



WORLD PROFESSIONAL MARATHON SWIMMING FEDERATION INC.

ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY • 3040 SOUTH WABASH • CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60616 U.S.A.

DENNIS MATUCH

PRESIDENT

Dec. 1973

VOL 2 #1

Dear Member or Potential Member:

Joe Grossman our original secretary since the Federation was formed in Roberval Quebec Canada, in August 1973, died of a heart attack on April 13th, in Washington D.C. Joe was attending a U.S. information agency seminar, and was due to return to his consulate in Accra Ghana on April 15th. Joe was the only officer of the WPMSE who was voted in, and never out of the Secretary-Treasurer post since the Federation's founding. Although Joe was never a Marathon swimmer himself, he was the hub of the Federation and helped promote professional Marathon swims all over the world. There were a few members who may not have agreed with his methods, but none could argue with his intentions and zest for the betterment of professional swimmers and Marathon races.

Joe is survived by his wife Betsy, and three stepdaughters - Wendy, 16; Cindy, 14; Shelley, 11 and a son Jeffrey, 2. In talking to Mrs. Betsy Grossman a short time ago, she said that she hopes to assist the WPMSE in whatever way she can. I would like to give Betsy's address, as I know it was very hard for most of our members throughout the world to learn of Joe's death. I know Mrs. Grossman would not mind hearing from her husband's many friends. Her address is 10065-4 Windstream Drive, Columbia Maryland, 21044, U.S.A.

Since Joe's passing our Federation and its working processes seem to have come to a complete halt. Since I am the elected president of the WPMSE this year, I feel it is my duty to carry on for the membership and the Federation to the best of my ability.

The first move I feel, should be the sending out of our annual bulletin, which is what you are reading right now. In the past I have felt that 2 or 3 bulletins a year was not adequate to our Federation's needs, and that is why I am instituting a "every six weeks" bulletin of our Federation and professional Marathon swimming.

Also our bulletins will be different from past ones. We will continue to have most of the items found in past bulletins, as the results of this year's sanctioned swims, and the men and women's world professional rankings. Of the new items in this bulletin, I would like your comments, good or bad. Also I would like any and all information and advice members could contribute to the next bulletin, pertaining to professional Marathon swimming.

Right now the upcoming 74 season, looks like it will be a long and strong one for professional swimming, as on the horizon a potential of seven pro-races. Although all of the information on these swims is not available yet, it will be the Federation's duty, and my pleasure to make this information available to its members as soon as possible.

One swim that has already been confirmed, is the Lake Michigan 10 mile event, which will be held in the same area as last year, and which will be offering free board in 1974. Col. Reilly, head organizer of the Chicago swim, in a letter to me September 5, also revealed that the prize money will be in excess of \$13,000.00, and that the tentative date for this swim will be August 25th, all entries (as in 1973) will be accepted. Further details will be included in future bulletins.

Since the cost of postage, stationary, and printing is expensive, as everything else these days, the dues of competing-voting-members is \$10 U.S. per year, and \$15 U.S. for all associate non-competing non-voting members. Make all checks payable to Dennis Matuch, President WPMSE and send to Illinois Institute of Technology, Physical Education Dept., Chicago 60616, Illinois - U.S.A. ONLY DUES PAYING MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE FUTURE BULLETINS.

Last but not least, I would like to give some credit to Conrad Wennerberg, my old

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coach and bulletin adviser, who is 100% responsible for the excellent short biography on Abou-Heif and many other new ideas instituted in this bulletin. I hope Conrad, with his long and knowledgeable expertise in our sport, will be helping me in many more bulletins to come. His book on the History of Marathon Swimming, "Wind, Waves and Sunburn" has been published by A.S. Barnes and recently was advertised in Books in Print - His book should prove to be the Bible of Professional Marathon Swimming, ask for it at your local book dealer.

RESULTS OF THE 1973 PROFESSIONAL RACES.

