

NIAGARA DISTRICT MEETING -- MINUTES -- JANUARY 20, 1990 -- SYRACUSE

PRESENT: A. Timm Anderson (Binghamton), Betty Barry (Secretary), John Cranch (Rochester), Gene Donner (Buffalo), Jim Goodenough (Sanctions), Grace Houghton (Newsletter), George McVey (Registrar), Bill Walter (Chairman), Michael Gaudy and Theresa Furrell of Hamburg.

The meeting was called to order at 2:40 P.M. by Bill Walter.

(1) An agenda was distributed (copy attached) and after a brief discussion it was determined that no one wished to make any changes or corrections to the minutes of the August 4 meeting.

(2) Officers Reports

(A) Chairman - Bill Walter had prepared the agenda and stated that he would accept any suggestions regarding additions to this or future agendas, meeting procedures, etc.

(B) Registrar - George McVey reported 349 currently registered swimmers and noted that there were 355 in 1989 and 338 in 1988. The 1990 membership included 13 new swimmers through December compared with 11 and 16 in the two prior years. For mailing purposes he is using only those swimmers who have registered for the 1989/90 season. There was some discussion of this policy and he noted that some clubs cut off the unregistered names as early as November, while he had waited until the January/February newsletter to do so. The signup for membership was not included in this newsletter since it was going only to those with current registration.

(C) Treasurer - Kay Turner was absent due to illness and had sent her written financial report with George McVey (copy attached). Along with a brief explanation of the report, it was noted that Binghamton and the U. of R. had met the criteria for operating a meet - including the submission in a timely manner of acceptable results - and had received the appropriate refund. The University of Buffalo had not submitted acceptable results and West Irondequoit had as yet submitted no results. Consequently, both had lost their right to the \$50 refund.

George also read the thank you note received from Pauline Dittman. It was noted at this time that the District will have to decide what type of memorial should be implemented in Fred's honor and that suggestions would be gratefully accepted.

(D) Newsletter - Grace Houghton stated that the newsletter (the second one to originate in Binghamton) had been mailed Friday afternoon from Rochester. Grace asked for suggestions/opinions on what the focus of the newsletter should be. Discussion followed and it was generally agreed that getting meet sheets out to members was the top priority - that it made more sense to keep the issue to an ounce or less for mailing purposes, even though it may require "shrinking" some information - and that we must keep in mind that there are many swimmers out there who swim without coaching and/or are not interested in competition. It was decided that the first of the month would be

the deadline (e.g. September 1, November 1) and that it should be mailed by the 15th of that month.

(E) Sanctions - Jim Goodenough reported that MCC was planning to hold a two-day meet in May and that Fairport's Dave Wells had been in touch with him and was preparing the necessary sanction application to hold the District Meet in Fairport in April.

The ELMA Swim Club has asked for a sanction to hold a meet on April 1 at the University of Buffalo. Jim felt it was appropriate (in view of the Board's decision in August relating to sanction problems\*) to deny the sanction based on past problems with meets run by Gene Donner and the fact that the district meet would probably be the weekend following an April 1 ELMA meet. At that time Gene told those present that he was the ELMA Swim Club in its entirety.

A lengthy discussion followed during which it was noted that Gene was the official meet director of the fall U.B. meet which had not submitted acceptable results. Gene stated that the problem with the results was due to a lack of direction given to the U.B. personnel preparing the results.

Problems with results from Empire State Games were also discussed. Gene was responsible for making the results available and a number of people missed TOP TEN consideration as a result of his not filing results. Gene stated that the Games were not a sanctioned meet per se and he felt the results he did produce should have been sufficient.\*\* Gene also said that he had sent a copies of his Empire State Games results to Bruce Gianniny, the Adirondack people and the New York City people.\*\*\* Gene said that he would have someone checking results at the 1990 games for potential TOP TEN times, but did not clarify how the results would be produced.

Grace Houghton suggested that we make a point of letting swimmers know beforehand that results from the Games are not handled according to standards acceptable for TOP 10 consideration in an effort to prevent future disappointments.

A RESOLUTION was offered by George McVey and seconded by Gene Donner that a sanction be granted for the U.B. meet with a coach or representative from the University serving as meet director and with Gene working with the U.B. staff as a liaison.

Lengthy discussion followed and Jim Goodenough called for a vote on the resolution. George McVey, Donner and Bill Walter voted yes. Betty Barry and Jim Goodenough voted no and Grace Houghton abstained. Timm Anderson and John Cranch did not vote. Michael Gaudy and Theresa Furrell from Hamburg voted yes. Discussion immediately followed as to who was eligible to vote. Since it could not be determined at the time, the outcome of the motion remained unresolved. (See addendum to minutes regarding the outcome of this discussion.)

