

OZFIN

REPORT TO AUF AGM - NOVEMBER 18TH 2006

This has been a quiet year for Fin Swimming. Our main problem has been keeping clubs motivated and maintaining coaches in different states.

Coaching

The best way to increase numbers is to increase the number of coaches. In the past we have tried to encourage participation from conventional swimming coaches, but a professional coach can fit more swimmers into a pool lane than fin swimmers and therefore has the potential of making more coaching dollars. There is also the travel and accommodation cost of conducting courses in different states. A State just getting started with a few swimmers most probably cannot afford the cost of lane hire, which in many cases can be up to \$80 per hour.

This is something that we need to address and hope to have serious discussions at our AGM next week.

Competition

On the more positive side, we have offered to host the first Commonwealth Countries Fin Swimming competition next year, and this has produced a few new members, but not as many juniors as we had hoped. The competition will be held at the AIS with the Institute accommodation, as this was the most cost effective. We are still trying to get volunteers to work as timekeepers and other officials as our request for assistance from ACT swimming was knocked back, as it is also flier championships the same weekend. We have approached some of the schools in the area for assistance.

Currently we have teams coming from England, Wales, New Zealand, Canada and Singapore. The Commonwealth Games committee have offered to assist with 50% of the cost of medals, but we still need to get event sponsors to assist with pool hire costs. I have sent out sponsorship proposals to several national companies and will follow these up in the next few weeks.

The Australian Championships will be held next week at the Enfield pool in NSW, hosted by the NSW club of Dolphins.

Matt Edmunds was our only international competitor this year, at the Masters competition in Korea. Matt gained a first, two seconds and a fourth place in his events. We find that we are getting around two months or less notice of international events, which is not enough time for our team members to arrange time off work and visa applications, nor enough time to train for specific events.

Promotion

Last year we had a video made up to use as a teaching tool for coaches and recently we have had an add produced to show on TV to promote the sport. This will view in Tasmania in January on channel 7 and then if successful will be sent to other states to use as a promotional tool. Cost of the add has been covered by a Tasmanian State government grant.

Finances

In 2004, we managed a small profit from running the Masters International Competition. This money has gone towards the cost of insurance which still appears to be on the increase, while our membership is decreasing. In all, to expand the sport we need around \$5000 to spend each year on sports development and hope that a major competition such as the Commonwealth Countries event may encourage some sponsorship and increase awareness of the sport.

Helen Lane
President OZFIN