TEN RECORDER is
WALT REID
P.O. BOX 8800A
STEILACOOM W.A. 98388
U.S.A.

A full report was presented by Brazil on preparations for the 3rd FINA/MSI World Masters Championships, and by Japan on preparations for the 4th Pan Pacific Masters in 1991.

*Kevin Kelly reported that no bid had yet been received by either M.S.I or F.I.N.A to conduct the 1994 Championships, and Indianapolis was sanctioned as the sole host for the 1992 Championships. Brazil's contract for the required sanction fee in 1990 was reaffirmed. *(Montreal has subsequently bid for 1994.)

Other issues discussed were the World Masters Games; the updating and reprint of M.S.I Rules; the need for a Guide for host countries to assist them in conducting Masters Championships; and the need for discussions with F.I.N.A re the required representation of M.S.I on the F.I.N.A Masters Swimming Committee and it's future structure. Argentina was welcomed as a new member country at the conclusion of the meeting.

The meeting concluded after nine hours, and all officers and member country delegates should be congratulated on the way the business was conducted.

WILL YOU BE ALLOWED TO SWIM IN FUTURE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS?

The growing size and popularity of our World Masters Championships has caused us some unique problems. From 1200 in New Zealand to nearly 4000 competitors in Australia. Future estimates, depending on the tourist potential of the venue, have been put as high as 10,000 swimmers. How can this number be managed over a six day programme? How can we protect the organizers and swimmers from 17 hour days, as occurred in Brisbane in 1988?

Note: Times for SHORT COURSE and LONG COURSE recorded in 1989 which you wish to have considered for the 1989 SPEEDO MSI MASTERS WORLD TOP TEN are to be submitted by your National Recorder or National Secretary NO LATER THAN CLOSING DATE 28 FEBRUARY 1990
!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Well, some rules like the false start rule, and any other rule which holds up the conduct of the event must be examined. As too, the M.S.I order of events which stipulated to the Brisbane organizers that they must conduct events fastest to slowest. Even though the problem in Brisbane was not so much that older swimmers should not have to wait until midnight to have their swim, no swimmer should have to sit around until midnight to swim.

To solve this problem each Masters swimmer should consider the options and ensure their member country or federation brings their views to the M.S.I congress in Brazil in 1990.

Amongst the options to consider are:-

- * restrictions of entry
- * expansion of the Meet
- * dual venues
- * an elite championship plus a separate participants Meet.
- * first come, first served
- * limitation of the number of individual events per swimmer

The option currently being considered, and perhaps the one most hotly debated, is some form of entry restriction using qualifying times.

The main opposition to any form of entry restriction comes from those who believe that Masters Swimming is about fitness, friendship and participation, (our primary objectives) and therefore should remain open to all swimmers provided they swim within the current rules of swimming. Besides, who would verify each swimmers times?

There are others who feel just as strongly that these swimmers may swim in their own countries regional and national titles, but should leave the

World Championships to the elite of our membership.

The organizers of any World Swim would wish to attract as many swimmers as possible to ensure the success of the meet, but they want the number to be a manageable level.

Into this debate we also have to incorporate the different philosophies of some countries and how this issue will be perceived.

For example, there are no time restrictions in countries like U.S.A. Australia, New Zealand, Japan etc, and participation is encouraged. The poorer swimmer often opts out because they could be outclassed in a heat in their age group, but if they wish to participate, and provided they swim the stroke according to the rules, they are not prevented from doing so. These countries would probably not be in favour of restrictions to their swimmers.

In West Germany, for example, Masters Swimmers are used to fairly stringent time restrictions, and a system is in place to ensure this is adhered to. They also have developed a unique way of raising funds. If a swimmer swims slower than the qualifying time, he is fined \$4. If he scratches from an event, he is fined \$8. If fees are unpaid, the swimmer and club are unable to compete until all fees are paid. (Sounds like a great alternative to sponsorship!!).

An example of W. Germany's times are given for the 40-44 age group.

100 F/S M 1:17; W 1:30 100 BREAST M 1:34; W 1:50
100 FLY M 1:25; W 1:40 100 BACK M 1:30; W 1:45

Obviously Masters Swimmers who are acquainted with time restrictions would see no difficulty in their introduction, and do have some problem already with the quality of swimming we allow in the World Championships.

With any qualifying time format, we introduce the new problems of policing this process, what to do with those who do not qualify, will we require member countries to conduct qualifying heats etc.

I personally favour some type of compromise, and I am sure one can be found. One idea from the USA is that a swimmer may enter two events without restriction, but must qualify for their

other three events. This on paper would appear to allow the non elite swimmer the chance to participate, but would cut down on the number of splashes at a meet. It should satisfy organisers by giving them free reign to attract all Masters Swimmers to their Meet. However, they may have to pre plan how many swimmers and splashes they can adequately cater for, and when this number is reached, refuse to accept any further entries, i.e. first come, first served. This has been practised to some extent already, with both Japan and Australia limiting their own countries swim entries.

