

Minutes of GSSA Annual meeting  
May 5, 2012  
Nashua Country Club

Pre-meeting commenced at 8:30.  
Jim called the meeting to order at 9:05.

All teams represented. Agendas handed out.

Jim announced that all communications and announcements should be going through the website, GSSAswim.com. Please post information about sanctioned meets, invitational meets by submitting them to Mike Hirst [webmaster@gssaswim.com](mailto:webmaster@gssaswim.com) or [mike.n.hirst@gmail.com](mailto:mike.n.hirst@gmail.com) . The invoices for yearly dues are posted and can be downloaded for payment submission.

Mike Hirst announced that he has handed out contact information sheet to make contact information changes. You can also complete a contact information change form. He will make corrections ASAP. If you have anything to be posted, send it to him and he will post it. He asked that you check your postings to confirm that everything is correct and let him know of any mistakes that sometimes occur. He will gladly make corrections.

Last year after states the total number of swimmers was under 1000 (980) swimmers combined for both sites. So the league is still shrinking. Anything you can think to do to reduce costs would be appreciated. We don't want to raise fees in back to back years. We are doing a lot of cost cutting measures.

There are some laptops being decommissioned by Ecco Shoes, running XP operating system. Team Manager should work just fine on them. They will be decommissioning 25 of them and Jim will try to snag as many as are necessary. They will be in an "as is" condition, from their sales force. Email Jim and he will set them aside. HP notebooks to run TM or MM.

Jim announced deals for printers. For teams hosting larger meets, Ricoh and IBM have some large printers available for \$200 each. The model is a Lexmark T640. Let Jim know if you are interested, there will be 8 available and they print 35-40 ppm.

**Election of officers;**

President: Missy Nominated Jim Rezzarday, Al seconded, carried

Vice president: Missy nominated Brendan McLaughlin, John seconded carried

Treasurer: Greg Derderian will continue

Secretary: Margie Clark-Kevan will continue (Marion will fill in today, since Margie's daughter is graduating ... some grumbling about priorities).

**Minutes** were handed out for review.

Minutes will be posted as a draft this year after review by executive for reference, but will only be a draft until voted to accept next year.

Al moved to accept minutes, seconded by Mike, carried

**Treasurer's report:**

***INSERT TREASURERS REPORT/Jim Rezzarday to insert***

Report was handed out for review.

Quick review: \$7831 without awards being purchased for this year. We will have to renew the books for the officials and patches. The amount will decrease to about 2 grand without the dues for this year.

It was questioned whether everyone paid their dues. Jim announced that 1 team did not pay. Mike will post the paid teams on the website as they come in.

Al moved accepting Treasurers Report. Gretchen seconded. Carried

**Meet manager and Team manager.**

Current versions TM 6, MM 4. Any new teams will qualify for a copy of TM, as the league will pay for that.

**GSSA waiver** will be posted for download on the website. Any USA swimmer who is swimming on a rec. team will need to complete one if they are attending a USA sanctioned meet that their rec team is not attending. It does not count as a league meet but it counts as a USA meet. They swim with their USA swim team at those meets.

**Membership recruiting**

To improve the quality of the year round team, rec teams need to be promoted. Vermont has revamped their whole rec program and are seeing results. They have meets with short events ... 25s, 50s and 100s... eliminating 200's. This keeps their meet times short and encourages lots of participation. It is nice to see they are resurrecting after 9 or 10 years. The Maine teams are closing. We have been trying to get country club teams from MA up, but without much success.

Al suggested that some of the camp programs might be looking to join the league if it is presented to them early enough.

Jim wanted the Wakefield CC to join up but they are still a little reluctant. They prefer 1 day meets.

CCs can attend our meets, but there must be 2 GSSA teams in order to make it an official meet. Milford has 3 small non GSSA teams that attend the Rotary meet every year.

We need to make the league more affordable. We need to reduce our costs because we are fighting for attention with other sports and cheaper programs that are out there. Try to get the numbers up as well. There were 3200 swimmers in the league in '88 and '89. John L asked about the total number of swimmers in the league. This number is unknown because many swimmers are not counted because they do not attend the state meet, due to vacations and family commitments. Jim would try to get roster numbers.