It was decided that Fairport would be granted a sanction to host the district meet as soon as the appropriate paperwork was filed.

The MEET EVALUATION implemented this year as part of the sanctions process was discussed and it was pointed out that five unregistered swimmers participated in the U. of R. meet. The U. of R. and U.B. are using our sanctioned meets as money makers, and it was the consensus of those present that the Niagara District should be placing its emphasis on the welfare of its members rather than on providing a money maker for others.

(F) Officials - Hugh Reinhard has agreed to be in charge of Officials. Hugh had been working with Fred before his death and seemed an excellent choice to fill the position. George McVey has been appointed to a national ad hoc committee on officials and will provide Hugh with any information obtained through it. Within the district, provision may be made to provide each official with the most recent update of the rulebook.

- (3) The "Great Lakes Swim" sponsored by the District elicited only seven or eight responses - none of them from within our district. It was decided that Bill Walter would return the checks to those people who had answered the challenge and send along a letter "certifying" their accomplishment, a "generic shirt" (one of the shirts that Syracuse was selling at the meet that said Masters Swimming) and a note explaining that a lack of responses prevented the printing of shirts with the "I swam Lake ....." message.
- (4) Regarding Club representation at the State Meet, it was noted that many Niagara swimmers would enter the State meet not as Niagara, but as Syracuse, Binghamton, etc.

Grace Houghton asked that it be noted that Binghamton would like to host the 1991 and 1992 State Meet. States will be returning to our district in '91 and it was suggested that she announce Binghamton's desire to host the meet in the next newsletter.

- (5) The Zone Meet was not expected to garner a high rate of participation from the district because of the distant location.
- (6) The 1990 USMS Convention is scheduled for Pittsburg. George McVey, Gene Donner and Bill Walter will attend, and it will be necessary to make the hotel reservation as early as possible because they have been notified that, due to the size of the convention, not everyone will be able to stay at the host hotel.
- (7) Under Other Business the following topics were discussed:

(A) As noted earlier in the meeting, the district will have to decide how to honor Fred Dittman.

(B) Empire State Games participation fees should drop this year- registration from \$8 to \$5 and individual events from \$4 to \$3. Some of the problems from previous years (distribution of sweatsuits and having sufficient numbers of appropriate sizes) should be eliminated. Joan Kay has been appointed coordinator for all Masters sports and volleyball will be a new sport for Masters competitors.

(C) Bill Walter would like the board to meet quarterly. George suggested that we make a greater effort to advertise the meetings to encourage more participation from swimmers. The Board could meet again at the State meet, depending on the number of officers present.

The meeting was adjourned at 4 P.M.

\* August 4, 1989, Cortland Minutes, Page 3 -- "Short Course Sanctions...it was decided that no sanction should be issued to an individual or club if they have run an unsanctioned meet the prior year or have failed to submit appropriately prepared results."

\*\* According to USMS rules for Records, TOP TEN Times, and All-American Consideration, "All times must be made in USMS sanctioned and/or USMS approved competitive meets or events." (Article 204)

According to the Application for Approval "if consideration for TOP TEN times is desired, results of the competition, with USMS registered swimmers clearly identified, must be submitted to the LMSC in the prescribed format within 30 days of the event."

\*\*\* Bruce Gianniny stated in a conversation with George McVey on 1/23/90 that he had never received results from the 1989 Empire State Games in any form.)

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ADDENDUM 3/6/90

As a result of the unresolved conflict, Bill Walter took a phone vote on the three issues listed below after determining voting eligibility:

1. Should a sanction be granted for the U.B. meet with a coach or representative from the University serving as meet director and with Gene working with the U.B. staff as a liaison?  
5 - AYES            3 - NAYS            Sanction shall be granted as stated.
2. Should the board abide by the rule agreed upon at the board meeting on August 4, 1989, in Cortland? The rule is "No sanction should be issued to an individual or club if they have run an unsanctioned meet the prior year or have failed to submit appropriately prepared results."  
6 - AYES            2 - NAYS            The rule stands as written.
3. Should the rule stated in # 2 above be included on the sanction form?  
6 - AYES            2 - NAYS            The rule shall be included on the sanction form.

NOTE: Bill has asked Jim Goodenough to change the waiver on the sanction form to be consistent with the USMS rules.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Betty J. Barry*

Betty J. Barry, Secretary