



M.S.I. NEWS

The official Newsletter of
MASTERS SWIMMING - INTERNATIONAL

Number 5

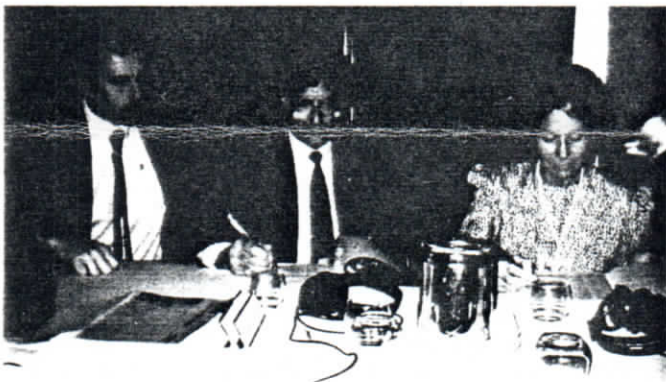
JANUARY 1991

Editor's Note

In wishing you all the best for the New Year, I cannot help but be struck by the contrasts of the first two weeks of this month of January. As the New Year unfolded, I was privileged to be at the January 3rd Opening Ceremony of the 6th World Swimming Championships in Perth. Nearly 2,000 competitors, 1,300 volunteers and officials, and many thousands of spectators cheered as the national flags of some 50 nations proudly participated in the march past. Sporting competitions provide probably the best and most obvious forum for fostering international communication and peace, and like the Masters Swimming motto, I think these Championships did their share in fostering fitness, friendship and understanding. It is a tragedy therefore, that all our visitors should go home to a world caught up with the Gulf Crisis. To my readers directly involved in this conflict, I can only hope and pray for your safety, and a world soon returned to peace.

This issue carries reports on the FINA Congresses held prior to the 6th World Swimming Championships, and how those decisions will affect Masters Swimming. We have a notification of a Special MSI Congress scheduled for Tokyo; a new competition that you will not want to win; and some letters to the Editor. Read on and enjoy.

GLENYS McDONALD
Editor,
MSI Publicity Officer



Steve Gosse, Gary Stutsel and Glenys McDonald.

History in the Making

MSI was honoured to be invited to attend all the FINA Congresses in an observer capacity. At the FINA Masters Congress which was held for the first time, the President of MSI, Mr Gary Stutsel, the Treasurer, Mr Steve Gosse, and myself as Public Relations Officer, were invited to sit at the top table and were introduced to the Congress. In introducing the MSI visitors, Mr Ross Wales, Secretary of FINA, said that Masters Swimming International had been responsible for Masters Swimming worldwide until FINA encompassed Masters within its rules, and he was very pleased to welcome us to this historic meeting.

The invitation to attend the FINA Congresses is a reciprocal arrangement, as FINA is always invited to attend MSI Congresses. In fact, at the last MSI Congress in Rio de Janeiro, FINA were represented by their President Mr Mustapha Larfaoui, Vice President, Mr Artie Shaw, Secretary Mr Ross Wales, and Chairman of the FINA Masters Committee, Mr Doug Scales. As our Congresses are slightly less formal than the FINA Congresses, and in the best interests of communication, we allow the FINA representatives a voice at our meetings.

The proposed rule changes, submitted by various countries, had been reviewed with great care by the Bureau, the Masters Technical Committee, and the TDC. However, debate was lively on a number of issues, which I feel has resulted in a very good set of rules for the enhancement of masters swimming worldwide.

The most controversial rule, that of the age determination date was one of the first discussions on the agenda, with the European countries wanting uniformity with the other disciplines and a continuation of what they were used to, and the other countries who represented the vast majority of masters swimmers, wanting what they considered a more fair age determination when dealing with five year age categories. The debate led to a tied vote, which judging by the FINA reaction had never occurred at a FINA Congress before. With some jocularly the FINA Secretary and President requested 'time-out' to study the rule book, and after deliberation informed the meeting that the President did not have a casting vote in this case, and as there were insufficient votes to change the rule, then the current rule would stand. The current age determination rule is that of the last day of the competition.

