

MONDAY 26TH APRIL,2021 AT LEGION CLUB CHARING CROSS

PRESENT

Kerry Ryan (Gosford), Sean Henly (Wentworthville), Noel Ryan (Manly), Peter Bain (by speaker phone - Wentworthville), Helen Little (by Skype), Wally Northcott (Coogee Randwick), Michael McMahon (Coogee Randwick), Bob Kelsall (Manly), Pat Kinghorn (Bondi Diggers & Bondi Junction Waverley).

APOLOGIES

Nil

ODE

The meeting was opened at 6.40pm by Sean Henly reciting the Ode. The passing of Ted Woodbury (Albury) was noted.

MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as read. Proposer: Wally Northcott, Seconder: Michael McMahon

CORRESPONDENCE IN

All carnival entry forms were received. Many thank you emails from Clubs were received. Thank you to everyone for their efficiency at getting everything in on time. Much appreciated. Email out for Cobar 50th anniversary.

CORRESPONDENCE OUT

All results were emailed out. There was an email received from Cobar. This describes their 50th anniversary and the celebrations to be held.

Correspondence be accepted Proposer: Michael McMahon, Seconder: Wally Northcott.

TREASURERS REPORT

This was given by Bob Kelsall. Bank Balance tonight is \$16,640.65.

This means a loss over the year of \$2400. This was due to the fact that no Affiliation fees were collected and there was a large bill for printing the programmes. The stock on hand needs to be evaluated. Helen noted there are pens and mugs at Southport. An enquiry was received by telephone from the ATO requesting our Association prove we should not be subject to taxation. To answer this enquiry a particular form (73773) must be completed as we are a "non reporting" association. It was suggested that Richard Bloomfield may be able to help.

The carnival cost was \$9,500 and income was \$4,500. (Affiliation fees are usually \$1,300). Entry fees for the next carnival, now only \$10, may have to be increased.

Treasurers report be accepted Proposer: Wally Northcott, Seconder : Michael McMahon.

GENERAL BUSINESS

President's Report Southport 2021

The 85th AIF swimming carnival was in my opinion one of the best I have been privileged to attend. What may have been lacking in numbers due to Covid was more than compensated by the atmosphere all day at the pool and the Saturday night function. From what I saw most clubs were enjoying this special weekend. In fact, the Association has since received many favourable emails and word of mouth comments, more than any previously received.

As I stated at the weekend the Southport Sharks are to be commended the way their committee and members combined to ensure all went to plan. They provided many workers on the day. The swimmers made the day by just being there due to the uncertainty of the situation. Their enjoyment was evident at the presentation. Southport RSL was the perfect venue and the AIF thanks go to them. Also the staff at the Gold Coast Aquatic Centre were so obliging, nothing was too much trouble. The workers on the day... what can I say.... they exceeded themselves. Once again they make a great carnival. It was a pleasure to myself and the AIF committee to witness this success.

Kerry Ryan

2021 Carnival Director's Report

How great was it to finally get back together after last year's disruption. For me the excitement started when I got to visit the pool on Friday afternoon and continued until I left Southport on Sunday morning. In between that we had a great time at the meet and greet, lots of competition and the fun of catching up with old and new friends at the pool and a very successful and fraternal function at Southport RSL.

We had lower numbers this year for obvious reasons as some people were just out of lockdown and understandably decided not to travel. We missed you and look forward to seeing you in Coffs Harbour next year. We had just over 250 swimmers where we would usually host around 400 in Southport.

The carnival was another great success with 10 Service Champions and 3 new records set. This year we celebrated our 90 and over swimmers with Jack Trevan from Ballina, not only being the sole 90+ swimmer but breaking the record set by Rob Anderson from Bellingen in 2013.

Championships were again closely contested with some very tight finishes cheered on by team mates. The competition to get into the Handicap finals was as intense as ever. The times to get into the 100m final were between 0.03 and 0.19. The 50m was a real challenge with one spot on followed by 10 swimmers at 0.03. And just when you thought you might be a chance. In the 30m we had seven 0.00, two at 0.03 followed by five on 0.06. With some balloting and the luxury of having a 10 lane pool we got there in the end.

Such a successful carnival doesn't just happen. There's a year of work that goes into every carnival we hold. I get thanked for the work that I do and I feel all the other people that are thanked feel the same as I do. We are just a small part of a great team that come together for a very special day every year.

I thank all the members of that team, with special thanks to Kerry for his continual guidance and many well received phone call through the year. As always my gratitude goes to Helen who works tirelessly to bring this carnival together. We talk so much about getting the carnival up and running and solving the problems of the world.

The people on the day that make it all happen are true champions. During the carnival I rely on the great work that they do to ensure the results coming to me are timely and accurate. The Marshalls who get everyone organised so that we are on time and in order every year were again exceptional. To the recorders, I owe so much thanks as you continually give me the results in a clear and concise manner that makes my job so much easier. This year we had a great group of runners who were just there all day, giving me the results with a smile from start to finish.

