

SOUTH EAST AREA

This is just a brief resume of where we are in relation to the District Amalgamation.

The Metropolitan District Presidents were invited to attend a meeting with Peter Lozan (SNSW President) and Ian Harkness (CEO SNSW) in August. At that Meeting the new boundaries for **four** metropolitan Districts was discussed.

The South East Area (SEA) has an interesting boundary. It is south of the Harbour, Parramatta River, M4 motorway and east of the vertical line from The Holdsworthy Military Reserve, Heathcote Road to Sandy Point, the Georges River to Alford's Point Road, Davies Road, Fairford Road, Stacey Street, Rookwood Road, Joseph Street, Olympic Drive, Boorea Street, St Hilliers Road, Silverwater Road. It makes it a big Area of 44 Clubs and ~3,954 members.

As you are aware, I have had an in-principle agreement with Eastern Suburbs Swimming Association to start examining a merger. They are very interested. Then, last week, Ian Harkness called a meeting of the three Districts currently involved last week (St George Sutherland, City of Sydney, and Eastern Suburbs). Roland attended as well. We have reach agreement that we should unite. There are many reasons, which I think that Roland can expand on. But the main one is the 'synergy' that we can achieve by the combination. The meeting with our other Districts has come up with some novel ideas for competitions.

Ian Harkness will be attending the next Western Suburbs meeting and he will Advise me of who will be attending future meetings from WS.

When do I think that the SEA will start operating? SNSW suggest on 1 April 2008. There is much to be achieved by then: information to Clubs, AGM, Constitution and by-laws ratification, plan for the 2008-9 swimming year. It is a tall ask. Please note that this amalgamation will happen ... the Board have so decreed! I suggested that this was the way to go in 2004. We just have to find a way to put it in place.

How do I think that it will work? Obviously it will be impossible to have 44 clubs Attend our monthly management meeting. The best way, in my opinion, is to run such a large Area on a system similar to SNSW with an executive committee and sub-committees. The executive committee would consist of President, VP, Secretary, Treasurer, Registrar/Competitions, Development and ALEC. Then there would be sub-committees for Finance (maybe), Competition, Development and ALEC. We would probably need an area/club forum three times per year, one of which would be the Area AGM.

So what needs to be done?

A. For the Area

1. Finalise the Constitution & By-Laws. What we need to agree on is the constitution and by-laws. That is in process and is being done by the current committee of the three (soon to be four) current Districts. The

basis will be the constitution and by-laws on the SNSW website. There will, of course, be changes, but they will be minor. Once the committee has agreed on these documents, they will be brought back to the existing Districts and Clubs for ratification and then sent to SNSW for checking and ratification. Once this process is complete, we will need to hold an inaugural AGM to approve the Constitution and By-Laws of the Area and to elect the office bearers. A decision will be required as to whether sub-committees may be by nomination and selected by the Executive or elected at the AGM. **In my opinion this needs to be completed no later than 31 December 2007.**

2. Following that meeting a treasurer's committee, may need to meet to decide on the funding arrangements. Funding arrangements will need to be in place by February 2008.
 3. Similarly, sub-committees for competitions, development and ALEC will need to meet to decide on what competitions, development and lectures will be held 2008-9. Again, this needs to be in place by February 2008.
 4. Life members will automatically roll over from the existing Districts.
- B. Districts and Club delegates, apart from their normal activities to 31 March 2007 will need to:
1. Agree how to pay any 'seed' finance to the SEA. That will also include how to divide the residual cash balance. I have two suggestions: the 'seed' money could be paid out of the existing District funds and the remainder would be reimbursed to the Clubs through an agreed formula, or the Clubs could pay their seed money after the monies are distributed to the Clubs. My suggestion is that we should distribute the funds prorated on events actually swum at District (Summer and Winter) championships, Speedo and District Level 2 (Developments Meet) over the past four years. However, it is **not** my decision. It will be the Clubs. Whatever that decision is, it must be equitable.
 2. Agree on the wording of the Area constitution.

I think that we while this is a major change, it only stands to improve the standard of swimming in the SEA by providing new ideas and making swimming more interesting for our 'customers': the swimmers.