



M.S.I. NEWS

The official Newsletter of
MASTERS SWIMMING - INTERNATIONAL

Number 12

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 1992

Editor's Note

It is with great sadness that I begin this issue of MSI News by reporting the death of our MSI Vice-President Programmes, Kevin Kelly. Kevin was also our legal counsel. Kevin was murdered in Minneapolis on August 5th. Just four weeks before, on July 5th, we were saying our goodbyes to Kevin in Indianapolis, never dreaming we would not meet again. A tribute to Kevin from Tom Boak, past president of USMS appears later in this issue.

I first met Kevin in Japan in 1986 when he became involved with MSI, and our almost annual meetings continued until our recent World Masters Championships, where he chaired the MSI Congress. Kevin and I had our disagreements and arguments on the floor of the Congress, but we were great friends. He was a respected member of our Congress and always willing to help and participate. It is ironic that this willingness to assist others led to his tragic death.

Subscriptions have been flooding in since the last issue of MSI News. Keep it up. We will be cutting down on the free issues being circulated, so please ensure you are on the subscribers list. If you have any difficulty in Europe in getting a subscription off to Australia in Australian dollars, we are currently investigating various options to keep your costs low. These include a European bank account or credit card facilities. Further information on this as soon as it is available.

Included in this issue is the new FINA Masters Committee, and the new MSI Council. I also intended to include an article as a follow up to the article titled "Masters Swimming, Who is Responsible?" This article was called "A Cynical Approach to FINA's Takeover of Masters". In respect for those in FINA who are genuinely interested in Masters, and not in power, I decided not to widely distribute this article within MSI News. However, copies of the article can be obtained upon request. Instead there is an article by our President titled "A New Era".

You will remember from last issue I listed for you the Termination of the Pasadena Agreement put forward by MSI after FINA and MSI had met to decide that a formal withdrawal by the two parties would be preferable to FINA's unannounced unilateral withdrawal just prior to the World Championships.

FINA have since replied that they agree with the document with the exception to item No.4.

To refresh your memories, items 1-3 covered the handing over to FINA by MSI of the World Championships; the world records; and acknowledging that FINA should adopt and publish the technical rules of masters swimming. Item 4 stated that MSI would continue to operate as an international masters swimming organisation dedicated to evaluating masters swimmers needs; educating masters swimmers and conducting meets such as the regional Pan Pacific Championships.

FINA obviously want MSI to hand over everything and disappear. I hope they see the value of having MSI as an ally and let us all get on with the tasks we are best suited, for the benefit of all Masters swimmers in the world, and not just the elite and those who wish to participate in world competitions.

Glenys McDonald

A New Era

Many of you will be aware that FINA has now claimed sole control of the World Masters Championships and the World Masters Records. This can be seen as the end of an era in Masters Swimming, an era which really got going with the formation of MSI in 1983.

The era started in 1974 with the visit of a group of US and Canadian masters swimmers to Australia and New Zealand. This trip sparked the interest and involvement in international competition of such people as Margaret (George) Samson (US) and Gary Stutsel (Australia), the instigators of MSI and Ian Butterworth (New Zealand), the organiser of the Christchurch 1984 Masters International Meet. This trip also led to the formation of Masters organisations in Australia and New Zealand which made possible such subsequent events as the 1981 and 1983 Pacific Meets and the 1984 Christchurch Meet. Also touring with the 1974 group was June Krauser (US) who nurtured the ideas of Top 10 and Masters Newsletters.

Continued on next page

soothe swimmers eyes
PREFRIN DROPS

(Continued from previous page)

A New Era

The original MSI Constitution (1983) specified the establishment of World Masters Championships (Clause 11) and World Masters Records (Clause 12).

Subsequently two further objectives were added, World Masters Top 10 and Uniform Rules for Masters competitors.

FINA became directly involved in 1985 with the signing of the Pasadena Agreement, which charted a course of co-operation between FINA and MSI to achieve all of the above objectives.