### **New team memberships**

Tuftonboro

Mary Ann from Tuftonboro Torpedos. 1990 started as town swim program. \$30 for 4 week program. 25-40 swimmers. Mary Ann retired and returned this year. They swim 4days/week for 4 weeks. They have competed in a few meets and are looking to try something different. Very low key program, focusing on fun.

Castaway swim club

Mt. Wachusett Community College in Gardiner. 25 swimmers year round, indoor pool. Barbara and ???

No discussion.

Missy moved to accept, Brendan seconded, carried

Welcome!

**Officials** Paul was supposed to attend, but his absence is unknown. He was going to go over the officials and their training. He will remain the contact person.

### **Venues for GSSA Championship meets.**

Manchester is default site for Div 1 & 3. Need to set up default site for next year and year after.

Seacoast proposed a 3 day all inclusive meet over the winter, but it was not accepted because it was too late to make changes to the dates that were available.

The meet costs have gone up to \$11000. So combining the meets would help reduce costs. There was some discussion with Seacoast about hosting next year as a proposal. Seacoast did not have an answer available.

Manchester discussed hosting both years but was reluctant to take on all 4 divisions (especially this year). He will consider it for next year. He did stress that running the meet does cost money and he cannot subsidize the meet from his club. He would consider all divisions if they could be scored as 1 meet rather than 4 meets. He suggested that if there were only 1 meet that it be reduced to 2 or 3 divisions. Brendan suggested that the meet be scored as 1 and then dividing out which teams placed where for each division. Reduce the costs by eliminating having every swimmer place. He would consider hosting if he had a little more warning. 2013 would be a possibility. Manchester has a finite

number that can be handled 1500 is too many, 1000 is manageable. All USA swimmers will HAVE to pay to have the swims database times recorded. There will be 2 fees: one for the rec swimmers and \$5 extra for the USA swimmers. There is no opting out of the USA observed swims for USA registered swimmers.

The fees would be \$19.50 or \$24.50 at Manchester, however, these numbers will have to be finalized once it is determined how many divisions will be swimming at Manchester. The amount may vary by \$1 or so per swimmer.

Jim asked what the status was for 2013 in Manchester and Steve said he would not know until the numbers were in for this summer. He wasn't sure if he could absorb divisions 2 and 4 because the number of swimmers is so fluid. Steve said there could be no determination of that until after the state meet this summer. Brendan proposed we get through this year and see how the numbers were after the state meet. Jim asked to clear it up now, so we don't end up with the same problems next year. Jim asked Seacoast to put in another proposal over the winter, and proposed that if we delay deciding where the meets would be held in 2013, that the league set up a board of 9 to make a decision without having to consult the entire league. This board of 9 would be decided later in this meeting. Jim had concerns that the membership would not accept the board of 9 idea, and that proposals that might come in would have the same difficulties we are having this year. Jim noted that people make plans for their summer very early and changes to dates for meets are not easily accommodated. Steve then committed Manchester to having no problem for this year and next year, but beyond that he had no idea. Steve would like to know at least 1 year ahead whether his team would be expected to host the championships, his parent committee does a lot of planning and they need the time. Nicole Banks mentioned that Milford was willing to commit to 2 years and that perhaps the suggestion of combining divisions could be delayed until 2014. This would give the league an extra year to realign the divisions.

Jim introduced Nicole Banks, recreation director with the town of Milford.

Nicole presented a proposal to host divisions 2 & 4 championship meet (see attached proposal), thanking the board members and membership for being invited to present the proposal. She handed out copies of the proposal. Nicole mentioned that she had been in discussion with Jim for a few months and that she had not realized the numbers were down as low as they have become. She was comparing the championship meet numbers to the attendance at Milford's Rotary swim meet, which is around 500-700 swimmers, and initially intended to host the meet as a two day meet, which is typically what we do for the Rotary sponsored meet. Once Jim responded with what the actual numbers have been like which is closer to 300-350 swimmers, she revised her proposal to reduce the costs for the league and suggested a one day meet to be held on Aug. 4 at Keyes pool in Milford. She mentioned that Milford's pool manager, Gretchen, and she were available to answer any questions. Nicole asked for a commitment for 2 years of hosting, but understood if the membership was choosing to head in another direction with the division alignments next year. She wanted to have the swimmers come to Milford and see what the pool is like and have a great time, and hopes they enjoy themselves enough to want to come back. She discussed how the Rotary sponsored meet in Milford has been successful and feels that they would be a good choice for hosting the state meet.

