



Australian Underwater Federation

Federal President
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President's report 2006 AGM

I would like to start with congratulating our teams and competitors that have done so well in the CMAS World Championships this year. Firstly our women's underwater hockey team for winning the gold medal in Sheffield, and our Spearfishing men whose team finished in 9th place overall in Portugal. These are outstanding efforts by all those concerned and we appreciate the personal sacrifices made by all these competitors to attain their goals.

Closer to home our sports are organising well and from all reports our national championships have been well organised. There are currently some problems in our hockey participation numbers but I know the commission is working diligently to resolve this.

Adam Smith was nominated for one of the inaugural Rec Fish awards but I am sorry to say he was pipped at the post for the leadership award by a very strong candidate. Congratulations to Adam and I feel sure he will figure in future awards.

Our Secretary has been working to achieve our insurance goals and he will be presenting some options to this meeting. This is an area that must be looked at closely as it will have an impact on membership numbers into the future.

We have also been receiving quite a few enquiries about CMAS diving certifications and it seems that this area will be ever increasing, with the fluctuation of diving certifying bodies within the industry.

Web Site

As per my last report our web site has been doing exceptionally well the number of hits has steadily increasing as so our band width. The addition of our news items listing has also been well patronised and I hope the membership finds value in it. A news page is only as good as the amount of contributions it receives, so please advise all our members not to be

backwards in coming forward with articles, news or pointers to where we find news worthy items.

Special thanks must go to our National director of coaching for keeping her part of the web site up to date with course information and NCAS requirements. Any comments on the web site, good or bad are welcome.

ASC/NCAS

I know our National Director of Coaching will have a lot to say on this subject as there has been some postulating from within the ASC about our ocean snorkel accreditations and I will leave it to her to tell you all about this.

It seems that the ASC expect us to do allot for them by way of satisfying their requirements in relation to policy documents. They have contacted me asking us to update a number of our policies and write new ones to appease their requirements. I feel based on what our national director has told me they wish to do; we should re examine their relevance to us.

It appears to me that most government department's attitude is to lay volunteers up with so many policy requirements they actually have no time to carry out their duties, which in turn forces them to leave creating less work for the public servants concerned.

CMAS

There have been some interesting times with relation to CMAS in the past year. The world underwater hockey commission has lodged an application for a hearing with the international court for sport, over the refusal of CMAS to accept the Federation of Jersey as a member of CMAS.

This hearing is currently underway with a decision expected in the next four weeks. The commission has argued that under the CMAS statutes Jersey has the right of membership; I will not go into all the arguments for and against. The main point that I wish to raise is that CMAS have basically not disputed the ambit claims made by the commission but have staked their defence on the right of the commission to go to the CAS in the first place.

If the CMAS premise is upheld it will have some dire consequences for the future of hockey as the commission feels it will not be able to function within an organisation where it has no right of appeal. It feels that this is an undemocratic process which it does not want to be part of if the CMAS case is upheld.

This will force hockey to break away from CMAS, and if this happens I feel sure that CMAS will take retribution by way of sanctions against those federations that support the hockey break away.

CMAS has just recently passed a new rule that if any member or member federation takes part in any competition that is not run by CMAS, and CMAS also runs these types of competitions then disciplinary action can be taken against them. This flies in the face of most western democracies constitutions where freedom of association is a common law right. We voiced our disagreement at this rule and voted against it but it was passed, the old boys network worked overtime to get this one through.

It appears CMAS are hell bent on having absolute power over its members at any cost. A change of leadership is needed sooner rather than later before members are leaving in their droves.

I will keep you all informed of the developments in relation to the underwater hockey commission and the CAS.

By-Laws

The by-laws have still not been finished as I am waiting on the Spearfishing commission to finish their rewrite, as soon as I have them I will circulate them for comment.

In Closing I would like to thank all the voluntary officers for their input throughout the year, as you are the people who make our federation great.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Graham Henderson', written in a cursive style.

Graham Henderson