A big thanks to the staff at the pool who looked after us all day and made it very easy and comfortable to work there.

I have to give special thanks to Katie Grigg who once again helped me with the handicap data entry. This is the bulk of the entry of times where we had to enter close to 800 times swum in a short time so that we can get the finalists out in a timely manner. It's a long exacting process and sometimes this comes with some challenges, as we have experienced in our last two carnivals. Katie has been able to identify and sort out those issues and get us back on track.

Another part of the carnival I am involved in is the compilation and production of the program we hand out at the pool. As many clubs didn't swim during 2020 we didn't have many contributions and the bulk of the program was from the year that didn't happen. As most of the clubs have now had a near normal summer and 2021/22 is looking good I hope we can get some great contributions from many clubs for our 2022 program. Stories, events and especially photos are the ingredients of great articles. If you need a hand to write it I am here to help.

We can now look forward to next year at Coffs Harbour. This will be a little different as it is being organised by the AIF Association, not an individual club and we'll be asking for some assistance to get this up and running.

See you in March 2022! Peter Bain

Kerry thanked Peter for his report. He said just as the carnival was finishing, Peter had the results ready for the Presentation, even before the last event. Peter said that preparation beforehand as well as work on the day allows that to happen. The Southport grandmother and grandson finishing first and second in the handicap 100m finals was a great result and was a wonderful reflection on the handicap events which forms such an important and unique part of the carnival.

Following on from the secretary's last email and previous discussions with the carnival director and secretary, it is becoming more evident at AIF carnivals that the officials, notably the recorders and marshals, are missing out swims to keep up the continuity of events. These people have now done this for many years but they deserve the right to swim as they desire. I would like now to call on clubs/ individuals – to assist in these 2 areas especially the larger clubs. It would be the perfect scenario to have relief, say 4 persons, to nominate for recording or marshalling – or any other official positions – eg a spare starter would be great as well. We will pursue this in the new season. It is not a hard job and we are reviewing on our side to make things easier. Early nominating would be appreciated and the committee will give you our full support. Don't think of this as a complaint rather than as an acknowledgement of the hard work of these officials.

Peter said the recording forms were being redesigned to make them easier and clearer to use. There was a long discussion on having a separate race at the end of

the carnival so recorders and marshals could swim. Possible suggestions mentioned below will be discussed further.

- Some change is required here – particularly for the handicap events
- Education of additional new volunteers could be done (a month or week earlier than the carnival). Perhaps timetabling of the officials would be an option.
- There is a problem when relays are on with changeover of recorders/marshals
- Problem with 30m handicap in particular. Should the A/B recording teams be on different sides of the pool.
- Redesigning recording forms – could they be sent out beforehand so recorders are familiar with them
- With a large carnival, there is a lot of pressure on people arranging the trophies for the Presentation, so carnival does need to finish as early as possible. Therefore, it was further suggested that any breaks should only be taken if necessary.
- It was noted it is a MANUALLY run carnival and starters and recorders usually work well together, and have a good system in place.

Kerry noted that it was good to have this discussion as it reflects on the hard work that the starters, recorders, marshals and judges do.

Raffle – The raffle raised over \$1400 net. A total of \$500 was spent on the gift voucher prizes. A big thank you to all the clubs for their raffle contributions of prizes. Kerry said they were the best he had seen.

Coffs Harbour

Helen said she has a checklist for the running a carnival. This will be sent to all committee members. An additional committee meeting may be required to discuss Coffs Harbour and then an AGM in September. Bob Kelsall said it was necessary to discuss costs for Coffs Harbour as we must not have another carnival which loses money, including venue hire, and meal costs, as well as pool hire costs.

Trophies will be ordered from the same place as it is good value. Towels and embroidery will be sourced for good value. Helen hopes the cost of embroidery and towels can be kept to \$20.50/towel. We usually need 70 – 80 towels. Microfibre towels may be possible as they can have any photo printed on them and embroidery is the main cost of the towels.

Pool costs were discussed. The entry fee charged should cover the pool hire cost.

Insurance- it was noted that we used Southport's "public liability insurance" for the last carnival which saved a lot of money – approximately \$1000. Thank you to Southport.

When total costs are all known, it will be easier to plan for Coffs Harbour. A meeting will then be called in June.

30M Race

Helen suggested this should be changed to a 25m race for a variety of reasons. Traditionally the 30M race came from when 33 1/3 yard pools were reduced to 30M. To go 25m would a) make it easier at carnivals rather than having to have 2 markers for the 30 and 25m b) we have no championship 30m, c) most pools have 25m marking already d) would be helpful to clubs who regularly swim in a 25m pool. Peter said we must decide early if a change is to be made. Helen said that this would have to go out to clubs beforehand for them to vote on (after the next meeting, before the AGM) so that this decision is made before the start of the summer season at the AGM.

Timekeeping -Helen discussed the timekeeping. It was noted in the Championship events that the judges and clock results were very close – a credit to the timekeepers in the championship events in particular.

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Meeting closed at 7.50pm