

This past summer, the Board decided it was time to 'get the pulse' of the membership. To do so, there were five 'Town Hall Meetings' set up in an effort to provide anyone who wanted an opportunity to discuss what was on their mind with the Board President. These discussions were informative and comprehensive. Members from across the league, new and experienced, representative of all sizes of club shared their view of how things are working and areas that the league can continue to strive to serve members even better. On October 3<sup>rd</sup> the board spent the evening reviewing what came from these meetings in order to create a list of proposals. These proposals are being sent to Team Reps in order to give them time to research how their clubs would like them to vote on each proposal at the Fall General Membership Meeting on October 19<sup>th</sup>.

At the General Membership meeting - each club will have one vote to cast for each of these items. The meeting will adhere to a straight-forward format.

#### Agenda for the Fall Membership Meeting

- a) Election of league officers.
  - There are a couple of positions to be filled - if anyone knows of someone who would like to serve on the board as treasurer should send their name and information to Jeff Lowell at [jefflowell9969@gmail.com](mailto:jefflowell9969@gmail.com).
  - Next year there will be a vice-president position open as Jeff Lowell's term as president is up. Anyone interested should send their name and information to Jeff Lowell at [jefflowell9969@gmail.com](mailto:jefflowell9969@gmail.com).
  - There is one Division Rep position that will be replaced prior to the Spring Meeting as well.
- b) Review and approval by the membership for the proposed competitive program.
  - This will necessitate voting on the proposals listed below
- c) Rule on application for membership or expulsion of members.
  - There are neither any new applications nor any members up for expulsion or other discipline.
  - At this point in the meeting there will be a discussion about the League Mission Statement and the need for all teams to understand and adhere to the statement.
- d) Any other business deemed necessary for the operation of the league.
  - Reports from
    - **Vice President** Charlene Steinhauer, Mercer Island Beach Club
    - **Awards & Records** Lisa Mead, Overlake
    - **Officials Administrator** Scott Allen, Edgebrook
    - **Coaches Rep(s)** Susan Simpkins, Klahanie /Annie Price, High Woodlands
    - **Water Polo Rep** Eric Bartleson, Newport Hills
    - **Diving Co-Chair** Ann Rhodes, MSC / Penny Yantis, Newport Hills
    - **Championship Coordinator** Kate Emerson, Edgebrook
    - **Merchandise Coordinator** Rebecca Thornton, Norwood
    - **Marketing Coordinator** Gayle Davis, Maple Hills
  - Any new business, or ideas from the membership

These are the proposals that will need to be voted on by the membership at the meeting. Each team should come ready to vote. There will be a short period of time for questions to help clarify anything a rep may need to cast a vote. This period of the meeting will not be utilized to cast out new ideas - new business will be saved until the end of the meeting.

**PROPOSAL #1:**

***This is in response to the discussion regarding the calendar options that all clubs received in the Spring. Additional information received through the summer included the feeling that some of the membership holds regarding the location of the League Championship - specifically, that the League Champs has to be held at KCAC.***

*Pertinent Information regarding this proposal: KCAC HAS BEEN RESERVED BY MIDLAKES FOR THE JULY 21, 2012 - THE TENTATIVE DATE FOR THE LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP. This would mean that in our current calendar structure - Division Champs would be on July 14<sup>th</sup>. This would mean that a swimmer whose team begins their season on the Tuesday after Memorial Day would have a 7 week season if they finished at Division Champs and an 8 week season if they finished at League Champs.*

*Reps will vote on one of the following:*

**Either:** *For the 2012 season, the League Calendar would be adjusted so the Division Champs would be one week following the League Champs (Held on July 28<sup>th</sup>). This would provide the novice athlete with additional time for training and refinement of technique prior to the end of their season. This would be a one year pilot to be revisited after the 2012 season.*

**Or:** *The League Calendar remains the same as it has been set for the recent past.*

**Proposal #2:**

***This introduction of this proposal is one way the board would like to continue to support those who are willing and able to open their club to help the league by hosting a championship meet at the end of the season. It is also being proposed in order to align understanding of the benefits a host can expect through inclusion in the Swimming Operating Plan.***

*Pertinent Information: There is a financial structure in place right now - as the league has provided \$400 to hosts over the past few seasons and worked to distribute ad money, t-shirt sales, and concessions. Additionally, each year Midlakes is generating money in excess of costs*

- Proposal:
- Divide that \$ to give back to the 9 swim champ hosts (5 Division Champs, 3 Prelims, League Champ Host)
  - If teams share responsibility - they share the 'cut'
- Each champ host will receive a guaranteed \$900

- In addition - ad money will be divided 9 ways (this year that was close to \$500 share each)
- In addition - T-shirt money will be divided between league and hosts according to the following formula
  - 40% of net sales for host, 60% of net sales for League
- In addition - Hosts set price for and keep program sales money
- In addition - Any concessions \$ stays with host
- This would mean a team that hosts a Division Champ or Prelim meet could expect something like the following (conservative estimates):
  - \$900 guaranteed from the league
  - \$400 Ad Money
  - \$600 in t-shirt money
  - \$100-\$200 in program sales (net)
  - \$2000 (conservative estimate for concessions)
  - Possible total of approx \$4000

