

Letter from the Chair

We are only a month-and-a-half away from the Summer Masters National Meet to be held in Riverside, California. Hopefully you are currently making plans to attend, and let me encourage all of you to sign up early on divemeets.com. By signing up early, you help those of us who are planning the meet ensure that we have enough medals, seats at the dinner for the banquet, etc. I know many wait until the last minute, but the earlier you sign up, the easier it is for the hosts to plan! Please help us out on this. For those who went to the FINA meet, we had to sign up a couple of months in advance in order to be entered. I would prefer to not have to move to something like that, but do need to stress the importance of registering early.

The FINA meet in Riccione, Italy, was absolutely wonderful. The pool had undergone some renovations since I was there eight years ago, and we were treated to much nicer locker room facilities than the last time, as well as showers on deck to help keep us warm. The weather was great, all except the first day of the meet, when we had torrential rain and some strong winds. The rest of the week it was beautiful! The hosts, Klaus Dibiasi and his staff, did a wonderful job of keeping the meet running smoothly, even when there were problems with the weather. We had a wonderful showing from our Team USA, with many divers winning events, placing top three, and a couple even setting records! A special congratulations to Nate Holt, Dennis Rowe, and Don McAlister for setting world records! Nate set two individual records (3 meter and platform), Dennis and Don set one each and set a record as a team in 3 meter synchro. Fabulous job, gentlemen!

For those who were not at the meet, you may or may not have heard that I had an accident while diving. I unfortunately missed my grab on my last dive on platform, and dislocated my right shoulder. Fortunately for me, Emiliano Boldacchini was right there to call for the medics, and Gerhard Bayer from Germany was there to put my shoulder back in place very quickly. It does not look like I will have to have any surgery, and I am currently working very hard at my rehab exercises. My therapist says I am about 4 weeks ahead of schedule, which is great. I am not sure when I will be given a "green light" to start diving again. Of course, I hope it will be soon, but that is up to the doctors. My thanks to all who showed such care and concern for me at the meet, and all who prayed for me as that was a very trying time. It was nice to know I had so many people who cared. I will be at the meet in Riverside whether I dive or not, as it is an election year. If you have thought about serving Masters diving in an officer position, be sure to let us know. We will be voting on our leadership for the next two years at the meeting on Thursday, August 23rd.

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Lastly, a congratulations go out to our upcoming inductees to the Masters division at the International Swimming Hall of Fame, Frederick Fox, and Raisa Gorokhovskaya. They will be inducted in September at the USAD annual meeting in Greensboro, NC.

Jennifer Mangum