

**NIAGARA DISTRICT MASTERS SWIMMING**  
**1996 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES - JULY 27, 1996**  
**SUNY at BUFFALO, 1996 EMPIRE STATE GAMES**

The meeting was called to order at 5PM by Chrm. McVey.

Present: George McVey (chrn.), Jim Matysek (Reg.), Amy Johnson (secy.), Lorie Gibson-Rick (fitness), Kay Turner (records), Maureen O'Donnell, Dan Kornblatt, Bob Johnston, John Morris, Steve Schaefer, Jodi Schaefer, Mary Beth Lopat, Dave Worrall, John Cranch, Jim Pitts, Betty Pitts, George Bauman.

Announcements:

The social planned for 6-8PM today had a relatively poor presale of 57 tickets. Considering the difficulty of planning it within the time constraints of the swim meet, the district meeting and the dinner hour, is it worthwhile attempting again?

**1. Reports**

A. Empire Games 1997 in Albany

The pool used in 1991 is unacceptable. The outdoor Colonie Pool is a possibility. The committee hopes to work out a schedule at the pool used for Scholastic and Open competition thereby staying under the Empire Games umbrella and reducing expenses.

B. Registrar, Jim Matysek

- 1) 454 Niagara registrants as of today, 18 less than last year.
- 2) The June 29th LC meet at ECC, Buffalo, seems to have increased entries for Empires by about 20.
- 3) Meets advertised as "Empire State Games Qualifiers" - Swimmers were confused thinking that participation in such designated meets was necessary to enter Empires. Competition times from the preceding Fall can be used, also times from "Y" meets and Senior Games. The acceptability of seed times from time trials in workouts was not settled by this meeting.

C. Fitness, Lorie Gibson-Rick

- 1) The 2000 Fitness Challenge 1996 is hosted by Niagara as a source of revenue. Swims are to be completed by 7/31 and entries are due by 8/17. Entries have not yet been processed.
- 2) USMS says entrants in fitness swims must be registered with USMS for insurance coverage. Lorie questions whether Niagara will want to host the 2000 again if it means closing out non-USMS fitness swimmers.

D. Records, Kay Turner

SCY records are updated after every meet and Jim Matysek has them on our Web site. Kay will start on LCM records but she feels the SCM records are not worth doing.

E. Top 10

Jim Matysek is putting the top 10 on our Web site. He has a portable PC at this meeting to show us how to access our Web site.

F. Open Water

- 1) Canandaigua Lake, Aug. 3rd, 1&2 miles - Vern Hecker. Canandaigua Masters invites swimmers to join them on Fridays at 7PM during July and August for a workout in the lake.
- 2) Lake Erie Swim at Silver Creek, July 14th, 1&2 miles. Mary Beth Lopat reported that Masters and Age-Group competition was held. In 1997 the date may move to August after Jr. Olympics in order to attract more age-group participants. Note: Age-group competition requires a separate heat.

## **2. Water Power Gazette**

We need an editor, someone with computer experience. Betty Barry has resigned and McVey will fill in as best he can. There is an ongoing problem of materials being submitted late, after the editorial deadline. A Syracuse volunteer will inquire into hiring help for the newsletter.

## **3. Surcharge for Non-Masters Groups sponsoring master meets.**

**MOTION:** The Niagara District surcharge of \$2/swimmer be reduced to \$1/swimmer. **PASSED.**

**Discussion:** \$2 is high for a small meet. No such meets were held this past year. The question from last year remains as to what is a legitimate masters group. We want to see a registered coach and registered master swimmers active and participating in the club.

## **4. Fall Calendar**

Oct. - (??) STAR Masters, no word yet.

Nov. - 1st Sunday, Binghamton  
MCC Pentathlon

Dec. - (??) U of R, no word yet.

Jan. - MCC

Feb. - 2nd weekend, Canandaigua  
4th weekend, Ithaca "Y"

Jim Matysek suggested a SCM meet for Top 10 times. MCC reported decreased entries for the Pentathlon and will use the Jan. meet to raise revenue. To increase meet entries, Lynn Fuller finds it effective to mail meet announcements to prior years participants in his Canandaigua meet.

## **5. NYS Championships 1997 & 1998**

Syracuse agreed to give up its usual January meet date to MCC and host the state championships at Nottingham pool. If successful they will repeat for 1998 and in 1999 return to their usual Jan. meet date. Steve Schaefer believes the meet can succeed with a good pool and a good location, esp. for NYC swimmers. He is concerned for adequate manpower to plan and run a 3 day meet, having lost older experienced club members. Volunteers will be needed for timers or, possibly, age-group clubs can be paid to serve as timers.

The district will not hold Syracuse accountable for any financial loss.

## **6. National Convention Orlando, FL, Sept. 11-15, 1996**

George McVey and Lorie Gibson-Rick are delegates and Jim Matysek will attend for computer/Web work.

Steve Schaefer asked Lorie to get National's legal opinion on the waiver required by the city of Syracuse for use of the Nottingham pool.

## **7. NYS Masters Swimming Committee**

This cmte. is made up of 3 representatives from each NYS USMS district - Niagara, Adirondack, Metropolitan. It is responsible for running the Empire Games Masters Swim Meet, coordinating the districts events, and administering the NYS Masters SC Swim Championships. Current treasury is about \$1000.

## **8. New Business**

A. McVey will not run again for chairmanship of Niagara, so please consider nominees for next year's election.

B. Meets have decreasing attendance. Binghamton does not draw from the Buffalo area.

C. Corning-Elmira area swimmers are getting back into it after losing the use of their pool this past year.

D. Membership: Seems to be increased numbers of fitness and triathlon participants and fewer competitive swimmers. We are not attracting 20 & 30 year olds. Are college and age-group swimmers burned out?

Lorie reported that USMS is getting more corporate sponsorship but TV advertising has not attracted new members.

## **9. Adjournment** at 6PM.

Respectfully submitted, Amy Johnson, Secretary.