MASTERS SWIMMING INTERNATIONAL and M.S.I NEWS would be pleased to hear your view on this issue, and we hope that the Brazil Congress will resolve this issue.

1991 EVENTS!

July 12-17	4th Pan Pacific Swimming and Diving Championship, Japan.
July 18-21	4th Pan Pacific Water Polo Championships, Guam.

M.S.I NEWS SUBSCRIPTION FORM

The official publication of M.S.I Published 4 times per year AUS\$10/year

NAME _____

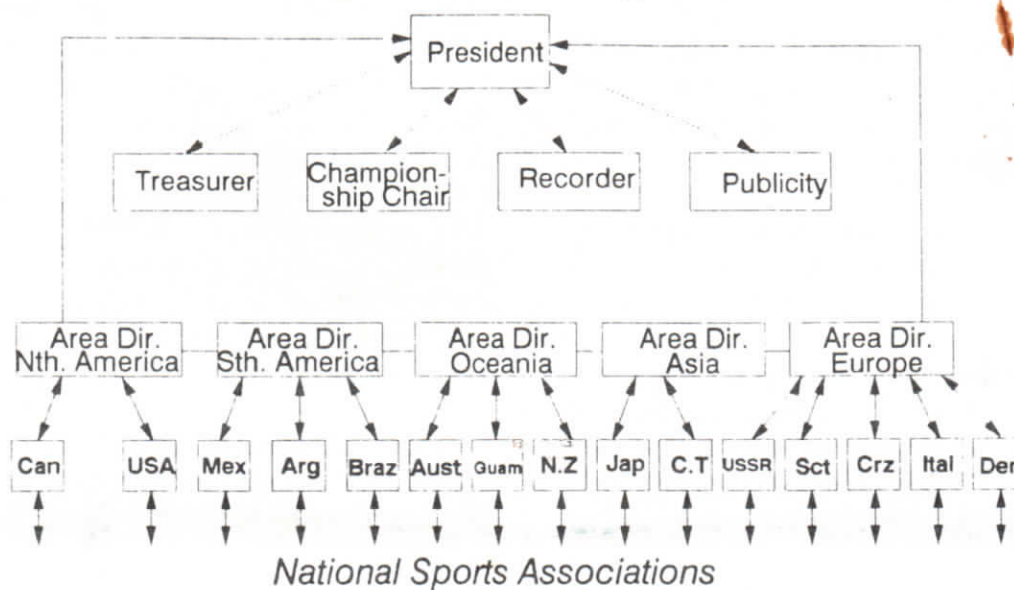
ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

COUNTRY _____

Monies in Australian currency payable to
MASTERS SWIMMING INTERNATIONAL
c/- P.O. BOX 142 NORTHAMPTON W.A. 6535
AUSTRALIA.

Masters Swimming International - Organisational Structure



CALENDAR OF EVENTS 1990

- | | | | |
|-----------|--|-----------|--|
| JAN 13 | N.Z. MASTERS OPEN WATER CHAMPIONSHIPS
Race Director, P.O. Box 5092 Mt. Maunganui N.Z. | MAY 12-14 | SCOTLAND NATIONALS SCM, AVIEMORE
SCOTLAND. |
| MAR 24-25 | SWEDISH OPEN MASTERS (25m) STOCKHOLM | MAY 18-21 | USMS SC NATIONALS, LOS ANGELES, CA. |
| MAR 30-31 | WALES, NATIONAL SCM, CARDIFF | AUG 7-13 | 3rd FINA/MSI WORLD MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS
Av Pres Vargas, L18/801, RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL. 20071 |
| MAR 30-1 | NEW ZEALAND MASTERS LC CHAMPIONSHIPS
Donna Campbell, 38a Homewood Rd, Karori, Wellington. | AUG 11 | MASTERS FESTIVAL, SWEDEN (50m) MALMO. |
| APRIL 5-7 | AUSSI MASTERS LC CHAMPIONSHIPS
P.O Box 35 Sth Brisbane, Queensland, AUSTRALIA. | AUG 24-27 | USMS LC CHAMPIONSHIPS, TEXAS.
Timbertop Drive, The Woodlands TX. |
| APRIL 12 | INVITATIONAL MASTERS CHALLENGE
Debbie Gibson, 116 Earlsdon Ave Sth, Coventry, ENGLAND. | OCT 6-7 | SWEDISH AND NORDIC OPEN MASTERS (50m) |
| MAY 11-13 | CANADIAN MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS
Irene Harris, Box 3023, Regina, Sask. | | |

POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA