

Coaches Report

February 03, 2004

January has been a busy month for the club with the hosting of the Polar Bear Classic and a SWOT Planning Meeting.

The Polar Bear was very well attended this year and despite a few hiccups it came off very well. I have received good comments from the other coaches who attended and all felt the caliber of competition was very good.

John McLean did a great job of keeping his cool under pressure. There were lots of glitches in running a new program and doing on his own for the first time. I think that the next attempt will be much easier and smoother. The Thursday from about noon on is a very busy time since many lists etc. are coming in. In the future we may want to ensure that we have some help in the office for this particular day since many of our volunteers are working and cannot get to the pool until later. When we go to meets this is the time that all of the teams hand in their lists and are looking for information.

The Pan Am divers competed very well and we saw a number of personal best as well as a few disappointments. Given the time of year I felt that the club is right on track from a competitive point of view.

The exposure of the club during the Polar Bear was outstanding and it continues with the Shaw cable program that has been running for over a week now. Thank you Donna for your work in this area.

Myself and four divers will be leaving for Florida for a large Invitational meet and a training camp in preparation for the senior nationals in Calgary at the end of March. Dallas and two divers are leaving tomorrow morning for Victoria to attend the Sting Invitational. Unfortunately due to costs we did not have many athletes opt into the Victoria trip. Since we are limited in the number of level 1 events available this may not have been a wise decision.

I felt that the SWOT exercise was very productive. I would have like to see more time spent on the weaknesses and methods of correcting them as well as discussing why some of them were mentioned. For the next such event I think we should do it over two days in order to accomplish all that we set out to do.

It might be very productive to have a year end review in June and prepare our plan of operation for the following season. This would also give us a good indication of what we are projecting financially for the next season.

The Sergeant Park Learn to Dive program is running but it has not received much interest. We will look at another campaign of putting flyers on windshields up in that area as well as some pointed advertising. The new insert in the Leisure Guide does indicate that programs will be available at both Sergeant Park and Pan Am. This should help for the Spring session. We will need to decide how much and what kind of advertising we can do for the future programs.

CADA has asked if we want to join them in a Sports Expo at the Winnipeg Arena. There is a cost to set up a booth but I think it is a must do event. There will be representation from many sports across Manitoba including Professional Sports. I would suggest that we strike a committee to decide how we want to best present our programs at this event . I would like to see a Power Point Presentation as well as a video presentation. I am not sure what we can do interactively with participants. We will also need some volunteers to help man the booth. CADA would like to share this 50/50 . It is in mid April.

Currently our numbers remain constant from my last report. The Learn to Dive looked like it was going to be off but a lot of students showed up and signed up the first days of the classes.

The pool maintenance staff seems to be working at keeping our equipment up to date and maintained for now. Hopefully this will keep up.

In summary I would say that we are running very smoothly and that the divers seems to be progressing towards their set goals very well.

Respectfully submitted:

Jim Lambie, Head Coach