All four of these objectives have been achieved commencing with the 1st FINA/MSI World Masters Championships in Tokyo in 1986 and reaching completion at the FINA Masters Congress - Perth in 1991 and the adoption of the present rules. It was the efforts and experience of MSI members which developed and refined each of them and the patronage of FINA which led to their acceptance in Europe.

Europe is both the reason for FINA wanting sole control and the reason that FINA was able to gain control. MSI decided the only way our swimming friends in Europe could participate with the rest of the world was under the FINA umbrella and that it would be selfish of us, even though the vast bulk of Masters swimmers live

outside Europe, to break away, hold MSI World Championships and MSI World Records and develop our rules of swimming. MSI also recognised that for the other disciplines (synchronised swimming, water polo and diving) to be involved in World Championships, FINA must have control. MSI's only argument is with the manner in which FINA control was achieved. Such actions would have provoked less level headed people into senseless and destructive retaliation.

Instead MSI has recognised the need to develop the areas of Masters Swimming in which it is most experienced. Formal, elite competition is FINA's area of expertise, but it is MSI which has the experience with Masters' needs and desires. Unlike FINA, MSI is in the water with its fellow swimmers - in the water, in the locker rooms and in the bars and restaurants afterwards.

In this new era, MSI will focus on the 95% of its swimmers who will never feature in a Top 10 or World Record List. Interest will be stimulated at all levels with emphasis on: fitness programs, coaching programs, water safety programs, and increased social interaction.

In short, the fulfilment of Article II of the MSI Constitution "To promote fitness, friendship and understanding through swimming" and above all to have fun.

Gary Stutsel

VALE Kevin Kelly

Many of you already know that Kevin Kelly was found murdered in Minneapolis, Minnesota in August. This senseless crime has taken from us an individual who gave so much of his time to the sport of Masters Swimming on a local, national and international level.

For many years, the name of Kevin Kelly was synonymous with Iowa Masters. He once told a great story of hopping out of the pool at the end of a race, picking up the gun and starting the next heat, then grabbing a watch and timing a lane. He was the champion of the small local masters swimming club, always coming to the table in defence of the "little guy".

He has been an active masters swimmer, loving the long distance race. He was nationally ranked in the 500yd; 1600yd; 400m, and 1500m events. He would periodically sneak a sprint ranking, but admitted that he couldn't sprint worth a damn. He also enjoyed open water swims, and really excelled in these events.

In United States Masters Swimming, Kevin served as Treasurer and a member of the Executive Committee from 1985 to 1989. He was also active on the Finance Committee, the Legislative Committee, and the International Committee. And can anyone forget his countless contributions to the infamous Ransom Arthur Award?

Kevin was most recognised for his contribution at the international level. He was active in Masters Swimming



International as the Chairman of the Championship Committee and legal Adviser. He wrote the revision of the By-Laws, and represented United States Masters Swimming interests over the past seven years. It will be hard to ever forget Kevin strolling the pool deck in Tokyo in 1986 with the banzai bandanna wrapped around his head.

Kevin loved our sport and the people in it. From an Irish ballad at the bar to a heated floor fight at Convention, he was always there and always at the front of the battle. But there was never a time when he didn't have a big smile or a hug to give. Yes, he will be dearly missed by all of us. So, when the opportunity presents itself, let us remember to raise a glass in memory of his friendship. Kevin we'll never forget you!!

Tom Boak

How much control, and at what level, does FINA have over swimming organisations?

This question was posed by Switzerland. Although one of the examples they gave was incorrect, the impact is worth noting.

"Why is it possible that the FINA members and the LEN have their own and deviated rules for Masters Swimming?"

FINA and MSI

1. Age Group: Age shall be determined at the age on the last day of the Meet.
2. World Record: Age shall be determined by the actual age of the competitor attained on the last day of the meet.

LEN

1. Age Group: Age shall be determined as of December 31st of year of competition.
2. European Record: The actual attained age of the competitor as of December 31st of the year of the meet.

German Swimming Federation

1. Age Group: Age shall be determined as of January 1st of the year of competition.
2. National Record: The actual attained age of the competitor as of January 1st of the year of the meet.