Capri-Naples results - 21 miles ocean - July 15, 1973

1. R. Veljko, Yugoslavia, 9:21:12 (winner for third year in a row) 2. H. Iglesias, Argentina, 9:44:07 3. M. Mandour, U.A.R., 10:03:38 4. J. Fainberg, Arg. 10:08:13 5. M. Khamis, Syria, 10:20:53, 6. M. Gionannetti, Arg., 10:31:47, 7. O. Rashad, U.A.R., 10:38:38, 8. M. Saleh, Syria, 10:14:17, 9. F. Shatah, Syria, 11:28:28, 10. W. Bremer, W. Germany, 11:50:39, 11. Z. Scharafeldin, Lebanon, 11:54:09, 12. O. Bernardini, Arg. 12:01:19, 13. S. Wariab, Irak, 12:07:26, 14. (first woman) A. Marehetti, Arg. 12:09:31. 15. (2nd woman) S. Raghieb, U.A.R., 12:32:20.

Water temperature about 70° F.

LaTuque, Quebec results - 24 hour relay - July 21-22, 1973

1. M. Ghazzawi and O. Rashad, U.A.R. 58:70 miles. 2. Corrie and Raymond Dixon, Holland 58:05 miles. 3. M. Shedid and M. Mandour, U.A.R. 57:40 miles. 4. R. Villagomez, Mexico, and H. Iglesias Arg., 57:07 miles. 5. M. Khamis and M. Saleh, U.A.R. 56:42 miles. 6. D. Matuch and T. Elenin, U.S.A. and U.A.R., 51:20 miles. 7. G. Lake, England, and M. Gamie U.A.R. 49:90 miles. 8. Y. Montpetit and Y. Lavoie, Canada, 48:59 miles. 9. H. Shedid and S. Kigab, U.A.R., 45:99 miles. 10. S. Mandour and S. Ragib, U.A.R., 43:38 miles (1st woman team) 11. M. Porier and D. Piche, Canada, 41:75 miles.

Water temperature alternated between 68 and 72° during race, with air temperature averaging about 75° - No appreciable wind.

The first and second place teams finished in fine condition. Two top teams were forced to quit during the race. The team of Erikson-Nyad after 13 hrs, 56 min., when Nyad collapsed after swimming into a floating dock. Johan Schans (teamed with Scheijndel) collapsed in the water around the 21 hr. mark. Both swimmers recovered after hospital care.

Lake - St - John results - 25 miles - August 5, 1973

1. H. Iglesias Arg., and O. Rashad U.A.R. - Tie - 8:20:43. (new record). 3. C. Plitt, Arg., 8:25:30. 4. M. Mandour, U.A.R., 8:33:10. 5. J. Schans, Holl., 8:35:53. 6. R. Villagomez, Mexico, 8:38:46. 7. M. Ghazzawi, U.A.R., 8:46:51. 8. M. Saleh, Syria, 8:52:05. 9. J. Vanscheyndel, Holland, 8:54:38. 10. J. Erickson, U.S.A., 8:58:07. 11. M. Khamis, Syria, 8:59:35. 12. (first woman) C. Dixon, Holl. 9:32:45. 13. D. Nyad, U.S.A. (2nd woman) 9:05:17. 14. R. Dixon, Holl. 9:32:45. 15. D. Matuch, U.S.A., 9:44:45. 16. M. Shedid, U.A.R., 10:21:10. 17. Y. Montpetit, Can., 10:25:09. 18. P. Gollop, Eng. 10:42:10. 19. S. Ragib, U.A.R. 11:32:02. 20. Y. Lavoie, Can., 11:49:31.

* 23 swimmers entered swim, Jean Zabeck, France, Samia Mandour, U.A.R., and Jacques Bernier, Canada, did not complete swim.

Swim conditions were ideal. Water temperature ranged from 72° to 75°. Water surface was mirror-like with hardly a ripple. Iglesias and Rashad battled the last two miles together each being unable to go ahead. Horatio Iglesias says he suffered a leg-cramp during the latter part of the race. Ossama Rashad was said to have swum the whole race without eating.

Chicago, Illinois - 10 mile L. Michigan swim - August 19, 1973.

1. J. Schans, Holland, 3:59:25 (new world's record). 2. S. Bucha, U.S.A., 4:01:34. (first woman). 3. C. Plitt, Arg., 4:07:27. 4. H Iglesias, Arg., 4:08:09. 5. D. Brittain, U.S.A., 4:10:20. 6. J. Erickson, U.S.A., 4:18:30. 7. O Rashad, U.A.R., 4:18:31. 8. R. Villagomez, Mexico, 4:22:34. 9. R. Dixon, Holland, 4:26:04. 10. M. Ghazzawi, U.A.R. 4:29:11. 11. M. Khamis, Syria, 4:29:52. 12. M. Saleh, Syria, 4:30:47. 13. C. Dixon, Holl., 4:31:16. 14. D. Nyad, U.S.A., 4:33:12. 15. M. Paesler, U.S.A., 4:33:37. 18. S. Mansour, U.A.R., 5:11:45. 19. D. Gifford, U.S.A., 5:16:25.

