

NEWS *from* WORLD PROFESSIONAL MARATHON SWIMMING FEDERATION, INC.



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Greetings!

The W.P.M.S.F. completed its first full year of existence in August, with the annual meeting taking place in Roberval, Que., where the Federation had been founded a year earlier. The annual meeting was well attended by both Swim Organizer members and Swimmer members. Elections were held, a Constitution was adopted, and a delegation representing the International Long Distance Swimming Federation formally requested our Federation to take under consideration for future action a merger of the two groups.

Lois Fournier, president of the Club Aquatique de Roberval, was elected president of the Federation for the 1964-65 term, succeeding James P. Toomey, director of the Atlantic City, N.J., Swim, who became a Trustee. Carlos Larriera, official of the Rio Coronda Marathon in Santa Fe, Argentina, was elected vice president. Joe Grossman of Atlantic City was re-elected Secretary-Treasurer. Other trustees elected were Raymond Noreau of Club Aquatique, Roberval, and Harry Rizzo of Atlantic City. Cliff Lumsdon was re-elected Swimmers' Represented on the Federation Board.

It was reported by the Secretary that during the Federation's first year, the original group of swims (Atlantic City, Lake St. John and Mar del Plata) had been joined by Rio Coronda and Northumberland Straits, Canada. Prospects for additional swims joining the Federation were also reported. Among these are swims in Parana, Argentina (which has already applied for membership) and Santos, Brazil.

Also noted at the meeting was the great success which efforts of the Federation to publicize the sport of professional marathon swimming met with during the organization's first year. Special mention was made of the publicity success of the Federation's competition to crown male and female World Champion Professional Marathon Swimmers for 1964. Results of the competition are reported in full in this Bulletin. Provisions for conducting the competition in future years was made part of the Constitution and the Board adopted an improved method of scoring swimmers which will go into effect during 1965. Under this plan, provisions will be made for considering times as well as miles swum. Also, instead of making it mandatory for swimmers to participate in a required number of swims each year, it was decided to give each swimmer who finishes a Federation member swim 100 bonus points in the future.

Regarding the proposed merger of the WPMSF and the ILDSF, Cmdr. Ibrahim El Gowaini, in North America as head of the U.A.R. Mission to the U.S. and Canadian Swims, made the proposal at the closed meeting of voting members. It was decided that as a first step, the two federations would exchange copies of their respective constitutions. Each group would then study the constitution of the other, and further talks could then take place. This exchange of constitutions is taking place and further discussions will be held by the WPMSF at the next annual meeting.

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During 1964, highly successful swims were held in Santa Fe in February, in Atlantic City in July, and at the Northumberland Strait and Lake St. John in August. The ILDSF staged its Capri-Naples Swim in July and the first annual Alexandria, U.A.R. Swim in September. Its plans to hold the second annual Suez Canal Swim in Egypt in late September were cancelled due to a tragic occurrence which will be reported in this Bulletin. A swim was also staged by the ILDSF at Lake Ohrid, Yugoslavia, in August, but this event conflicted with the Lake St. John Swim date, and only swimmers of minor reputation competed. Non-affiliated swims were held at Lake Ontario, where extremely cold water prevented any of the 18 starters from finishing, and at Three Rivers, Que.

The WPMSF's Championship competition included in its calculations this year all the above-named events except the Lake Ohrid and the Lake Ontario swims. The latter event was to have been included, but since there were no finishers, no points could be assigned.

International publicity attended the Federation's announcement that Major Abdel Latif Abou-Heif of the U.A.R. and Miss Judy DeNys of the Netherlands had been crowned World Champions for 1964 by the Federation. Abou-Heif amassed a total of 3,125 points while winning the Rio Coronda race, tying for first-place in the Capri-Naples event, and finishing second in the races at Atlantic City, Northumberland Straits, and Lake St. John. Miss DeNys, who turned professional to enter the Lake St. John event, won the women's title in that event and in the Alexandria race. She was the only women swimmer to win two races this year, and scored 1,490 points. Herman Willemse of the Netherlands was second in the men's division and Miss Mary Martha Sinn of the U.S.A. was second among the women.

Here is the final tabulation: MEN -- 1. Abou-Heif, U.A.R., 3,125; 2. Willemse, Holland, 2,530; 3. Roberto Reta, Argentina, 1,695; 3. Jorge Mezzadra, Argentina, 1,655; 5. John LaCoursiere, Canada, 1,600; 6. Nabil el Shazli, U.A.R., 1,570; 7. Mohamed Zeitoun, U.A.R., 1,355; 8. Carlos Llerriera, Argentina, 1,145; 9. Dicki Bojadzi, Yugoslavia, 1,040; 10 (tie) Cliff Lumsdon, Canada, and George Park, Canada, 800.

12. Sayed Abdel el Gelil, U.A.R., 685; 13. Willem DeVreng, Holland, 620; 14. Alfredo Camerero, Argentina, 505; 15. Osvaldo Schelleberg, Argentina, 480; 16. Florencio Romero, Argentina, 475; 17. Martin Gomez, Argentina, 470; 18. Eduardo Peralta, Argentina, 465; 19. Jorge Lopez, Argentina, 460; 20. Mino Medina, Argentina, 455; 21. Kinel Savin, Yugoslavia, 400; 22. Hassan Badel Kalek, U.A.R., 375; 23. Mohamed Hassan Gamli, U.A.R., 345; 24. Kurt Pluntke, Canada, 340; 25. Dennis Matuch, U.S.A., 330; 26. Albert Hreische, Lebanon, 275; 27. Edward Forsbrey, Canada, 225; and 28. Charles Grover, U.S.A., 190.

WOMEN -- 1. Judy DeNys, Holland, 1,490; 2. Mary Martha Sinn, U.S.A., 860; 3. Hedy Schmidt, Canada, 610; and 4. Mary Lou Whitwell, Canada, 600.

Trophies are to be presented to Abou-Heif and Miss DeNys at some appropriate date in the future. The trophies are to be presented by the retiring president, Jim Toomey, who is having them prepared.

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The WPMSE and the entire swimming world was saddened by news of the tragic deaths of Mohamed Zeitoun and Sayed Abdel el Gelil in an automobile accident which took place in Egypt in September. Both men were members of the WPMSE. Both Zeitoun and Gelil made many friends during their tour of the North American swims this year. Zeitoun tied with Abou-Heif for first place in this year's Capri-Naples race and was first in the Alexandria race, which occurred shortly before his death. Gelil finished ninth at Atlantic City and sixth at Lake St. John this summer. The heartfelt sympathies of all WPMSE members goes to the families of these two fine athletes and good friends.

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The Federation has established a working agreement with the Channel Swimming Association of Dover, Kent, England, which is the certifying body for English Channel swims (races and private attempts). Although the C.S.A. as a body cannot affiliate with the Federation, individual officials of the C.S.A. have become members. Exchanges of information on records of both English Channel swims and professional marathon races will be conducted through these channels for the mutual benefit of the C.S.A. and the organizers of Federation member swims. Incidentally, new members of the C.S.A. are eagerly sought by that organization.

Contact its secretary, Miss I. Kellam-Smith, "White Stacks", Walnut Tree Lane, Loose Maidstone, Kent, England. Annual membership fee is 10 shillings (\$1.40 U.S.), and Life Membership is three pounds, three shillings (\$8.82 U.S.).

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In addition to the five member swims, the Federation rolls now contain 72 individual members, of which 41 are swimmers; the others are officials of various member and non-member swims, trainers, coaches, retired swimmers and honorary members.

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The next edition of the WPMSE Bulletin will contain news and dates of 1965 swims.