***Proposal #3:***

***Distribution of League financial surplus....the league has approximately \$43,000. This means we have a surplus of approximately \$20,000. Our bookkeeper has informed the board that we need \$24,000 in our account in order to ensure payment of government fees, insurance fees, and be able to keep enough money in our account to avoid accruing monthly fees.***

Proposal:

- The league distributes the surplus back to each club in the form of a onetime payment based on the average of each clubs past roster numbers from 2010 and 2011.
  - The league would determine what that average is based on numbers of swimmers who were registered with the league by the clubs.
    - From that number a % share of total would be generated for each club based on membership numbers
    - Estimates for the payout for each club to range somewhere between \$600 and \$2000
  - This would also mean a By-Law change to vote on in the Spring
    - The Board would like to add language that would mean an automatic payout to clubs if the League Surplus reaches a set figure over the \$24,000 minimum we need to keep in our accounts. There have been two figures discussed \$10,000 and \$20,000

***Proposal #4:***

***This proposal was added after a discussion regarding consistency of officiating throughout the league. The board believes that in order to create equity across the league that ALL officials, parent reps, and coaches MUST attend a training session prior to the start of the competition portion of the season. The***

***board also believes that in order to create consistent application of our mission statement necessitates the additional training(s) - even for those who are veterans of the league.***

***Proposals 5 and 6:***

***These proposals were created after a discussion regarding the application, or perceived application of our League's Mission Statement - listed here....***

- Philosophy of Midlakes
  - LEAGUE MISSION STATEMENT:  
The purpose of this league is to provide opportunities to introduce member clubs and athletes to aquatic sports.  
The board's mission is to help member clubs provide a complete athletic experience for everyone involved in swimming, water polo, and diving. Athletics plays a role in the development of young people as they learn teamwork, cooperation, and respect for others through healthy, friendly competition. Athletes, coaches, and parents learn during their Midlakes experience that the concepts of hard work and dedication to self and others translate into success in other aspects of life. The Midlakes Board wants all members to finish their seasons with a positive feeling of mutual accomplishment.

***Many of our membership feel our mission statement is not modeled by coaches, teams, parents, and officials. This spoke to their experiences, and many of them stemmed from situations that arose at 'B' Dual Meets. In an effort to help clarify the mission statement and alleviate inequity of competition, the following proposals were suggested:***

***PROPOSAL 5:***

*A coaches mentoring program will be put into place for the first 3 years a coach is in the League. After that time a coach may access the program if a club (or coach) would like to access additional supports to maintain a successful season. Specifics regarding the program would be shared in the spring after specific details were created. This would be another addition to the operating plan.*

***PROPOSAL 6:***

*Operation Plan language that addresses swimming 'up' and age group will be clarified. The intent of the provision in the plan is not clear in its present form and therefore clubs have misused it, creating inequity in competition throughout the league. The language will be explicit -clearly stating the ability to swim athlete up only one age group, and that they are not able to swim up if they have bettered a B DQ Time throughout the remaining time they have in the age group (i.e. if a 9 year old bettered B DQ times, they will not be able to participate in B meets the following season). There will also be language to address the intent of the rule - to ensure athletes do not lose the ability to participate in relays if an age group is small (3 x 11-12 year olds in an age group that cannot make up a relay). An addition provision will be inserted that will address the steps a coach or club should take if they believe this provision is being misused. This will necessitate Operating Plan changes - including the creation of a new 'protest' form.*

***Additional Work the Board will undertake through the winter:***

- Updating and Clarifying Rules / Operating Plan:

- Regarding the Submission of coaches certifications -
  - This will be done through the compliance form completed by club management
- Division Issues:
  - # of Meets for Division V
    - Increased awareness of the ability of clubs to add League Sponsored / Sanctioned meets to add....
    - Clubs should contact their Division Rep so meets can be sanctioned and added to the league calendar
  - Realignment for 2012 - see League Standings
- Record Times - language will be clarified regarding records set at Division or League champs and the different procedures as they are set at Dual meets
- E. Competitive Regulations
  - #8 - language around submission of B DQ Times will be updated to reflect current practice
- F. Dual Meets
  - Review #6 - Equity of Competition - situations will be added to help guide membership
  - Review #8 - Swimmers and B DQ Times vs. B Meets- situations will be added to help guide membership
- G. Championship Meets
  - Review ALL of this section to clarify entries vs. alternates etc...
  - Review ALL of this section to clarify scratches / penalties / etc...
  - Review ALL of this section to clarify who can be entered...
    - The language in this section will be clarified for the membership
- H and I - review language regarding Division and League champs
  - will be updated to reflect current practice
- J - Championship Management should reflect the changes in financial agreement between Midlakes and Host Clubs
  - A financial breakdown of what hosts can expect to earn will be included in this section
- N - Review Concessions Language
  - will be updated to reflect current practice