

# MINUTES OF SWIMMING NELSON MARLBOROUGH SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday 10 September 2017, 10 a.m.  
Cawthron Institute Nelson

## Present:

Stephen Fryer	Chair	Hamish Neill	Deputy Chair
Jim Sinner	Registrar	Susie Foster	Treasurer/NLS
Sarah Woodhouse	BSC	Lees Seymour	TAS
Lorraine McMath	BSC	Eric Petersen	WMA
Steve Malthus	WMA	Philippa Thain	MOT
Steve Fox	TAS	Melinda Baigent	TAS
Dave Hall	NLS	Fiona Lulham	NLS
Mark Lile	NLS	Lindie Nelson (minutes)	

## 1) Welcome

Stephen welcomed all. Jim outlined the Health & Safety procedures for the building.

## 2) Roll Call and Notice of Voting Rights

Stephen confirmed the names of Voting Representatives present. The Voting Representatives and number of votes are:

Blenheim (95)	Sarah Woodhouse
Golden Bay (80)	<i>no delegate present</i>
Kaikoura (21)	<i>no delegate present</i>
Motueka (46)	Philippa Thain
Murchison (0)	<i>no delegate present</i>
Nelson South (99)	Dave Hall
Tasman (111)	Lees Seymour
Waimea (60)	Steve Malthus

### Moved to confirm the Voting Representatives as named

Jim Sinner /Susie Foster  
*Carried*

The total votes present are 411. Decisions on the business of an SGM can only be made by special majority (2/3), corresponding to 274 votes.

## 3) Apologies

Apologies were received from Golden Bay SC.

## 4) Business of SGM

The SGM has been called to consider the following item of business:

*To consider the proposal for SNM to move from the Makos Zone to the All Stars Zone either partially (Junior Festival) or entirely (all zonal meets).*

Stephen invited Hamish and Jim to provide some background information and updates since the SNM AGM.

Hamish confirmed that his notes on the discussions with SNZ have been distributed to clubs. Steve Johns has taken the proposal to the SNZ Board who have agreed to support whatever decision is made by our region. If there is an agreement to change, SNM needs to consult with the other South Island regions and the All Stars zone before making a final decision. Steve Johns also advised that, in future, the decision regarding venue for the Juniors Festival will be up to the Makos committee (including hosting it in Blenheim).

At the SI Champs, the coaches met and noted that, tracking against this time last year, 261 compared to 217 swimmers have qualified for any event at Makos Junior Festival. However to compete you must qualify for an IM event: 221 have qualified so far in the IM events versus 176 last year. So the Junior Festival is tracking for an increase in attendance of about 50 swimmers and we should expect 250-270 swimmers. We can host this many swimmers (and their parents) in Blenheim, but may not be able to if the numbers get much higher.

Jim outlined discussions at the Regional Forum held in association with the SNZ AGM. Bay of Plenty and Canterbury challenged the concept that high performance should be centrally delivered. Waikato has developed and obtained funding for a model based on 'coach of coaches'. The implication is that zones could become more important for delivery of high performance: eg through coaching clinics, development squads. A working group has been formed with Steve Johns (CEO), Simon Perry (SNZ Board member) and one rep from each of the 4 zones (Wayne Rollinson from Makos) to make recommendations. On Monday the SNZ HP coach resigned and the Steve Johns has advised that SNZ are exploring alternative models for HP delivery in the context of a replacement. In summary, the zones may in future have more of a focus on coaching and development (rather than just delivering Junior Festival).

We have also received a message from Wayne Rollinson indicating that Canterbury WC's board does not support a 'partial' move (i.e. juniors only) to the All Stars zone.

Stephen opened the floor to a discussion.

Lees noted that key drivers are cost (contrary to Wayne's comment) and the difference in qualifying times for the Junior Festivals. Hamish commented that the other two northern zones have tightened up qualifying times because the sessions were too long. Only All Stars still has the low qualifying times.

Hamish also noted that he had spoken to a Canterbury coach who was empathetic: costs for Nelson Marlborough and Southland are very high.

What is downside of moving? Possible loss of hosting of SI Champs and SISS: this would have a substantial impact on SNM revenue. Stephen also noted that the touchpads we use are on loan from Canterbury.

What are the negatives for Canterbury? It takes numbers and officials away – but there are increasing numbers of Juniors qualifying so in fact SNM going to All Stars could help keep Makos Juniors at a size that can be hosted at various venues within the zone without tightening qualifying times further.

It was suggested that we should make a decision about the zone, and leave the SI issues for a separate decision. Hamish advised that the two decisions are linked: If we leave the Makos Zone there could be negative impacts but will also be positive impacts for Otago and Southland (since they will not need to travel to Marlborough).

It was suggested that we could make a temporary move until such time as Canterbury has re-developed its pool space. We could build this into the decision.

In response to a question, it was confirmed there has not been any discussion with All Stars. And we don't know how the All Stars zone organise their governance, hence what involvement we might have in decision-making if we were to join the All Stars zone.

Blenheim is opposed to the proposal because for them it is more expensive to go to Wellington than to travel south. And they expect that, if we stay in the Makos zone, one in 4 years the rotation would have Junior Festival in Blenheim.

Stephen asked if any club would like to put a motion to the meeting:

**Moved that SNM move to the All Stars zone for the Junior Festival only, on a temporary basis until there is a new pool in Christchurch**

*Dave Hall for Nelson South/Lees Seymour for Tasman*

**For:** Nelson South/ Tasman/ Waimea (99 + 111 + 60 = 270)

**Against:** Motueka and Blenheim

The motion is just short of the necessary 2/3 votes and is therefore not carried.

Blenheim said that for them, there are no benefits – just higher costs. Motueka is opposed because the Junior Festival event in Wellington is very large: unsuited to the Motueka swimmers. They would go to Junior Festival in Dunedin if they qualified.

***Where to from here?***

A new motion could be put to the 2018 AGM, where a motion requires a simple majority, i.e. >50%.

Or another SGM could be called. However, votes are calculated based on membership as at 30 June of the preceding financial year, so there will be no changes until after 30 June 2018.

Lorraine commented that the flyer for the Junior Festival 2018 does not specify that you must swim in zone. We should check whether there is anything in SNZ regulations or elsewhere, because those present believed that in 2017 we were told that swimmers could only enter the Junior Festival in their zone. If this has changed for 2018, it could provide an option for clubs.

The Board will discuss further steps at its next meeting, on 12 September.

Meeting declared closed 10.51 am