

Orcas International Swim Team
NATO AWACS E-3A Component Geilenkirchen
HQ Joint Forces Command Brunssum
Brunssum, Netherlands

Brunssum, 13 September 2009

Distribution:

Orcas Parents, Coaches and Volunteers
GK MWB

Subject: General Membership Meeting, 8 September 09

The General Membership meeting for the Orcas International Swim Team met on 8 Sept. 09 at Canada Place on JFC Brunssum, NL from 18.45 to 20.00 hours. The following personnel were present:

Rick Ojeda, President	Lois Whelan, Volunteer Coordinator
Susan Houston, Vice President	Sophia de Boda, Concessions Coordinator
Yutona Siikavaara, Meet Director	Amie Lennon
Charlotte Reges, Secretary	Tsvetelina Vaseva
Kris Chodakowski, Head Coach	Rebecca Schafers
Greg Houston, Statistician	Julie Hartig, Webmaster
Huub Gulpers	Chris Ballard, Handbook
Jos Gulpers	Erin Anderson
Gary Kee	Gert Koelstra
Debra Morello, Equipment Manager	Pascal Beland
Kathy Webb	Mariela Bachynsky, Concessions Coord.
Jonathan Webb	Adis Perez, Awards Banquet Coordinator
Rex Reges	Chuck Fowler
Michaela Schneider	Robin Fowler
Mike Kelly	Howie Robinson
Louis Mateus	Janelle Robinson
Debra Morello	Marion Ojeda
Chris Talsness	

Welcome by President:

Rick welcomed the members and introduced the Executive Committee as well as: Julie Hartig-Webmaster, Deb Morello-Team Equipment Manager; Lois Whelan-Volunteer Coordinator; Sophia de Boda and Mariela Bachynsky-Concessions Coordinators; Chris Ballard-Team Handbook.

Head Coach Comments:

Coach Kris spoke about the Fall Season, which is a competitive season. Swimmers are asked to come up with personal goals such as: getting a ribbon; beating

previous times; don't get DQ'd; etc. The swimmers work on endurance and technique. The T-30 gives coaches a chance to find a basis of how far along the individual and the team is.

The more challenging workout is in the 2nd hour of practice. Parents are asked to please keep their distance from the pool deck. Coaches try to have fun. Parents are asked to be involved by being an official at the meets and at some practices. Swimmers are provided with workout schedules and are asked what their goals are. Swimmers get skills that help them their whole lives. Double practices are the coach's decision.

Double Practices: (Rick spoke more on this issue)

Rick had a meeting with the coaches previously. The coaches said that the Double Practice is a tool to improve the swimmers. If the coaches see a need, they will ask the swimmers to swim the Double Practice. It is a temporary tool. Ultimately it is up to the parents to decide to go along with the coach's request. Parents can also request a Double Practice of the coach. In this case, the coaches have the final say. There is no charge for the extra hours. If any parent would like to bring up an issue regarding double practices, please address the Board.

Head Coach Comments: (Kris continued his comments)

The team put on our first swim camp last June. It was very successful. We will need parents to be involved to have another camp next summer. We may have a sleepover. We will start planning earlier in the season than last year.

Swimmers should bring water bottles to practice. Also bring short fins and small hand paddles.

Kris responded to member's questions:

1. Swim Camp – may take place at Schinnen.
2. How swimmers are assigned to events at meets – Coaches talk with swimmers but coaches make the final decision. May assign events so that swimmers will hopefully qualify for Champs.
3. Do all swimmers participate at home meets? YES

President's Report:

Swim team members are asked to stay for the entire meet. We are a team so we should cheer on other team members. Parents, please let the coach know as soon as possible if you do have to leave early.

The Basket Affair is the team's biggest fundraiser. Every family provides a themed basket. Families should keep their cost to about 40 Euro. Baskets often sell for twice as much. The money earned last year provided for our bus trip to Champs. A volunteer is needed to coordinate this event. Help is available to the Coordinator. E-mail the Secretary if willing.

At the Awards Banquet, the swimmers get performance and character awards. Last year it was held at the Terry Fox Halle. A coordinator for this event is needed (a member, Adis Perez, has since volunteered for this position).

We have a new team photographer, Warren Logan.

Secretary's Report:

As of the meeting date, we had 42 swimmers registered. Everyone should be receiving Orca Updates (team e-mails). They are also posted on the bulletin board and the information from the Updates appear on the website. Let the Secretary know if you aren't receiving the Updates. Our website is www.geilenkirchenorcas.org. There is a lot of information on the website such as: registration forms to download; latest news; team handbook; calendar and more. Also, e-mail addresses for all of the Board members are posted on the website.

Volunteer hours should be submitted through the website. Lois Whelan spoke about volunteering – hours needed and suggestions as to how to fulfill these hours. Julie Hartig also mentioned that each family must register to volunteer under one name. Can enter .5 or .25 hours but must use a decimal.

Meet Director's Report: (Home Meet-12 Sept.)

Each family must check off on the sign up sheet as to whether or not they are attending. This generally needs to be done by the Tuesday before a meet. It is easier to pull someone off of the list than to add a name at the last minute. Second, parents must volunteer for a job during the meet. Third, there is the Concession sign up. 120 swimmers are expected at the meet. So we need concession's donations (or donate 10 Euro to the team).

Thursday night before the meet, tables and chairs will be set up for Concessions, by volunteers, at the back of the library. At some meets a tent will be set up if the library is not available. On Saturday morning, food for Concessions will be set up as well as benches around the pool. It takes ½ to 1 hour depending on the number of volunteers.

The pool area gets hot so dress appropriately. Wear flip-flops or shoes just for the pool area. Swimmers must wear goggles. (Some pools require caps at away meets). All swimmers will receive caps tonight.

After the meets, families are requested to help tear down benches, concessions, tent, etc.

Questions were then taken from the members.

1. Can we set up on Friday night? Yes.
2. What are the hours of the meet? The meet starts at 10.00. Warm ups start at 09.00. Set up will be between 08.00 and 09.00. Rick mentioned that working at the meet counts toward volunteer hours.

Vice President's Report:

During the meet, leave valuable items at home. Susan introduced Huub Gulpers who is an EFSL official and referee at home meets. Huub stated that we need a minimum number of officials to run a meet or the meet must be cancelled. Susan said that we are very fortunate to have Huub and also Martin Seidel, who is an EFSL statistician, both associated with our team.

The UK meet will be held in Bury St. Edmunds. Twenty-seven people (including 14 swimmers) are signed up. The deadline to sign up is Sept. 14. A question was asked as to when the money is due for the bus. The money will be due on the Tuesday before the meet.

The Long Distance Championships will be held in Italy. This meet is for swimmers aged 10 and older. The strokes will be freestyle and IM. This meet takes place during the last weekend in November. A coordinator is needed. E-mail the Secretary if willing.

JFC base has had staff cut backs. We don't have a lifeguard on duty during practice. Coaches are certified in lifeguarding but they are concentrating on swim team members. Please don't use the baby pool.

The Orcas are hosting Divisional's on January 24. Deb Morello is putting together a contest to design a t-shirt for this event. The design is due by 28 September. The design must be one color. The t-shirts may be blue. Any questions? Contact Deb.

The Tunisia trip is during the last week in October. Susan brought a brochure and prices to the meeting.

Other Business:

Rick will e-mail Treasurer information tomorrow.

A question was asked regarding coaches. Answer: Kris is in charge. We have 3 coaches who get paid. We also have some volunteer coaches.

Meeting Adjourned

Written by on 13 September 09

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Approved by on (date)

Richard Ojeda
President, Orcas Swim Team