



# M.S.I. NEWS

The official Newsletter of  
**MASTERS SWIMMING - INTERNATIONAL**

Number 11

JULY/AUGUST 1992

## Editor's Note

Firstly, my apologies for the lateness of this edition of MSI NEWS, but so much happened last month in relation to Masters Swimming. It seemed much more sensible to await the outcome of some issues to present you, the swimmers, with more up to date information.

Unfortunately, the news is not good. My article in the last issue of MSI NEWS "Masters Swimming - Who is Responsible?" was so well received around the world and amongst FINA members, that I thought it augured well for a new understanding between the two organisations, and a new direction where both could work in harmony and co-operation. One of the key elements of that harmony was for persons with experience and expertise in Masters to represent Masters. Then MSI could change its focus and involve itself in the many areas not covered by FINA.

As you will see from the President's Report, FINA's sudden withdrawal from the Pasadena Agreement without communication with MSI, and the way the World Championships and World Records issue was handled left a lot to be desired.

In my article on who is responsible for Masters I stated that "Masters is not a second rate area of the swimming fraternity. It is a viable, vibrant complement to a healthy swimming lifestyle for life. We shouldn't starve it from funds, incentives or contribution." Well, it is becoming increasingly obvious that FINA or someone in FINA is intent on starving Masters from contributions, and one can only assume that there is a hidden agenda.

No one would dream of electing synchronised swimming experts to the diving technical committee, and no one should expect anything other than Masters experts on a Masters committee. Whilst not yet knowing the full complement of the new FINA Masters Committee, just a look at the two new members from Canada and Australia are enough to give rise to grave concerns regarding the method of appointments to FINA committees.

Canada is one of those countries where Masters has evolved separately and there is a good relationship within the two entities, or one would hope so. Canadian Masters chose Gordon Knowles, a member of the previous FINA Committee as the nominee to be channelled through the Aquatics Federation. However, the AFC chose to disregard Masters Swimmers in Canada and chose their

own nominee, who is now apparently the Secretary of the FINA Masters Committee. Obviously Gordon's reputation for speaking up at FINA Meetings was not required on the new committee, just as Kusuo Kitamura and Steve Goose were dropped from the previous committee.

My own case was even more cause for concern. The FINA Masters Liaison, Mr Artie Shaw had rung and asked me to consider nominating through Australian Swimming for the FINA Masters Committee because, and I quote from a follow up letter, "You most certainly know what you are about and I consider that you would be an asset to that committee." At the appropriate time I sought the nomination of AUSSI Masters Swimming and was selected as their nominee to Australian Swimming Incorporated, our umbrella aquatics association. ASI forwarded my nomination to FINA. In the meantime I received a letter from the FINA Liaison stating that "I am delighted that you are their nomination for the Masters Committee. Perhaps the Australians are now realising your worth around the place and the potential that lies therein." One would have expected that with these comments and the letter from the FINA Secretary, Mr Ross Wales, printed in this issue, that if an Australian was on the Masters Committee it would be highly likely that the nominee from both AUSSI Masters and ASI would be the person selected. Especially given that persons experience and technical knowledge, and given the favourable comments of the FINA Vice President and Secretary.

You might ask did I make the committee? Well the answer is no. The FINA Liaison approached an Australian Referee in Barcelona and asked him if he had any experience in Masters. This person advised that he had refereed at a Masters Meet once. The FINA Liaison was quoted as saying, "That's good enough", and the person was asked if he would like to come onto the FINA Masters Technical Committee.

I am not recounting this scenario with the intent to push my own position. I am currently standing for election to Parliament in my own country and have many things to occupy my time and interests. However, I think the Masters Swimmers who are going to be represented by this system now that it has been handed over to FINA, need to know how it works, warts and all. Obviously, comments I made during debate at the MSI Masters Congress have deemed me to be a person who would participate in debate at a FINA Committee, and one can only assume that contribution is not wanted. It would seem that having the best interests of Masters Swimmers at heart is seen as being MSI and anti FINA.

soothe swimmers eyes  
**PREFRIN DROPS**

*Continued from previous page*

If this is not so, then one would wonder how a person who was nominated by both the Masters organisation and the FINA affiliated organisation in their country, and who was declared by the FINA Liaison to be a person who would be an asset to the committee, was passed over for a person who admitted his only knowledge of Masters Swimming was as an official at a swim meet!!!...

