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WORLD PROFESSIONAL MARATHON SWIMMING FEDERATION INC.

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DENNIS MATUCH
PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

My sincere thanks and appreciation to all our members good reaction to our last bulletin. Along with the many cordial remarks there were many inquiries as to why the 73 Saguenay River swim was not included in our ratings. The answer is simple. It was not a sanctioned swim. The sponsors never asked that it be sanctioned. It would not have received a sanction anyway. Thus a non-sanctioned swim is not eligible for entry into our world ratings. For those members who are not aware of the Saguenay River Swim's record for the last eight years let me point out a few facts as to why this swim could not have received a sanction from the WPMSEF this year or last. In 1966 the times given for those who finished the race were way off; 3rd & 4th were over five minutes behind 2nd, not 30 sec. 5th was about 15 minutes behind 4th (rather than 1½ min.). The promoters of this swim choose to give out close-but-FALSE-times because it makes for good publicity. In 1968, 69, & 70 poor & inefficient tenders handicapped swimmers, coaches, and trainers. Very few could row straight for very long; also more than one coach and swimmer complained of drunken rowers. In 1968 there were so many spectator boats at the finish that swimmers had to swim between and around them at risk to life and limb. As if this were not enough the first five swimmers were MIS-IDENTIFIED by the incompetent judges. The dispute that arose was still not settled three hours later at the award ceremony where two prominent marathoners refused their prizes. This dispute was never settled, and worst of all never looked into by the promoters. In 1969 the swimmers had to fight for full prize money to be awarded if no one completed the swim within the time limit designated by the promoters (10 hrs). If this question had not been pushed, and if the swimmers had not stuck together, all of the competitors would have swum a minimum of 10 hrs for nothing. The duplicity of the promoters was proven later when no swimmer made the 10 hr. time limit. In fact no one would probably have made it in less than 11½ hrs. Those who were still in the water were paid full prize monies because for once we swimmers stuck together. In 1970 the race was scheduled to start at 6:30 AM. The swimmer's boats did not show up till 8 AM. Consequently the race did not start till 8:30 AM. Even then half the swimmers started the race without a boat. Iglesias' boat had a motor malfunction. When the tender attempted to use the oars he found the boat had no oar-locks. Diana Nyad swam the first four hours without a boat. Eventually all the swimmers were affected by unfavorable tides because of the late start. In 1972 only two swimmers were paid their prizes. The rest of the swimmer's checks bounced at the bank due to "insufficient funds". Thus 14 swimmers swam for 10-12 hrs for nothing. In 1973 the swimmers who were not paid in the 1972 race demanded their money for the 72 swim. The sponsors offered them ½ of the money due them. The sponsors then told them they might not be able to pay them the prize money for this year. NON-PAYMENT, HALF PRIZE MONEY, UNREALISTIC TIME LIMITS, FALSE PUBLICITY, UNCOURTEOUS REMARKS TO SWIMMERS . . . we could go on and on but I think we've given you a clear idea of what this swim has been like for the last 8 years. To be completely fair it should be said there were a few years when the swim was run honestly and well. I think that credit for this must be given to the head man during those years-Robert Cossette-a gentleman and former great marathoner. When he was in charge the swimmers were more than satisfied. It is a sad commentary that the promoters of this swim have not been able to give this race the proper supervision necessary to make it one of the great pro races. I would think that any new or old sponsor of the Saguenay Swim would take a close look to home.

LA FEDERATION MONDIALE DES MARATHONS DE NAGE PROFESSIONELLE

FEDERACIÓN MUNDIAL DE MARATÓN DE NATACIÓN PROFESIONAL

the superb organization and respectability of the St. John & Baroque swims are about
reproach & profitable to both swimmers and promoters alike. We would appreciate any
opinions pro or con on our position. We will make space for them in our next bulletin.
We have just received word of two swims to be held in Argentina. On Feb. 24 there
will be an open water swim from Chapadmalal to Mar del Plata (25 miles; 62° water).
On March 3rd there will be a river swim from Santa Fe to Coronda ("39 miles" with the
current; 80° water). Both swims are of about 9 hrs duration for the average swimmer.
Both races combined will have a total of \$15,000 (U.S.) in prizes. Those interested
write: Horatio Iglesias; Billinghamurst 2380, Buenos Aires, Capital, Rep. Argentina.
We hope to have details & results in the next bulletin. The next bulletin will
carry a complete run-down on the workings and procedures of the two top pro-swims in
Canada.

THE BIGGEST MONEY WINNER OF THEM ALL: CLIFF LUMSDEN

The amateur swims for pleasure and/or glory. The professional swims for money.
While most, if not all, professionals were amateurs early in their career they some
where along the way matured to the extent that they realized the necessity of earn-
ing a living. They became ready to test their amateur accomplishments in the rugged
world of professional competition. The famed Canadian Cliff Lumsden started early. He
entered his first pro race at the age of 16. That race was the famous Canadian Nat.
Exhibition Race of 1947 in which he was pitted against seasoned & hardened veterans.
Cliff finished 6th in that race but it was the beginning of a career that was to
last 22 yrs and the amassing of prize monies that was to total upwards of \$150,000-
three times what any other top pro swimmer was ever to earn in competition.

Born in 1931 in Toronto Cliff in his early teens joined the well known Lake Shore
Swimming Club. He advanced rapidly after learning the fundamentals. He showed so
much proficiency that his coach entered him in the C.N.E. race mentioned earlier. The
following year (1948) he finished 5th in the 15-mile event which was worth \$800. By
the following year his psychological maturity was matched by physical maturity. His
5 foot 8 inch frame had filled out tremendously with muscle & bulk to the extent
that he now weighed 210 lbs. It was to mark his fantastic upward climb in the pro
rankings. In his 3rd C.N.E. race he finished 1st and pocketed \$6,000. Over the next
few years Cliff was to win more C.N.E. races than any other swimmer. His biggest
purse was in 1955 when he won the 32-mile event. Originally planned as an "across
Lake Ontario" race it was changed at the last minute to a triangular course in front
of the Exhibition Hall. Cliff completed the course in 19 hrs & 48 min. He collected
\$15,000 1st prize. That money represented only a fraction of his reward. When the
gifts by advertisers (including an offer of \$1 for every stroke he took in the last
five miles) was added up Cliff had earned \$84,000.

Cliff went on to enter every pro race he could over the years. He twice won the
25-mile Atlantic City Swim as well as other lesser events. What characterized Cliff
was his ability to almost always finish among the top three in any race he entered.
As a consequence he always managed to earn money and was one of the few pro swimmers
who could say swimming was a vocation instead of avocation.

During and after his active swimming career Cliff Lumsden was and still is a
positive force. His friendly personality gained him many friends. He was always
ready with helpful suggestions about training & technique to his many followers.
Cliff has contributed much to professional swimming. He continues to be active in
the sport by coaching any new comer seeking his aid. When he retired in 1969 he
coached Judith DeNys of Holland whenever she swam in Canada. He is currently coach
to the upcoming darling of pro marathon swimming Diana Nyad. We salute Cliff Lumsden.

Next Bulletin: THE FIRST PROFESSIONAL: CAPTAIN MATTHEW WEBB (The first man to
swim the English Channel)

We have had many inquiries about Conrad Wennerberg's book WIND, WAVES AND SUNBUR
which is a history of marathon swimming. There is usually an 8 to 12 week waiting
period from the time you place your order with your book store. Please be patient.

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