What a mine field for recorders and organisers. How does this lend itself to the credibility of our World Records?

FINA Masters Committee

Artie Shaw	NZ	Vice President/Bureau Liaison
Doug Scales	GB	Chairman and Water Polo
Lin Min Shan	TP	
Bruce Rogers	CAN	Secretary and Diving
Don Blew	AUST	Swimming
Sergy Fesenco	UKR	Swimming
Dr. Daniel Garcia	URU	Medical
Raphael Hernandy Rojas	MEX	Swimming
Birger Kivela	FIN	Diving
Arthur Knudson	NOR	Swimming
June Krauser	USA	Synchronised
Ton Logan	NZ	Long Distance and Water Polo

Niane Sidate

It is ironic that the two most experienced Masters swimmers on this committee June Krauser and Tom Logan, do not even represent main stream swimming. Bruce Rogers and Don Blew and possibly others, are from their countries amateur body, not the masters body.

Whilst some excellent people are on this committee, it is the obvious political appointments for designed ends, which is such a disappointment to Masters.

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MSI Council

(elected in Indianapolis)

President	Gary Stutsel
Vice President, Finance	Steve Gosse
Vice President, Program	Vacant due to death of Kevin Kelly
Area Directors -	
Africa	Lousie Pallet
Europe	Rob Hanou
North America	Brian Croker
Asia	Kusuo Kitamura
Oceania	Glenys McDonald
South America	Marlene Mendes

MSI Positions

Secretary	Matthew Glen
Publicity	Glenys McDonald
Championship Committee -	
Chairman	Graeme McDougall
	Tom Logan
	Beth Whittall
	Heiji Hase
	Fanny Estevz

MSI's 5th Pan Pacific Masters Championships

New Zealand, April 10-17 1993

The Pan Pacific's are drawing closer, and the New Zealand Masters are in full swing planning. Hamilton will be host city and lots of activities have been planned for your enjoyment.

All pool swimming will be held at the Waterworld complex in Hamilton. This complex includes an indoor heated 50m, eight lane pool for competition, and an indoor 25m five lane pool for training and warm ups. In addition there is a 50m recreational outdoor pool to relax in.

The organisers regret that an open water swim is not available within the program due to the doubt as to the water temperature at that time of the year.

On site accommodation

All competitors will be required to become accredited before being allowed to compete. Accreditation for the swimming, diving and synchro will be at the Waterworld complex in Hamilton and will commence on Friday 9th. The accreditation booth will be manned each morning during the competition from 8am to 11am. Water Polo accreditation will be at the West Auckland Aquatic Centre from Thursday April 15th.

Age eligibility for all disciplines will be as per FINA rules.

Fees:

All participants in the 1993 Pan Pacific Masters Championships must pay the one time US\$60 registration fee regardless of the number of sport disciplines entered. Registration fee covers attendance at social functions including food and entertainment (drink at own cost). If you do not wish to attend social functions deduct US\$25 from the registration fee.

Additional Fees

Individual swimming: Swimmers may enter up to six events at US\$5 per event.

Relay team events: US\$20 per relay team. Only one entry per club per age group.

Confirmed Schedule of Events

Friday, 9th April

Registration, Welcome Party.

Saturday 10th

200m Backstroke, 50m Breaststroke, 100m Freestyle, 200m Mixed Medley Relay, Happy Hour.

Sunday 11th

200m Butterfly, 200m Freestyle, 50m Backstroke, 200m Mixed Freestyle Relay, Happy Hour.

Monday 12th

400m Individual Medley, 50m Freestyle, 100m Breaststroke, 200 Medley Relay, Happy Hour.

Tuesday 13th

800m Freestyle, Happy Hour.

Wednesday 14th

100m Backstroke, 200m Breaststroke, 50m Butterfly, 200m Freestyle Relay, Happy Hour.

Thursday 15th

200m Individual Medley, 100m Butterfly, 400m Freestyle, Koro's Kiwi Kaper.

Friday 16th

Diving, Synchro, Water Polo.