In this issue also, is the results of the MSI Congress in Indianapolis; a brief report on the World Championships; and the President's Report as promised. Also included is a tribute to Peter Gillett and Judy Ford, those hard working world recorders who have maintained accurate Masters World records for so many years. Finally there is a couple of interesting letters in our "Letters" section, one which should assist in the debate on drug testing in Masters; and, of course, our calendar of events.

Read on and enjoy, and more importantly, have your say on the future of Masters Swimming, we would be happy to hear from you, and happy to receive your subscription.

**Glenys McDonald, Editor**  
PO Box 142, Northampton, W.A. 6535, Australia

## **Masters Swimming International Congress**

**June 28th and June 29th 1992**

The MSI Congress held in association with the World Masters Championships was attended by representatives of the following countries, either in the observer or full member capacity:

Australia; Canada; Holland; Japan; Brazil; Argentina; United States; Sweden; Ireland; Germany; New Zealand; Ecuador; Venezuela and South Africa.

Following is a brief summary of the meeting's discussions and resolutions.

The minutes from previous congresses in Rio and Tokyo were adopted.

The Treasurer was directed to investigate bonding to secure MSI funds and to proceed if costs were below US\$100. It was also adopted that a second signatory be available on MSI accounts. Finally on financial matters it was decided that an auditing committee be formed to review financial reports.

To assist with sales of MSI NEWS subscriptions the Treasurer was asked to investigate opening an account in Europe. The Treasurer's report as amended was adopted.

### **President's Report:**

President Gary Stutsel reported on discussions he and Vice-President Kevin Kelly had with Mr Ross Wales, FINA Secretary, and Mr Artie Shaw, FINA Liaison, the previous day. FINA has taken control of the World Masters Swimming Championships, which will not in future be jointly hosted by FINA and MSI. FINA has taken over World Records and the MSI Top Ten from the May 1st publication of records. FINA agreed to a joint winding up of the Pasadena Agreement. MSI countries will now have to be affiliated with their National FINA Federation however FINA stated they had no interest in the MSI Pan Pacific event. FINA would announce the venue for the 1996 World

Masters Championships after Barcelona, and Germany and England had both indicated interest. FINA stated that they would prefer MSI did not exist, but there was a place for a loyal opposition to keep FINA responsible. The insult regarding the pasting over of the MSI President's Message of Welcome in the Indianapolis programme was discussed.

It was adopted that MSI write to the organisers of the 4th World Masters Swimming Championships, with a copy to FINA, protesting re the removal of MSI from the program. The President's Report was adopted.

It was adopted unanimously that:  
**MSI CONTINUES TO OPERATE AND DEVELOP AS AN INTERNATIONAL MASTERS SWIMMING ORGANISATION**

- (i) To evaluate Masters swimmers needs
- (ii) To promote and service those needs
- (iii) To educate Masters swimmers and organisations
- (iv) To award and control Pan Pacific and other regional Masters competitions.

It was adopted that an agreement to terminate the Pasadena Agreement be drafted.

A motion was adopted to recommend to FINA that the age group rule should end with 90-94 and so on.

Other rule changes were deferred to the Championship Committee.

The Publicity/Promotions Report was accepted.

The problem with the promotional material for the MSI Pan Pacific event in Hamilton, New Zealand in 1993 not displaying the MSI logo was again raised as it had been in Tokyo. A motion was adopted to write a letter requiring New Zealand to display prominently the MSI logo on all official publicity.

Reports were given on the 1994 World Championships and the 1995 Pan Pacifics.

MSI decided to sanction the 3rd World Masters Games.

MSI membership fees increased by 25% from 1993.

Six names were selected to be forwarded to FINA as suitable persons for consideration for the FINA Masters Committee as requested by Ross Wales, Secretary of FINA. These names were: Glenys McDonald - Australia; June Krauser - United States; David Morrell - Venezuela; Gordon Knowles - Canada; Tom Logan - New Zealand; and Kusuo Kitamura - Japan. Mr Kitamura declined the nomination and asked the meeting to support Mr Lin Min Shan.

It was resolved that the MSI Executive be given the authority in conjunction with the Championship Committee, to sanction any international competition they see fit.