Missy questioned what would happen if membership increased. Would it be possible to expand to 2 days if needed, since the proposal was for a 3 year period? Nicole responded that it would be possible, however the cost of operating the meet would increase. She presented a second proposal for a 2 day meet. The proposal was created with the assumption of higher registration numbers, so she did not think it would be financially feasible for this year to consider a 2 day meet. She offered handouts for anyone who might be interested in comparing the numbers. In the future Milford hopes that the numbers to rebound so that a two day meet might be a financially acceptable alternative for the league. She mentioned that Milford has the capacity to host a two day meet.

Someone questioned whether it was reasonable to do the state meet as a 1 day meet. The response was that with the numbers from the past two years, it would be reasonable. Some people mentioned that it was held that way last year. Nicole mentioned that the pool would be available to the league at 6:00 am and could be used until the meet was finished, but was expecting a finish time of before 5:00 pm.

Al asked if all swimmers would be there the whole day, since we utilize the USA swimming rules and they have time limits on sessions. Jim responded that it was the championship meet. Someone questioned the 4 hour session limit. Missy suggested that we can supercede the USA swimming regulations. Jim said we can set our own limits. There were comments that it ran 1 long session last year and since it worked then, then it could work again.

Al questioned the timeline. Marion stated that the timeline for last year was 8 hours. Nicole mentioned that if the numbers go up, possibly over 400 swimmers then there would be a point where the meet would be going too long. At that point the GSSA would have to consider changing to a two day meet. The GSSA has to consider that the costs would change in for a two day meet situation.

Al asked about the fee structure being similar to Manchester, and a big increase from Claremont last year. Jim stated the fees were \$12/swimmer in Claremont and someone recalled they were actually \$15/swimmer, so the \$18/swimmer fee proposed by Milford was not a huge increase. Nicole stated that the GSSA would not operate the meet at a loss if there were 350 swimmers and they used the suggested entry fee of \$18 per swimmer, but the final fee could be determined by the league. Al was concerned that parks and recreation departments have already completed their budgets and that increasing the fees might be a burden to some. Jim questioned whether the entry fee would be \$18 up to \$4500. Nicole clarified that the \$4500 was the cost to the league. It was reiterated that with 350 swimmers and an \$18 fee the league would not lose money.

Missy asked about parking. Nicole responded that parking can be accommodated at Keyes park. The numbers for the Rotary meet (which have 500-700 swimmers, and anticipated numbers of 1500 people in the park on the day of the meet) are managed by using the parking lots at the field, the Boys and Girls club parking lot which has access to the park by a footbridge, and several adjoining businesses which have direct access to the fields.

Al moved that the Manchester and Milford proposals be accepted for 2012 and 2011. Mark seconded. Jim checked with Seacoast to see if they wanted to enter a proposal for next year. No further discussion. Show of hands for vote: Carried.

Jim then reminded everyone to try to keep the costs down. The meets will be held Aug. 4 & 5 in Manchester and Aug. 4 in Milford. Steve also stated that depending on how the weather looks for the weekend, the dates may have to accommodate and Friday evening may have to become an option. He would discuss it further in the Div. 1&3 breakout meeting. Milford then stated they could use Sunday as a rain date if necessary. The inclement weather options need to be forwarded to Mike for posting on the website.

**Awards:** Jim talked about something depending on our ribbon count. Jim mentioned that sometimes purchasing 1000 of any one ribbon is cost effective and then they get used up over the years. Someone asked about how the cost of awards would be affected if we chose to change to a different scoring method where the teams at each site are combined and 1 set of awards are presented for each individual event (perhaps up to 24 places), then the team place is determined by where they are ranked compared with other teams in their division through the overall scoring. Last year, they went 1-8 were medals for individual events, ribbons for relays and beyond. That will stay the same to save a lot of money.