* 60 swimmers originally entered Chicago swim, 31 started swim, and 19 completed race. Water was 73-75° with no appreciable wave or chop.

The surprise of the race was Sandra Bucha, an 18 year old, swimming her first professional race.

MENS - W.P.M.S.F. POINT TOTALS - 1973

1. Horatio Iglesias	Argentina	1748 (men's world champion)
2. Ossamai Rashad	U.A.R.	1469 pts.
3. Johan Schans	Holland	1085 "
4. Magdy Mandour	U.A.R.	1050 "
5. Claudio Plitt	Argentina	962 "
6. Marwan Ghazzawi	U.A.R.	886 "
7. Raymond Dixon	Holland	754 "
8. Raul Villagomez	Mexico	750 "
9. Mahmoud Khamis	Syria	741½ "
10. Marwan Saleh	Syria	707½ "
11. Rogosic Veljko	Jugoslavia	705 "
12. Marwan Shedid	U.A.R.	637 "
13. Jon Erikson	U.S.A.	523 "
14. Dennis Matuch	U.S.A.	463 "
15. Yvon Montpetit	Canada	360 "
16. Yves Lavoie	Canada	349 "
17. Juan Fainberg	Argentina	308 "
18. Dennis Brittain	U.S.A.	289 "
19. Jon Van Scheyndel	Holland	276 "
20. Mario Giovannetti	Argentina	235 "
21. Fuad Shatah	Syria	190 "
Taby El Enen	U.A.R.	190 "
23. Michael Paesler	U.S.A.	186 "
24. Wolfgang Bremer	W. Germany	185 "
25. Mohamoud Gamie	U.A.R.	183½ "
26. Geoffrey Lake	England	181½ "
27. Zoheir Schara Feldin	Lebanon	180 "
28. Oscar Bernardini	Argentina	175 "
Phillop Gollop	England	175 "
30. Hafez Shedid	U.A.R.	170½ "
31. Seadi Wariab	Iraq	170 "
32. Sultan Kigab	Sudan	165½ "
33. Michel Porier	Canada	164½ "
34. Daniel Piche	Canada	158½ "
35. David Gifford	U.S.A	128 "

WOMEN - W.P.M.S.F. POINT TOTALS - 1973

1. Corrie Dixon	Holland	1600 pts.	(women's world champion)
2. Shadia El Ragib	U.A.R.	1211 "	
3. Diana Nyad	U.S.A.	939 "	
4. Sandra Bucha	U.S.A.	750 "	
5. Angela Marchetti	Argentina	705 "	
6. Samia Mandour	U.A.R.	299 "	
7. Sahar Mansour	U.A.R.	230 "	

Horatio Iglesias won the world's championship for an unprecedented fifth time. No other swimmer has won the championship as often as Horatio.

Swimmers and coaches were amazed by the competition this year. Ossama Rashad of the U.A.R., who is only 19 years old, startled everyone with his great performances. Magdy Mandour (U.A.R.) and Claudio Plitt (Arg.) moved up in ratings as they gained in experience. Among the women the new face was Corrie Abelaar Dixon of Holland (She broke Greta Andersen's English Channel Record on 1971 in her England to France crossing). Teamed with her husband Raymond, they came within one and a third miles of first place at LaTuque. Sandra Bucha's (U.S.A.) startling second place finish at Chicago in which she (as well as Schans) broke the previous world's record for 10 miles has us all waiting to see if she will swim in any 1974 races. Congratulations to our new World's Champions.