There was a highly emotive discussion on Drug Testing within Masters. Most speakers were against drug testing because of the interference in the bona fide medical well being of senior swimmers. It was resolved that the USMS Medical Committee be asked to carry out research and further studies.

The new structure of MSI, together with constitutional and

by-law changes was deferred for twelve months. Changes within the interpretation of the current constitution would occur.

#### Termination of the Pasadena Agreement.

It was adopted that "Whereas the FINA Bureau communicated its position to Masters Swimming International that the Bureau ceases to view the Pasadena Agreement as a viable document to govern and influence the relationship between the two organisations.

Whereas Masters Swimming International views the Pasadena Agreement as a historic document that contributed greatly to the advancement of Masters Aquatic Sport in the World, but is obsolete in the conditions and circumstances relating to water sports today, and also believe that changes should occur. Wherefore both organisations agreed to terminate the Pasadena Agreement. Be it resolved, the dissolution of the Pasadena Agreement takes place under the following terms and conditions:

1. FINA shall have sole control of the awarding and conducting of the World Masters Swimming Championships.
2. FINA shall compile, keep and issue certificates of recognition relating to Masters World records.
3. FINA shall adopt and publish the technical rules of swimming competition for masters.
4. Masters Swimming International shall continue to operate as an International Masters Swimming organisation dedicated to evaluating Masters swimmers needs; educating the Masters swimmers; and conducting Masters swimming Meets such as the Pan Pacific Championships.

The current Executive of MSI was elected for another term.

The budget was adopted.

The Executive were instructed to seek a legal opinion on the Pan Pacific contract and have this signed by MSI before the end of the World Championships.

It was adopted that the costs of return economy airfare to the world championships would be recouped 100% for the MSI Executive, and 25% for the five Area Directors.

It was resolved that MSI World Certificates would go to those set prior to May 1st.

## President's Report

1992 has been a pivotal year for Masters with FINA finally assuming full responsibility for the control of international competition.

MSI was conceived in a restaurant in Irvine USA in May 1981 when I dined with Margaret George (Samson). This organisation was constituted in 1983 and had as its objectives the achievement of:

1. Uniform rules for Masters
2. World Masters Championships
3. World Masters Records
4. World Masters Top 10

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Following the successful conduct of two Pan Pacific Meets (1981 and 1983) and the 1984 International Masters in New Zealand, MSI produced a blue booklet which was widely distributed by Tina Martin at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics. These activities seemingly provoked FINA into forming a Masters Commission composed of Tina Martin, Gunnar Werner and Artie Shaw (FINA) and Brunello Graja, Kusuo Kitamura and Gary Stutsel (MSI).

This Commission met in 1985 and produced the Pasadena Agreement. The Pasadena Agreement charted the way for the appointment of the FINA Masters Committee and for joint sanctioning of the World Masters Championships in Japan in 1986 and Australia in 1988. These events were followed by the reintroduction of the Pan Pacific Meet in 1989 (Indianapolis) and the 3rd World Masters in Rio in 1990.

Then in 1991 FINA held its first Masters Congress which adopted the Masters Rules which appeared in the 1991-92 FINA Handbook. 1991 also saw the Tokyo Pan Pacifics. MSI had now achieved all four of its objectives with all the swimming tasks drafted or performed by MSI people and only the Diving Rules coming from those not involved in MSI.

Then in February 1992 the FINA Bureau decided that it was time to extend its control of World Aquatics to encompass Masters which had from 1985 been a joint co-operation venture of MSI and FINA. FINA unilaterally declared that it would take over maintenance of the World Records which had been meticulously kept by Peter Gilett and Judy Ford of MSI and that it would have sole control of the Indianapolis World Masters.

At a short meeting before the Indianapolis meet, Ross Wales and Artie Shaw (FINA) and Kevin Kelly and Gary Stutsel (MSI) agreed that FINA should control both World Records and World Championships particularly since MSI is purely a swimmers organisation which does not cater for the other disciplines.

However it was pointed out that both the unilateral actions without prior consultation and the covering of the MSI President's message in the souvenir program for Indianapolis were actions unbecoming an organisation of FINA's standing. It was agreed that the Pasadena Agreement which was not redundant should be jointly wound up by FINA and MSI. This new document has been signed by Kevin Kelly and Gary Stutsel and is awaiting the FINA signatures.