(Continued on next page)

SPEEDO®



THE CHOICE OF CHAMPIONS

(Continued from previous page)

History in the Making

The amended Masters rules will be available shortly through FINA, but for your interest I list below the changes the FINA Masters Congress adopted in Perth. I must stress however that these changes are strictly unofficial, and my notes may contain some inaccuracies.

Because of space constraints I will only list those swimming rule changes which were withdrawn for discussion and were of importance. As far as my notes will allow, the following rules were also passed in the omnibus motion:

MGR A; MGR 1; MGR 3; MGR 4a; MSW 4.1; 4.2; 4.5a; MSW 5; 6; 7; 7.1; 8; MLD A; 2; 3; 4; 5; 6; 7; 8; MSS 1; 3; 5; 6; 7; 8; 10; 11; MWP 1; 2; 4; 5; 6; 6.3; MD 1(A); 2; MD 2.1A; 2.5A; 2.6a; 2.7a; MD 3; 3.1B; 4.2; 4.3; 4.4; 4.5; 4.6; MD 5.4b; 5.5; 5.6; 5.7; MD 5.8 to become MGR 5; 5.10; 5.11; 6.1 and 6.2.

MGR 4A – Age shall be determined as of December 31st of the year of competition, except for swimming and long distance swimming which will be controlled by MSW 2A.

MSW 1.2 – Relays. To be conducted on the total age of team members in whole years. Age groups of relay events are as follows: 100 years and over, 120 years and over, 160 years and over, 200 years and over, 240 years and over, 280 years and over, 320 years and over and 360 years and over.

MSW 4.6A – Events shall be pre seeded with oldest age groups first, slowest heats swum first within each age group. Events 400m and over may be deck seeded slowest to fastest regardless of age.

MSW 4.7B – The Organising Committee may arrange 400m, 800m and 1500m freestyle to be swum two (2) competitors of the same sex in a lane. Separate timing will be required for each swimmer.

MSW 4.4A – Any swimmer who is charged with committing or causing a second false start shall be disqualified.

MLD 1 – Masters long distance swimming events will normally be up to 5km with a maximum distance, under favourable circumstances, of 10km (over 50 years age group), and 15km (under 50 years age groups). Favourable circumstances are defined as a high water temperature with no adverse conditions. No Masters long distance events should be held in water less than an average of 18° Celsius.

Therefore in summary, the age determination remains at the actual attained age of the competitor as of the last day of the meet shall determine the age group for that competition and any record set during that competition. False starts have been limited to one, with the race continuing and second false starter being disqualified at the conclusion of the heat. Relays have been extended to include the older age group categories, and

for the organisers, events must be pre seeded (and listed in the program) but the 400m events and over may be deck seeded to save valuable time and prevent empty lanes. Two swimmers may be permitted in freestyle events over 400m but they must be of the same sex.

In addition to the rule amendments to the FINA Masters rules there was also one important amendment in the Facilities Joint Technical Congress which will now allow World Masters Championships to be released from the stringent requirements of other World and Olympic Games. Rule FR 1.2 was amended to read

FINA Olympic Standard Pools.

All FINA World Championships, except FINA Masters Championships, and Olympic Games must be held in a pool which complies with Rules FR 3, FR 6, FR 8, and FR 11 (a "FINA Olympic Standard Pool").

During the various meetings FINA held in Perth, it was interesting to hear the general comments of various countries, and to learn how MSI was understood, (or misunderstood) by various delegates. The members from Europe have some problem understanding how or why MSI evolved, and why, now that FINA has encompassed Masters, MSI does not go away. I think the main justification for MSI's continuing existence, other than experience and expertise, is that even now, with a FINA Masters Congress, Masters Swimming in some countries may not be represented at the congress. In countries like the United States, Australia, Canada and Japan, Masters Swimming evolved as a separate entity from those countries amateur swimming associations affiliated with FINA. This separate evolution was bought about by disinterest, lack of funds, perceived problems with amateur status, and program priorities. Some of these countries have affiliation with their swimming federation as an independent kindred association, and in most cases the relationship between the two bodies is excellent. However, it is the FINA affiliated association who is requested to send delegates to the FINA Masters Congress, and that federation may or may not choose to send representatives from masters swimming in their country. So until participating Masters Swimmer are involved in the decision making for masters, then there will be a need for MSI. My country, Australia, has two associations – Australian Swimming and AUSSI Masters Swimming, but ASI asked Australian Masters to name two delegates for the FINA Masters Congress. This co-operation continued with the volunteers for the World Swimming Championships coming from both ASI and AUSSI working together in their usual harmony and co-operation.