The WPMSE scores finishers in sanctioned races under a point formula devised for the Federation in 1964 and has been in use every year since then. Under this formula, men and women are considered separately but equally. (Thus, if a girl finishes a race in fourth position, she is considered first among the women in that race and the man who finishes behind her, fifth overall, he is considered fourth in the men's division, etc.) Points are awarded as follows: (1) Finishing points -- for 1st, 500; 2nd, 350; 3rd, 250; 4th, 150; 5th, 125; 6th, 100; 7th, 95; 8th, 90; and minus five points for each succeeding place to 25th. (2) Distance points -- each finisher receives five points per mile for length of the course. (3) TimePoints -- Each winner's time is considered 100 points and times of all other finishers are scored by subtracting one point for each minute he is behind the winner (fractions over 30 seconds considered one minute). (4) Bonus points -- A swimmer who establishes a new record for a race receives an additional 100 points (races held for the first time NOT considered in this category.) For 24-hour team races, finishing points are divided among the two members of each team (i.e., each member of winning team receives 250 points, each second-placer 175 points, etc.); instead of distance points, time of race is scored at 5 points per hour and total divided among both members of each finishing team; and instead of time points, each individual swimmer receives 1 point for every lap he swims.

* DNF = Did Not Finish. In races which were officially ended at the conclusion of a specified time, swimmers still in competition were credited with the places in which they were swimming at the end of the race. Championship points for finishing positions were awarded those swimmers.

(At the annual WPMSE meeting in Hamilton, Ont., in 1970, it was unanimously voted to select the world champions on the basis of the highest point totals amassed by swimmers in a specified number of sanctioned races each year, that number being one more than half of the number of sanctioned races. In 1970 there were seven sanctioned races: thus, the four highest point totals were counted for all swimmers who participated in more than four of the seven races.)

From time to time the bulletin will carry a biography of the great names, past and present, in marathon swimming. To keep our records up to date we ask you to send any information you have on swims and swimmers.

ABDEL LA-TIF ABO-HEIF

Abdel La-Tif Abo-Heif of Egypt is considered by many to have been the greatest professional marathon swimmer in history. When one considers his exploits it is easy to see why.

Born in 1929 Abo-Heif was the eighth child in a family of fifteen. He began his swimming career at the age of ten and was soon winning amateur races in Egypt. He continued to swim while completing his academic career. Around 1953 he graduated from Sandhurst Military Academy (England) and then entered the Egyptian Army where his talents were quickly recognized by his being commissioned a Major. Along the way he managed to learn to play the piano, speak six different languages and become world's professional swimming champion three times.

Abo-Heif was twenty-seven years old when he made his first major triumph in professional swimming. He won the 1955 English Channel Race. From that time on he was a consistent placer and winner in professional races. It was in 1963 however that Abo-Heif startled the world when he put together a series of races that even today stands unequalled; First in the 18 mile Capri-Naples Swim, 2nd in the 25 mile Atlantic City Race, 2nd in the 19 mile Lake St. John Race, 1st in the 15 mile Canadian National Exhibition Race where the water was a bone-chilling 52°, Now the most remarkable part of Abo-Heif's story for that year. With only two days rest after the gruelling CNE race he went to Chicago for the sixty mile Lake Michigan Race. Abo-Heif plunged into the water and thirty-five hours later emerged as the winner and world's record holder of the longest open water swim in history -- a record that still stands to this day.

Abo-Heif was thirty-four years old when he set that record but he did not seek the easy chair. He kept on swimming and winning races at an age when most other swimmers would have retired years before. In 1969 at the age of 42 he won the 23 mile Chicoutimi Race. In 1971 when he was 44 years old he placed second in the 25 mile Guaymas, Mexico Race, a truly striking showing for a man of his age. Among Abo-Heif's accomplishments were his 30 mile swim across Lake Ontario in 1964 when the water was 55°. He was only 2 miles from the finish when he was taken from the water by his wife who feared for his life. Nobody finished that swim but Abo-Heif went the furthest of any swimmer and collected full prize money. He also made a 62 hour swim down the Parana River in South America.

In 1971 Abo-Heif retired from the Egyptian army after attaining the rank of colonel. Abo-Heif is just as famous out of the water as in. His charm and personality has earned him thousands of friends and followers all over the world. His fame in Egypt is so great that a street in Alexandria was named after him. Yes, Abdel LaTif Abo-Heif was and is a credit to marathon swimming and Egypt.

Next Issue: THE BIGGEST MONEY WINNER OF THEM ALL: Cliff Lumsden

Conrad - hope all is well with you, I mailed 84 other bulletins out with this one to the potential 84 American members, I hope to send the Argentine, Canadian, ect in the next 4 days - will keep you informed weekly as to how things go - M. Lumsden