Ross Wales stated that "there is a need to keep FINA honest and on the path which is desired by the majority of the World's Masters athletes.

Input from MSI especially regarding Masters competitors attitudes to drug-testing will be most welcome and MSI is encouraged to continue the Pan Pacific series".

The next of the Pan Pacific Meets is in Hamilton, New Zealand in April 1993 and it is my wish that as many as possible of you will be able to attend. Unlike other organisation MSI welcomes all swimmers because it is based on the promotion of "fitness, friendship and understanding through swimming".

There are many people who will think that MSI no longer serves any real purpose, however the 1992 Congress unanimously voted to adopt the following new charter.

MSI will continue to operate and develop as an International Masters Swimming Organisation:

1. To evaluate Masters swimming needs
2. To promote and service those needs
3. To educate Masters swimmers and organisations
4. To award and control Pan Pacific and other regional Masters competitions.

If anything, MSI is stronger now than it has ever been.

**Gary Stutsel**  
President, MSI

## **IV World Masters Swimming Championships – Indianapolis**

**June 25 to July 5th, 1992**

There is nothing quite like a Masters Championships. Firstly, there are the numbers. In this case nearly 2,700 competitors. Then there is the noise as thousands of competitors cheer each other on, enquire about each others times, and investigate the competition in their age group. The din in the warm up pool and the marshalling area was testimony to this.

Forty five countries had Masters swimmers competing for their club, and they ranged in age from 25 years to young Tom Lane, a 98 year old from the United States. Tom is also blind. The largest participating age group however, was the 45-49 year age group. There were 116 heats of the 100m Freestyle and approximately 120 swimmers broke the minute.

Swimmers are happy if the venue is adequate, the timing is accurate and the refereeing is consistent. They are often unaware of the dramas which may or may not go on behind the scenes. Such was the case for this event, where the swimmers were happy with the beautiful venue, where the television monitors around the pool made it easy for them to know when to marshal for their event, and where they were able to watch some truly remarkable world class performances.

There were some complaints about some of the young children timekeeping and the apparent inconsistencies in the refereeing, but these will be detailed in the next newsletter when the number and types of disqualifications can be evaluated. There was some complaints received about the swimmer who swam one armed butterfly because her arm was bandaged, and who gained a silver medal in her age group.

The Meet began with the Water Polo (15 teams); Synchronised swimming (109 entries) and Diving (152 entries).

The long distance swimmers, nearly 290 of them, made a spectacular display at Eagle Creek when their colour coded caps entered the water at two minute intervals, in a well organised event. The course was well laid out in one full circuit covering the required five kilometres, and safety of swimmers was ensured by rescue boats and paddlers.

The finish could not have ended in a more spectacular fashion with Gerry Rodrigues and Robert Hudek stroke for stroke over the last 1,000 metres. Gerry took line honours in a time of 1:03:00 ahead of Robert with 1:03:04. However, 31 year old Lynn Marshall who flew home, passing the first two men's heats topped the swim off with the fastest time of 1:02:51. It was justice then that all three took home gold medals for their age groups.

It was with great sadness that the long distance swimmers learnt the next day that Peter Buckley who won the silver medal in the 60-64 year age group of the five kilometre event collapsed and died in his hotel later that evening.

The swim had its share of stories, which help to make Masters events what they are: The mother and daughter in the 200 butterfly, the daughter striving for a world record, the mother simply enjoying the chance to compete. The honeymoon couple from the Netherlands who married in Holland on the first day of the swim, and started married life together swimming in Indianapolis. The joy of the South Africans who were able to compete so proudly, with their country of origin displayed beside all the others on the electronic scoreboard for the first time for many years. The husband and wife synchronised team, she in her 70's and the coach, and he 81. The courage of Rowdy Gaines, to come from serious illness to take gold medals in the 100m Freestyle and put in a nifty 23 seconds for 50m Freestyle. It is these human stories, along with the 90 or so world record performances, which made this World Championships a success. To the organisers, Heidi Neuburger and her team, we say thank you for a job well done.