By Law changes from last year and invoices were handed out. Dues are due before 7/15/2012.

### **Meet announcements**

Janet Langdell from **Milford Rotary** presented an enthusiastic invitation to any team who would be interested in attending the 44<sup>th</sup> annual Rotary meet this year. The meet will be July 21&22, 2012. Reminder that there is no entry fee, the aim is to have a lot of fun and allow swimmers to have a relaxed meet where they can be introduced to good competition for their individual skill level, in preparation for the state meet. Concession stand, t-shirts and a swim supply vendor will be available. Jim reminded that there are 6 & under events that are not scored but with awards! Janet took a casual vote on whether to have the team awards be trophies, banners or whether they were indifferent.

Exeter is running a 10 & under sprint meet on Sun. June 24 at Philips Exeter Academy. Age categories are 6&under, 7, 8, 9, 10. The event distances are varied, however, any 10 and under is eligible for any event including the 25s. Entry fees: relays will be free, and individual events \$4/swimmer. Low key with options for several fun relays, heat winners, lots of fun early in the season, indoors with no rainout problems, information is posted on the GSSA website. Handouts were available.

Manchester has 2 meets posted on the website. July 6-8 and July 20-21.

Peterborough will host their annual pentathlon July 28. Information is posted on the website.

Seacoast has 3 NEswim meets that will be posted on the GSSA website.

**By law changes: By-law change.** Jim explained how bylaw changes take 3 years to complete ... yr1, proposal, yr2, wording and presentation, yr3 vote. Info will be posted on website.

These were proposed 2 years ago and presented in 2011.

***INSERT BYLAWS/ Jim Rezzarday to insert***

Missy asked whether there was anything in the bylaws that addresses teams that do not pay their dues. She wanted to know how any team could not pay their dues. Jim said that the host team for the state meet would hold their awards. Steve said the host team needs to be notified of that. Jim said they could find out from the website. Steve said the executive should be notifying the host teams, who have enough to concern themselves with while preparing for hosting the championships. Jim said he would take on responsibility for notification. Missy was in favor of not allowing the swimmers to participate if their team had not paid their dues, rather than holding their awards. Jim suggested that a bylaw change may be necessary to cover these situations and suggested that Missy write up a proposal. Missy made a motion for a bylaw change that would prohibit a team from participating in the state meet if their dues are not paid. Jim read out the current bylaw and it was determined that no further action was required. Sometimes the team submits the invoice and assumes it gets paid (by whoever is responsible for their particular team) as requested and are unaware that they need to follow up. Brendan reiterated that the executive needs to communicate with the host teams regarding outstanding annual dues and entry fees.

Gretchen asked if teams could petition to a different venue this year. Jim stated that last year was the alignment year so any changes would have to wait until next year. There will have to be consideration in the alignments next year for whether we will remain 4 divisions or be combining and possibly reducing the number of divisions in 2014.

Assignment of divisions for the new teams: Tuftonboro and Castaway will both join Division 4. Reminder that all other teams will remain in the division they were in last year.

**Nominations for division representatives:**

Division 1 Ed Faszewski

Division 2 Gretchen Dunn

Division 3 Tim Thompson

Division 4 Missy Rowell

**Stroke and turn officials.**

Paul Burkhart will set up training times.

Milford will set up a clinic.

Paul B. and Greg Weber are already trainers. Jim asked for volunteers to be trainers. Al and Missy volunteered.

The fee to attend a GSSA officials clinic is \$20. You receive a book and patch. There would need to be 4 people interested to hold a clinic. USA swimming officials are accepted without doing the GSSA certification. USA swimming has officials clinics posted on their website and Laura will send the information to Mike regarding any that would be available for anyone interested in that level of officiating.

**New business:** none

Lynn moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:17. Seconded by Karen. Carried.

Teams broke out into divisions for discussions regarding their respective state championship meet.

Respectfully submitted

Marion Crane (for Margie Clark-Kevan)

5 May 2012