MSI Special Meeting

A Special Meeting of MSI members will be held in Tokyo on Wednesday 10th July 1991. Major business is to adopt new Rules to compliment not duplicate the new FINA Masters Rules.

Associate members and representatives of FINA federations with an interest in Masters swimming are invited to attend. (It is hoped that San Marino will maintain its interest).

soothe swimmers eyes
PREFRIN DROPS

FINA Masters Congress – Perth 1991

"Tongue in cheek" appraisal by MSI President – Gary Stutsel

The following introduction is written in jest and is intended to be read that way. Let those who think they have offended not feel offended by these words.

The first ever FINA Masters Congress was held in Perth, Australia on 2nd January, 1991.

Australia was a very fitting choice of site because just 7.5 years ago the first properly constituted meeting of Masters from several countries were held in Sydney in September 1983. This was the formal beginning of MSI.

Events have moved rapidly since then with first the Pasadena Agreement between FINA and MSI in 1985 then the FINA Masters Committee and three jointly sanctioned World Championships in Tokyo (1986) Brisbane (1988) and Rio (1990).

The Congress which met in Perth was attended by 26 members of FINA. Although this is only 20% of the total membership it is well up on the nine countries which founded FINA in 1909.

It was pleasing to see the giants of Masters present, namely Japan (20,000 registered members), USA (30,000) and Germany which following reunification has increased its membership from 300 to 30,000!

Europe was well represented with 13 of its 35 members in attendance including tiny San Marino whose total population is less than the number of registered Masters in some countries.

The New World was poorly represented possibly because Columbus' ships are no longer very seaworthy (this item is included for Queen Bodacea's descendants). Only 13 of the possible 90 plus members outside Europe attended.

The Congress had before it 71 items for adoption covering all four disciplines, Swimming (15 items) Synchor (11) Water Polo (7) Diving (39) and Long Distance Swimming (9).

It's a long way to Tipperary

With the words of a popular song, I wish to introduce the competition that no one will wish to win. I ask our readers to keep me updated if you can beat the current record, and I would be interested to hear ideas for possible prizes for record breakers.

In travelling from Australia to Rio, Australian Masters President Graeme McDougall thought he did it tough with a trip lasting 43 hours. However, I have to inform him that his trip was a minor inconvenience when compared to the adventures of our Treasurer Steve Gosse, and Gordon Knowles of the FINA Masters Committee, in their efforts to reach Australia from Canada for the 6th World Championships and associated FINA Meetings. Their trip lasted an incredible 52¼ hours, and Gordon's diary extracts says it all!!!

Departure Montreal 30th December 1990	9.00
Arrival Toronto	10.20
Departure Toronto	11.05
Arrival Vancouver	13.15 (16.15 Montreal time)

Near panic to send faxes back to Montreal as Cathay Pacific flight scheduled to leave at 14.30. Announcement made that there would be a slight delay owing to the late arrival of the aircraft and weather conditions at the airport. Plane would need de-icing. Boarding commences close to 15.00 Vancouver time. Settle in on the plane, Steve concerned about the weather. Pilot announces at least another hours delay in departure. Negotiations continue re de-icing of the plane.

Departure to de-icing zone	17.50
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Steve still in panic and rings Glenys in Australia concerned that he will arrive too late for the FINA Congresses. A day out in his calculations, all is fine, including weather in Perth, 26°C.

Arrive Hong Kong 13 hours later at	23.35 local time.
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However, landing impossible owing to ocean fog!!! Aircraft circles city for some forty minutes. Two attempts aborted. Fuel reserves obligate pilot to head for Canton.