Saturday 17th

Diving, Synchro, Water Polo. Water Polo Function (evening).

Entries Close - midnight 15 February 1993

Late entries - midnight 15 March 1993 - Late fee of US\$30.

Mail to:

PAN PAC MASWIM 93
PO Box 86
MATAMATA 2271 N.Z.

Rendez-Vous 94 Montreal 5th World Masters Swimming Championship

The City

Montreal ... bridge between the tradition of the Old World and the vitality of the New, such is the charm and personality of Montreal. An exhilarating blend of North American energy and European flair, Montreal is renowned for its distinctive elan. Stylish shops, gourmet restaurants, Olympic sporting facilities and grand cultural events have captured the hearts of travellers the world over.

The Championship

Out of concern for the environment and for the convenience of both participants and spectators, all hotels, campus lodgings, competition and training pools, as well as the venues for the opening and closing celebrations of Rendez-Vous 94 will be accessible by metro.

The Dates

From Monday 4th Sunday 10th July 1994.

PROGRAMME

4th July

200m Backstroke, 50m Breaststroke, 400m Freestyle, Diving.

5th July

200m Butterfly, 100m Freestyle, 50m Backstroke, 200m Mixed Freestyle Relay, Synchronized Swimming, Water Polo.

6th July

400m Individual Medley, 50m Freestyle, 100m Breaststroke, 200m Medley Relay, Diving, Water Polo.

7th July

100m Backstroke, 200m Freestyle, 50m Butterfly, 200m Freestyle Relay, Diving, Synchronized Swimming, Water Polo.

8th July

200m Individual Medley, 100m Butterfly, 200m Breaststroke, 200m Mixed Medley Relay, Diving, Synchronized Swimming, Water Polo.

9th July

800m Freestyle, Synchronized Swimming.

10th July

Synchronized Swimming, 5km Long Distance.

Area Reports

from MSI Congress Indianapolis

Europe

Europe has a long tradition in swimming. Although the first swimming competitions that could be called "Masters competitions" were swum before 1900, the development of Masters swimming in several countries really took off in the last ten years. With respect to organisation many National Federations encounter problems embodying the Masters discipline into their structures.

A letter of introduction, send round after my election as area director for Europe in 1990 during the congress in Rio de Janeiro, yielded only two official reactions. Nevertheless, in the past two years good contacts with the various representatives of National Masters committees have been established, also because I had the opportunities to visit (and compete in) many important Masters meets. Very important too for aid and support are the contacts with the editors of the European Newsletters: Masters Swimmer UK Newsletter (BGR), Masters Swimming Report (SWI), DFSS-Info (GER), MasterSprint (NED).

The European National Federations are affiliated with the European Swimming Federation, the LEN has a Masters committee and provides rules for European Masters Swimming and Diving Championships. Sadly though, these meets are not open to competitors from outside Europe, in contrast with many other important meets in the world. We regret to find that the LEN actually discourages National Federations to co-operate with the MSI, being of the opinion that two separate international bodies will give rise to negative rather than positive interactions, and forgetting completely that the MSI motto is: "Fitness, Friendship and Understanding".

Since most European Masters consider the MSI an important issue there has been talk about the possibility of membership of an European MSI division. Nothing has been realised so far. Many German and Dutch Masters are associated with the MSI, in that they are members of a Masters interest group alongside their National Federation.

Partly through experience as a member of the MSI Championships Committee, I was able to submit propositions regarding improvements of the LEN Masters regulations. The rules are practically identical to those of the FINA and the MSI, except for the determination of the age groups. Europeans prefer the 31 December of the year of birth. Submitting the propositions was possible thanks to the co-operation with the Dutch Masters committee. Furthermore, acting as a mediator I could prevent some very important European Masters swimmers from being held on the same date. Assistance was lent in putting in applies for European and World Masters records.

Due to the political changes in Europe, swimmers in Western Europe were more frequently visited by people from East European countries, and, vice versa, it became easier for people from the western parts of Europe to travel to and compete in meets in the (former) East bloc. Masters swimming may well contribute to the improvement of Fitness, Friendship and - especially - Understanding of many Europeans in a new, united Europe.