What would have been the social event of the Meet – the All American Party, was a washout as the heavens opened and disappointed swimmers huddled under a little shelter and wondered why it had to rain on this particular night. However the City of Indianapolis put on a great party for their 4th July Celebrations and perhaps the magnificent fireworks display went some way to make up.

## **Salute to MSI World Recorders**

**PETER GILLETT – Long Course**  
**JUDY FORD – Short Course**

When people do their tasks willingly, diligently and to the immense satisfaction of the membership, it is hoped that they would be treated with respect when their services are no longer required.

MSI NEWS would like to say thank you to two very worthy Masters Swimmers, who have devoted an immense number of hours over the years to maintaining the MSI World Records.

PETER GILLETT was actually the MSI appointed World Recorder, and he maintained the long course world records himself. To assist him he had Judy Ford whose task was the short course world records, and Walt Reid who was responsible for the MSI Top Ten.

I first met Peter in March 1980 at the AUSSI Masters National Championships in Adelaide, and the following July we began the long involvement together as members of the AUSSI National Board for Masters, on which Peter still serves as Director of Recording. In addition Peter served for many years as President of the South Australian Branch of AUSSI Masters. For his services to Masters Swimming in Australia, Peter was made a Life Member of the organisation in 1990.

Peter had kept the MSI World Records since 1986 when he offered to co-ordinate and distribute these to the MSI members twice annually. The past seven years has seen him wade through some huge array of records, which are broken with regularity. With the many events, both male and female, and the five year age groups within Masters, it is easy to visualise the workload involved. Peter also often forgot to charge MSI for his costs, and bore much of the expense of maintaining the World Records himself. For this selfless effort MSI would like to say - Thank You Peter.

JUDY FORD - likewise, has a long history of involvement in Masters Swimming in Australia. She attended a meeting to form an AUSSI club in 1976 and began swimming regularly again. She has been President, Secretary, Club Captain, Recorder and newsletter editor of her club; and Secretary of her Branch from inauguration in 1981 to 1984.

Judy is a regular at State, National and International Meets and was asked to compile the Short Course World Records, the first issue appearing in November 1986. Like Peter, Judy has been a regular on the National Board of AUSSI and is currently Director of Communications. Judy was made a Life Member of the ACT Branch of AUSSI in 1989. Another fully involved and dedicated Masters Swimmer. MSI would like to say - Thank You Judy.

The FINA Masters World Recorder is Walt Reid, PO Box 8800A, Steilacoom, WA 98388 USA.

## Letters to the Editor

### Letter 1

I'm directing this letter to you at the suggestion of Dot Donnelly and would like to invite your attention to some factors little known or overlooked in the appraisal of drug testing for Masters Swimming.

First of all, the cavalier attitude of "let them eat cake" in the statement, "Beta blockers are banned. Alternatives should be sought", is ludicrous when applied to Masters Swimmers. A sixty year old Masters friend of mine was recently placed on a low dosage of beta-blocker by a world renowned cardiologist who felt it indicated and necessary to control an intermittent paroxysmal cardiac arrhythmia (nothing serious enough to prevent competitive swimming), but often occurs in a great many adults over the age of 60. Are we to arbitrarily withdraw from Masters Swimming rather than go against legitimately prescribed (perhaps life preserving) medications? Actually, beta blockers in older age Groups give no athletic advantage - on the contrary, they may often cause the patient to feel "tired" and "sluggish". In addition, the dangerous side effects are more pronounced and erratic in older age groups and would be foolhardy to take without direction of a physician.

Secondly - and I've never seen this mentioned - almost 2% of the population have glaucoma and approximately 65% of this potentially blinding disease are treated with beta blocker eye

drops that do get into the blood stream and are ultimately cleared through the urine. Are all these glaucoma patients who are on mandatory beta blocker treatment (no substitution can be readily made or even desired) to be disqualified and in a sense penalised for trying to maintain their health? I don't believe the concept of Masters Swimming had this in mind. Furthermore, is FINA, MSI, USMS, etc, willing to accept the onus of practicing medicine without a license by denying legitimate use of beta-blockers? In addition, are they willing to be on the defendant's end of the inevitable lawsuits that will surely follow this line of restriction of medical drugs legitimately prescribed by physicians?