Arrival Guangzhou, Canton	00.25 (11.25 Montreal time previous day)
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We are told we shall be on the ground in the People's Republic for an indefinite period of time. Crew has over extended the number of hours they are allowed to fly. Kai Tak in Hong Kong remains closed. 01.48 dialogue with pilot, Captain Graham, concerning our ongoing flight to Perth. Told there should be no problem linking with Qantas Q78 scheduled to leave Hong Kong at 13.30 the next day. Steve neither happy nor reassured. Chinese authorities propose that everyone leave the plane and go through customs if the crew wish. Hotel space offered. Pilot decides we shall remain on board. Bar opened and passengers celebrate New Year's with champagne. Chinese authorities a little upset at decision to remain on plane and refusal of their hospitality.

07.45 Captain Graham circulates through the aircraft reassuring passengers that all is being done to ensure our early departure. Breakfast apparently is coming. New crew due to arrive in Canton at 10.35. Gazing out the window is not reassuring, carcass of a CAAC Boeing 757 which has crash landed. Soldiers with machine guns and bayonets circulating around the aircraft taking pictures of each other. Steve close to desperation.

09.40 Cathay Pacific still negotiating breakfast – still coming. Finally arrives – cold greasy chicken, hot greasy rice.

11.20 New crew arrives from Hong Kong. Time taken up as their passports are submitted to the Chinese Authorities as they had to walk on Chinese soil to get to the plane. Only skeleton cabin crew.

13.00 Take off for Hong Kong.

Arrival in Hong Kong	13.40
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Upon arrival we find we have been re-scheduled from Qantas to Cathay Pacific. Time to take a seat in Kai Tak lounge restaurant, Cathay Pacific picking up the tab, but even this does not make Steve happy. Fax sent to Glenys to tell of final arrival.

Leave Hong Kong	15.30
Depart Singapore on Flight 223	
Arrive Perth 2nd January	02.15 (Montreal 13.15 Jan 1st)

Great to see a familiar face – Glenys, we must look awful. (Yes you did). At least their luggage survived the 24 hours delayed trip, and they were quickly whisked off to their comfortable hotel.

FINA Masters Committee

It was my pleasant duty to look after the FINA Masters Committee during their stay in Perth. I was luckier than the other volunteers meeting planes at the airport, as I knew all of my people, indeed they were all good friends. Apart from a few late, late flights, my job was very easy, getting members accredited, showing them the magnificent Superdome complex and taking them for early morning swims. We also did some sight seeing, and I enjoyed the opportunity of showing off my home city. We toured Kings Park for a 'dress circle' look over the city and it's beautiful Swan River. We then went to one of our magnificent beaches and chatted to some Australian surf lifesavers. Next on the list was a baby kangaroo, which I had recently brought down to Perth from the country, a trip to a marina for lunch and a cold beer, and finally a stop to feed Perth's black swans at Lake Monger.

The Masters Committee met on the morning of January 3rd. Those present were: Doug Scales, Chairman; Lin Min Shan, Secretary; Maria Link, Vice President; Artie Shaw, FINA Bureau Liaison; June Krauser, Gordon Knowles, Tom Logan, Arthur Knudson, Birger Kivela and Niane Sidati who arrived later.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Glenys,

I have just received MSI NEWS No.4, mostly dedicated to the 3rd FINA/MSI World Masters Swimming Championships, which were held from the 6th-13th August in Rio de Janeiro. I believe this MSI NEWS was very important for those who take an interest in the development of Masters Swimming all over the world, as it voiced several opinions about the Championships organised by our Association, and of which I was honoured to have been the Chairman.

With the aim of clarifying the MSI readers about the severe criticism presented in Graeme McDougall's article "Technical Problems , Rio". I ask you to publish in the next issue of MSI NEWS the following text.

