

GMS PRESIDENTS REPORT

2022

I write this report after another 'interesting' year precipitated by the pandemic! The return to lockdown after holding the initial winter 2 galas of the newly named 'Vasbyt' Swim series in April and May, meant that we could only resume the schedule in August so the schedule went as follows :

17-4-21	Vasbyt 1
8-5-21	Vasbyt 2
14-8-21	Vasbyt Sprint gala
14-9-21	GMS SC Champs
16-10-21	SAMS SC Champs
20-11-21	GMS Relay gala
29-1-22	GMS LC gala
26-2-22	Inter-regional gala

With the shutting down of Ellis Park due to the town council allocating no funds for repairs and maintenance of pool pumps and heating systems and St Stithians closing their pool so that it could be converted into a FINA approved facility we were forced to look alternative LC venues. The long course galas were held at Reddam House in Waterfall (29-2-22) and Wits University main campus pool.

St Stithians School have had a formal request from GMS to consider being the host pool for the 2024 SAMS LC Champs.

The club membership numbers as listed below, gave us the picture of masters swimming in a state of inertia and sadly for some clubs, a negative trend :

Aqua Athletes	11
Phoenix	17
Florida	1
Waterborn	32
Wahoo	96

The concerning factor of trying to attract a younger membership base, continues to hound most of the clubs. Wahoo has, over the past few years, been able to buck the trend because of the close association with senior club, Electric Eels. This has resulted in a number of the

coaching staff and senior swimmers becoming Wahoo Masters members. The Wahoo committee members reflect the passing of the baton onto the 'younger' brigade.

SAMS National Swimming Championships at UWC in March produced a number of great results for GMS swimmers. This was highlighted by the number of South African and GMS records set by GMS swimmers. National qualifying times, records and GMS awards are as follows:

SAMS COLOURS – Kristy Kupfer (only awarded after 3 nationals), Maureen Mons (open water and pool), Cindy Strydom, Russel Wolpe, Marissa Rollnick (open water and pool)

GMS AWARDS

Best performance – Female – Cindy Strydom 100m Free

- **Male – Ryno Markgraaff 100m Free**

Best breaststroke performance – Terence Parkin 50m

Best backstroke performance - Kristy Kupfer 100m

Most improved swimmer – Joanne Vreeenegoor 50m Butterfly

- **Gordon Greeves 50m Breaststroke**

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GMS are in the process of looking at the realistic feasibility of hosting the 2024 SAMS National LC Championships. The venue that would be most appealing to all swimmers would be St Stithians School, which has recently been upgraded to FINA specifications. A formal request has been made by GMS to see if the school would entertain the event. There are other options such as Reddam House or Germiston.

At the upcoming GMS AGM we will approach the various clubs and ask for commitment.

Having really enjoyed being involved with swimming as a competitor and on the administrative side, the way forward is somewhat up in the air with GMS as myself, as President, should hand over the reins to an individual who has greater involvement in the overall running of GMS.

The GMS AGM will happen on 29 June and the SAMS committee will be informed thereafter.

May the GMS way forward be bright and swimmingly cheerful!