There must be other examples of necessary medication that would technically disqualify the older participants. I, for one, have never thought that mandatory drug testing in Masters Swimming would be practical or feasible. The hierarchy has to realise that Masters Swimmers pay their own way from equipment, travel, entry fees, etc - who would pay for the expensive drug tests, who would be paying for the overseeing if the program and the obvious embarrassing aspects of administering the tests? I feel these questions are easily overlooked when the mind-set of the "dogooders" try and emulate the Olympians. Masters Swimmers do not need to maintain a "high" through various heats, semi-finals, etc. We swim our own single heat against time along and there is really no advantage in our age group to be doped up. I personally feel it's the height of egotism to equate our class of swimming to the Olympians (other than the spirit of competition) by assuming the extension of drug testing to our group will somehow endow us with their prowess.

I don't know what the answer is other than ignoring drug testing in Masters due to the many exceptions that would have to be made - or possibly acknowledge the fact that many Masters Swimmers do take medications, not for athletic advantage, but for life and/or sight preservation among other reasons. Where do we draw the line - no pacemakers, no artificial knee joints, no arm straps for muscle pain, etc. I think Masters Swimmers are sophisticated enough and the "hierarchy" should be, to realise that in our age groups, the drugs we're talking about give little or no advantage to our class of swimming. And that's what it's all about.

The concept of Masters Swimming is to further the participation of all adults, no matter what their athletic prowess, to compete. Let us not, for all the above reasons, make this a "tempest in a 'pee pot".

Joseph L Kurtzman, MD

### Letter 2

I have received the April 1992 issue of MSI News and was particularly struck by your article "Masters Swimming - Who is responsible?" which, I think, states the issues regarding FINA and its relationship with MSI and Masters clubs and swimmers around the world quite clearly and properly.

We will surely continue to have differences (within FINA, between FINA and MSI, and between different groups or federations), but with co-operation we can work them through as in the past. I certainly pledge my support to try to overcome all obstacles for the betterment of Masters.

I hope to see you next week in Indianapolis.

Ross E Wales  
Honorary Secretary, FINA

## The notorious message that required pasting over in the Indianapolis Program

Fellow competitors

In 1989 over 200 world records were broken in this pool at the 3rd Pan Pacific Championships.

It would be asking much to expect that feat to be repeated, but it is possible.

First, this is the best pool in the world. Second, you are probably the most talented group of Masters athletes to ever gather at the one venue. Last, you have the best wishes and support of everyone who helped make this meet possible.

To those people I extend our thanks and appreciation. Only those who have been directly involved in the organisation and conduct of a major meet know and understand what they have been through and are yet to endure.

May we all make the most of this opportunity to compete, renew and strengthen old friendships and to make new friends. Remember the purpose of MSI is to promote fitness, friendship and understanding.

**Gary Stutsel**  
President

## Calendar of Events

### SEPTEMBER 1992

- 3-6 5th Masters Championships De Vicy France  
Contact: Jean Gourlier, St-Cloud 2, 03700 Bellerive-sur-Allier France
- 14-17 1st Masters International, Barcelona, Spain  
Contact Spanish Heritage Tours Fax: 7187934278
- 30-6 Oct Masters International Barbados S/C Fax 1-904-241-4206

### OCTOBER

- 17-25 Honda Central Australian Masters Games  
P.O. Box 1095, Alice Springs, Australia.
- 24-25 North Island Masters Championships SC, Tauranga, New Zealand.

### NOVEMBER

- 11-15 3rd Annual Honolulu Masters Championships, Hosted by Rowdy Gaines  
ENTRIES CLOSE September 1st  
Oahu Swimming Complex Hawaii

### JANUARY 1993

- 23-24 International Masters Meet, Italy  
Contact: Federazione Italiana Nuto, Piazza Lauro de Bosis 3, 1-00194 Rome
- 23-24 International Super Masters Finland  
Contact Finnish Swimming Federation, Radiokatu 12, SF-00240 Helsinki
- 31 3 Int. Swimmeet NED  
Contact C. de Vos, Weilustlaan 58, NL-4817 Breda

### FEBRUARY

- 13 Swedish International Masters Meet  
Contact Lars Ekdahl, Ringvagen 12c, S-73040 Kolback

### MARCH

- 6 German International Meet  
Contact Ralf Schiller, Kornstrasse 60, D-3380 Goslar 1

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