- "1. First of all, it should be said that we recognise the right of criticising our work, but we cannot accept such criticism when it is exclusively destructive. This is what can be read in this article.
2. Furthermore, Graeme McDougall's article presented some inaccuracies which should be corrected, such as:
 - 2.1 – We have not asked Graeme for help because our work was being supervised by FINA through its Vice President Artie Shaw, who was once in Rio, with the aim of helping us in the organisation of the Meet.
 - 2.2 – The help offered by Gary Stutsel was financial and the answer was always negative because we did not need any money.
 - 2.3 – The twelve new starting blocks installed in the Olympic pool were identical in every detail to the other eight installed previously, including the backstroke handles. Consequently all of them fulfill the Meet specifications.
 - 2.4 – The water of the Olympic pool was good enough to host a World Championship.
 - 2.5 – There were 130 people working in the event as

timekeepers and officials. They were army Kadets, officers and professors at the Army Physical Education College; of course there were turning and stroke judges working during the meet.

2.6 – If the MSI Championship Chair was not at the deck of the pool it was because he was not willing to, as there was nothing whatsoever to prevent him from remaining there.

2.7 – There was a protest desk in the registration area, as you can see in the protest form included.

2.8 – The criticism related to the medical centre is totally unfair and inaccurate. The Head of the medical centre supplied three first aid units in the Swimming Centre: the medical department located below the spectator's area, a tent near the diving pool, and an ambulance near the tent, with all the necessary equipment required for first aid, including one defibrillator.

2.9 – I am amazed to hear that there was a meeting between Graeme McDougall, the MSI President and the MSI Championship Chair, to decide about cancelling the event or not. I understand that such a meeting could only be called with the presence of FINA Vice President, Artie Shaw, FINA Masters Committee Chairman Doug Scales and myself, as I was the Chairman of the Organising Committee.

I look forward to reading my text in the next issue of MSI NEWS.

Sylvio Kelly Dos Santos, Chairman

Reply from the MSI President, Mr Gary Stutsel

Our good friend Sylvio seems to have taken Graeme McDougall's criticism personally, and having discussed Graeme's article with him before it was written I can assure him that it was not intended as an attack on any person or persons.

There is no doubt that many of the facilities provided in Rio were not up to the standard we had come to expect following Tokyo, Brisbane and Indianapolis. There were many reasons for Rio being the way it was but Graeme correctly identified the ones we can do something about. Far from being negative Graeme's article concludes: "discussions which followed between the Executive of MSI and myself, determined that the following steps were essential:

1. A check list be compiled as guidance to those conducting a meet to help associations decide whether they can bid to conduct a meet.
2. A new bid review procedure and a minimum of two site inspections by MSI after the bid is accepted to ensure that everything is proceeding to plan.
3. A contract be introduced between MSI, the host National organisation (country) and the meet organising committee. This would spell out the responsibilities of MSI and the hosts.

These are to be completed by the end of December 1990.

To date there has been neither a specified minimum standard for the meet nor a check list for Meet Director's guidance. The completion of the above points plus the new rules adopted by
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Letters to the Editor

FINA at its Masters and Facilities meetings in Perth which set standards for the pools and the conduct of the Championships, will ensure that no future meet will be held without all parties involved knowing what to expect. The spirit of co-operation which has been generated between FINA and MSI will ensure that both organisations are working for the benefit of the swimmers and the sport at large.

On the other hand we should work hard to ensure that our quest for technical perfection doesn't destroy the wonderful spirit of friendship and enjoyment which was the feature of Rio.

Swimming and Health Book

Dr Phillip Whitten, a long-time Masters swimmer, is writing a book on swimming and health to be published by Random House. He is looking for inspirational stories and anecdotes about people whose lives were transformed by their swimming: improved health and vitality, recovery from illness, loss of weight, gain in self-confidence, enhanced family or social life, improved sex life, etc. If you have a story you feel others would find inspirational, please write to: Phil Whitten, PO Box 624, Marblehead, MA 01945, USA.

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Calendar of International Events

1991

The 16th AUSSI National Masters Swimming Championships, Devonport, Tasmania, March 12th-16th, 1991.

The Swedish Open Masters Swimming Championships, Lonkoping, March 22nd-24th, 1991.

New Zealand Masters LC Championships, Dunedin, March 29th-31st, 1991.

USMS SC Nationals – Nashville TN, May 16th-19th, 1991.

1st Dutch Open Championships, Apeldoorn, Holland, June 14th and 15th, 1991.