I sincerely hope that the outcome of the MSI congress in Indianapolis will add to a better understanding of the MSI and strengthen its position in Europe, first and foremost for the sheer pleasure and joy of Masters swimming.

Rob Hanou, Area Director for Europe

New Zealand Master Swimmers (Inc)

Although membership dropped slightly to just below the 2000 mark there have been more Masters activities and greater participation than ever before over the last two years. Members are spread over 63 clubs. The reason for the drop has been put down to the economic situation and the growth in alternative fitness opportunities. New Zealand still has the highest ratio of Master swimmers for its population of any country.

The restructured organisation of NZ Master Swimmers is now working very smoothly with the National Council providing guidance and policy for the national executive to implement. A three year strategy and management plan has been developed and this is providing an exciting challenge for the council and executive. What is seen as the key to the future development of masters Swimming in New Zealand is the writing of a procedures manual. This will contain detailed guide-lines and instructions on a whole host of issues for clubs to follow with their administration including, guide-lines for running swim meets, club organisation and structure, and national rules and requirements.

The newsletter "Masterscrawl" produced entirely in-house by the Secretary is a source of pride and is seen as the vital link between the organisation and individual members.

A full range of sanctioned and fun meets have been run throughout the country with high levels of participation. The development of open water swims has increased and for the first time a National Long Distance Championship was held. A new innovation has been the holding of a postal 1500/800 event which attracted 182 entries for the first event. Masters swimmers in all age groups have broken a host of national records and a select few have broken world records. The national recorder has continued to compile the National Top Ten Rankings to a high standard and this is submitted for inclusion in the World Top Ten Rankings.

AUSSI Masters Swimming in Australia

AUSSI membership has continued to grow although not at the previous high level. Considerable effort has been made to improve communication across the organisation and to listen to the members and a regular newsletter is now being published. AUSSI has been very active on the international scene with involvement at the World Swimming Championships in Perth and in the affairs of MSI. Peter Gillet the Masters Swimming International Recorder was honoured by AUSSI with life membership and deserves our congratulations for this.

The development of long distance swimming events is exciting and many Masters have competed with success.

A major report funded by the Australian Confederation of Sport is due out soon which looks at all aspects of Masters Sports. This project will provide valuable information on the state of Masters sports and add to the debate on funding issues. Many countries will have similar problems in this regard and should find the report interesting.

A close working relationship is developing between Australian Swimming Inc and AUSSI to the mutual benefit of both organisations.

A full programme of swimming events has been completed and all directors report that this has been a very busy year.

Calendar of Events

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 Nuoto, Piazza Lauro de Bosis 3, 1-00194 Rome
23-24 International Super Masters Finaland
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
13-14 International Masters Meet Florence ITA
Contact Federazione Italiana Nuoto, Piazza Lauro de Bosis 3, 1-00194 Rome
20-21 Danske Masters International
Danish Swimming Federation, PO Box 119, DK-6000 Kolding
26-28 Swedish Open Masters Championships
Marianne Skold, Idrottens Hus, S-12387 Farsta
27 4 Meet City of Brno TCH International Meet
Contact Czechoslovakian Swimming Federation, Na Porici 12, 11530 Praha 1
27-28 International Meet Trentino ITA
Federazione Italiana Nuoto

APRIL 1993

10-17 5th PAN PACIFIC MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS
Hamilton, New Zealand.
Entries close 15 February. Late entries 15 March
Contact: Pan Pac Maswim 93, PO Box 86, Matamata 2271 New Zealand
24-2 May 4th Australian Masters Games, Perth, Western Australia
Contact: Secretariat, PO Box 1993, Wembley WA 6014 Australia

MAY

4-8 18th AUSSI Masters Championships, Darwin, Australia
Contact: Exec Director, PO Box 207, Cowandilla SA 5033

JULY 1994

2-10 July V WORLD MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS, Montreal, Canada

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