

## **Masters Diving Newsletter**

July/Aug/Sept/Oct 2004

David Cotton 9842 Hibert St., #115

San Diego, CA 92131 [DvrDave@san.rr.com](mailto:DvrDave@san.rr.com)

(619)685-0888vm/(858)271-1359fx

US\$12/yr USA & all email, US\$15/others

US Masters Website: [www.n2.net/diving](http://www.n2.net/diving)

This issue dedicated to **Dick Wilson**, who passed away 18 Sept. His contributions to our sport are too numerous to list. "**The Voice of Diving**" has ascended. May he forever be remembered as that joyful reassuring presence, that pat on the back, the vice-grip handshake, the unwavering strength of personality; all that made his family, the sport of diving, and the world he touched, a much better place.

### **Masters Shine in Chi-Town,**

**Chicago**, The 2004 Masters Diving Outdoor "Summer" Invitational Championships were held at the **Oakton Pool, Park Ridge, Il**, site of the 1972 Olympic Trials, August 20-22, 2004. **Bill McHugh**, Meet Director and Masters Coordinator. **Joey Hailpern** and staff, meet managers.

Approximately 71 divers attended this meet, site of the 1981, 1985 and 1995 Outdoors. The meet was graced with new and renewed faces: **Kevin Wilson, John McGee, Kirsten Reinhardt, Rachel Rawlins**. A wonderful banquet was held at the **Ramada Hotel**; the featured speaker was **Larry Wert**, former masters diver, of NBC-TV. The event had a "crasher" **Pete DiCroce** interrupted the event, in life jacket, fins & goggles, similar to the stunt pulled in Athens.

This year's winners of the **William V. McAlister** and **Viola Cady Krahn Awards** for outstanding performance in Masters National Diving Competition goes to **Roy E. Bosko** with 539.69 points and **Mary Bennett** with 456.63 points.

**British Open Nationals**, 11-12 Sept, **Dublin, Ireland**: Beautiful countryside, VERY friendly people. A new indoor pool made the cold, windy rainy weather seem inconsequential. The Yanks, Italians, Germans, and a Lithuanian joined the party and came away with several medals to boot. Much fun was had enjoying the local hospitality and customs. The biggest challenge seemed to be getting to & from the pool, driving on the wrong side of the road! The format was similar to new FINA plus a few dives, and a requirement to cover most groups. Novice events were also held, allowing participation at all levels.

**Facility maintenance**: Throughout this competitive season, several of the venues appeared to be severely lacking in board maintenance. I'm talking about slippery boards, frozen fulcrums, loose stands, misaligned boards, missing parts, and the like. This problem extends to all levels of the sport: the local training pools, Masters Nationals, Senior National meets, FINA World Aquatic Championships to name a few. Here we have an Olympic Sport, with all its class and glorious history, in the midst of insurance battles for its mere existence. Classes, sponsored by USA Diving, preach diving safety. They talk about DAILY and PERIODIC inspections of the equipment, with regular repairs as needed.

So, is it actually being done? What needs to happen – does somebody need to get hurt? Do pool operating budgets even include diving board maintenance? Example: I'm training at a pool in Northern CA, with a very slippery 3 meter. Never mind that a National

Champion 11/under JO diver trains there. Never mind that another diver was paralyzed **AT THIS SAME POOL** less than 5 years ago. What is being done? Does anybody care?

**Senior Nationals:** one meter board loses a shim 1 hour before Men's finals. Granted, the boards are extensively used during these meets; problems occur. Were any inspections done prior? Are sufficient parts on hand in case of a problem?

**Masters Nationals:** Two days before the first event, and out of a total of 5 boards, only two are operational: one 1 meter, one 3 meter.

Whose job is this to fix?

**Masters FINA Worlds:** 7 meter platform is under construction on the first training day, two days before the meet starts. The one meter boards are closed as a result. Isn't **FINA** supposed to inspect & approve the facility months prior to the event? All I'm saying is something should be done. It's inexcusable. And it starts in our own back yards. Make sure your local pool is keeping up on repairs. Keep after them. Inquire about meet facilities – will they be ready? Who is in charge of this? It's gotten to the point where I have made a habit to bring tools & parts to the pool along with my suit and towel. The next time you see a Masters diver with greasy hands, they're probably mine!

Congrats to our newly elected officers for 2005-6: **Masters Chairperson:**

**Catherine Cappelle**

**Rules Chairman: Roy Botsko**

Good luck – represent us well!

**Olympic comment:** Being both proud of the strong team we sent to Athens, and at the same time saddened by the result, One wonders what can be done to prevent this in the future. Certainly the experience of many international meets helps. So does sending alternates. Diving is the sort of sport

where the little things can matter greatly: injuries, experience, confidence, being in a different environment; all play an active role in a diver's success.

**WANTING IT** helps to overcome the anxiety. Picture this: the more times you throw your body into your dive from any angle, in any weather, at any condition, with any pressure, the greater the chance of a successful outcome. Often times, it's a numbers game. The divers need that experience. If **USA Diving** can't afford to send enough divers (and alternates) to do the job, then allow the athletes the opportunity to find their own way there; let them find a way, through their family, their club, or their community. Who knows – they may appreciate the experience all the more! Good luck to those in new jobs: **Karla Helder (Buffalo NY) & Ron Kontura (UC Berkeley)**

**Once upon a dislocation:** Wouldn't you know it – the last meet of the season, the last dive of the event, and yours truly dislocates his shoulder on entry off 3 meter. All the awards from a successful season will be treasured as I spend the next several months in rehab. What price glory? I'm not sure, as I do not believe this was a result of "pushing the envelope" or overtraining, rather a simple, but costly mistake. Believe me:

**Diving is worth doing, any day of the week!**

Results: links to results & downloadable photos:

<http://www.mastersdiving.com/meets/2004/chicago/chicago.htm>