USSR Masters Onieper River Cup – 30th June-10th July, 1991. This event combines 11 days of river cruise with a variety of swimming events. Four separate competitions in 50m pools plus a 2km river race. Variety music, bars, sunbaking, Kiev – Dnepropetrovsk – Zaporozhye – Odessa – Ochakov – Khirson – Kamenchug – Kanev – Kiev. Then fly to Tokyo for the Pan Pacifics. Write to:

USSR Masters Association
Igor Zasida, 4 Kreshchatik St., Kiev 1 USSR
Tel: 7-044-229-3571
Fax: 7-044-293-8966

Pan Pacific Masters Swimming Championships, Tokyo, Yoyogi Stadium, July 12-17th.

Diving for 1 metre and 3 metre, July 16th-17th.

Entries close 30th April, 1991. For entry form and brochure write to

Japan Masters Swimming Association
Showa Bldg., 3rd Floor, 2-7-12 Kanda Jimbo-cho,
Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Japan 101.
Tel: 81-3-262-1932
Fax: 81-3-262-7332

Water Polo – Agana, Guam, July 18th-22nd.

Long Distance Swimming Championship – Merizo, Guam, July 20th. Details from:

Guam Masters Aquatics
PO Box 7233
Tamuning, Guam 96931 USA
Tel: 671-646-6457
Fax: 671-649-2766

USMS LC Nationals, Elizabethtown Ky. August 15th -18th

Inaugural Irish Open Masters Swim, Churchfield Pool, Cork, Ireland, September 27th and 28th.

Australian Masters Games, Brisbane, October 5th-19th.

1992

Canadian National Masters SC, St John, New Brunswick, May 22nd-25th.

4th FINA/MSI World Masters Swimming Championships, Indianapolis, 26th June-5th July. To be added to the mailing list write to: Heidi Newburgher, 901 W. New York St., Room 204, Indianapolis, IN 46202 USA.

Welcome to Tokyo

4th Pan Pacific Masters Swim '91

After several years experience of goodwill meets in USA, Australia, West Germany, Canada and New Zealand the First Pan Pacific Masters Swimming Championships was held in Sydney in 1981. Two years later in 1983, the Second Pan Pacific Masters Swim was held again in Sydney. The friendship and experience hitherto promoted among the participant countries gave birth to Masters Swimming International (MSI), which, in its inaugural meeting in 1983 in Sydney, decided to hold the 1st International Masters Swimming Championships in Christchurch, New Zealand in 1984 which would be followed by the second in Tokyo in 1986.

Following the success of the Christchurch Championships with more than a thousand swimmers from 15 countries, Federation Internationale de Natation Amateur (FINA) and MSI came to an agreement called the Pasadena Agreement in 1985. This agreement aimed at development and co-operation in the field of Masters swimming worldwide. In accordance with the Agreement, the 1st FINA/MSI World Masters Swimming Championships was held in Tokyo in 1986 instead of the 2nd International Masters Swimming Championships. The 2nd World Championships was held in 1988 in Brisbane and the 3rd in Rio de Janeiro in 1990. These are to be followed every two years; 1992 in Indianapolis and 1994 in Montreal.

While the World Championships has made a good start and is stimulating development, MSI decided to revive the Pan Pacific Masters Swim in every second year to fill the intervals between World Championships. The 3rd Pan Pacific Swim 1989 was held in Indianapolis with 1500 swimmers from 15 countries. Now, the Pan Pacific Swim '91 in Tokyo is to be the 4th, which will be followed by the 5th in Hamilton, New Zealand and the 6th in '95 in Perth, Australia.

The title of the Championships "Pan Pacific" is not meant to limit the geographical qualification of the participants to only those from the Pacific-Rim countries. The history and development of the Championships shows that many swimmers from various other parts of the world participated in the past Pan Pacific Swims.

We wholeheartedly welcome Masters swimmers from all parts of the world to participate in the 4th Pan Pacific Masters Swim '91 in Tokyo and sincerely hope that every one of you realise the aim of Masters Swimming. **Fitness, Friendship and Understanding.**

Looking forward to seeing you soon in Tokyo.

(Kusuo KITAMURA)
President
Organising Committee
4th Pan Pacific Masters Swim

POSTAGE PAID AUSTRALIA
