

NEW ZEALAND MASTERS SWIMMING

52nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on Saturday 23rd May 2026 via Teams Platform

MINUTES

The meeting commenced at 4:06 pm and concluded at 5:09 pm.

PRESENT

Russell Jones, Kyla Steenhardt, Ilonka Buwalda, Chris Howie, Renee Rudd, Marco Cecioni, Rosie Pittams (Levin), and Ann Browett (Newmarket)

WELCOME BY PRESIDENT

Russell Jones welcomed everyone to the AGM and thanked them for their attendance. The meeting proceeded by unanimous agreement.

APOLOGIES

Megan Wilson, Denise Ridley, Lesley Parkin

DECEASED MEMBERS 2025

Colin Morrison – Makino Masters

Warren Dwyer – North Canterbury

John Trubnick – South City Masters

President: We pause to honor and remember three members of our Masters Swimming community who died in 2025. We honor their friendship, their contributions to our clubs and sport, and the many moments shared in and around the pool. Each leaves a legacy in New Zealand Masters swimming through the lanes they swam, the people they encouraged, and the clubs they helped build. As we continue our work and our swimming, we carry their memory with us.

THE MINUTES

The minutes of the 51st AGM, held on 6 April 2025, were accepted as a true and correct record.

Moved: Ilonka Buwalda | Seconded: Kyla Steenhart

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Russell Jones

The report was circulated prior to the meeting.

Key points:

- The focus remains on attracting and welcoming more members to the sport.
- The organisation will continue reviewing its IT systems, particularly with contract renewals approaching.
- There is capacity to hold larger swim meets, and work with Swimming NZ will continue.

Service Award: Susanna Ginn, JASI Masters

Life Membership: Liz Davidson, North Shore Masters

Moved: Kyla Steenhart | Seconded: Chris Howie

NATIONAL SECRETARY/TREASURER REPORT – Megan Wilson

The report was circulated prior to the meeting.

Key points:

- Revenue decreased and a modest loss was recorded for the year.
- Some of these costs were one-off expenses.
- Professional fees for services increased during the year.

Clarification was provided on licence technical fees, including a review of Gameday for suitability and the cost of renewal compared with SNZ's Fastlane option.

Moved: Ann Browett | Seconded: Rosie Pittams

MEMBERSHIP FEES 2027

Fees will remain at \$65. The early-bird pricing structure and timing will continue.

Ann Browett asked whether data was available on early registrations and the related financial benefit to assess the value of early membership. It was noted that the first pool meet of the year is held later in the season, apart from open water events and the NZ Masters Games.

Rosie Pittams noted that members appreciate the work undertaken by the officers in supporting clubs and continuing the organisation's work.

The President called for the motion to be put, and it was carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENTS

There were no vacant positions.

HONORARIA (2027)

- Secretary/Treasurer: \$10,000
- IT Manager: \$5,000
- National Recorder: \$3,000
- Communications Manager: \$2,000
- Swim Officer: Membership in lieu
- Para Officer: Membership in lieu

Rosie Pittams noted that members appreciate the significant contribution made by officers in supporting clubs and advancing the work of New Zealand Masters Swimming.

Ann Browett asked whether the proposed honoraria were sustainable for the financial year ahead.

Moved: Kyla Steenhart | Seconded: Chris Howie

PARA OFFICER REPORT – Ilonka Buwalda

Moved: Kyla Steenhart | Seconded: Chris Howie

COMMUNICATIONS / NATIONAL RECORDER – Renee Rudd

Key points:

- A website overhaul is needed.
- MasterScrawl is issued every three months, with countdowns to major events.
- The website will be reviewed and updated.
- Clarification was provided on swimmers' eligibility requirements for setting records in New Zealand and overseas, including the requirement to be a member of a New Zealand-registered club and New Zealand Masters Swimming.

Rosie Pittams asked what checks were currently in place to confirm club membership for swimmers entering New Zealand meets. It was noted that there are current challenges with Gameday, the entry system, Register Now, and membership verification.

Ann Browett asked whether a webpage could be created outlining the requirements for breaking a record.

The meeting acknowledged the work Ilonka Buwalda has undertaken on para records and her collaboration with Cameron Leslie.

Rosie Pittams expressed concern about access to MasterScrawl for club members in rural areas with limited internet access. She also asked whether a register of clubs and swim nights could be compiled for those travelling around New Zealand.

Moved: Kyla Steenhart | Seconded: Chris Howie

IT OFFICER REPORT – Chris Howie

Key points:

- Meet Manager has been upgraded to enable S19 Para classification support.
- The Microsoft 365 licence plan provides domain and email address support through the non-profit grant.
- There are ongoing issues with fake New Zealand Masters Swimming Facebook pages, and challenges remain in having Meta remove them.

Ann Browett asked whether there were any legal options available to remove the fake pages.

Moved: Kyla Steenhart | Seconded: Chris Howie

SWIMMING OFFICER REPORT – Marco Cecioni

Key points:

- There has been an increase in non-sanctioned meets, mainly in the lower North Island.
- While participation remains strongest in the 40–65 age groups, there has also been growth in the 30–39 age group.
- Open water and ice swimming are becoming more popular disciplines, with possible integration into the New Zealand Masters calendar.

There was discussion about one-day membership and whether holders are eligible to break a record. It was confirmed that they are not eligible, and consideration was given to whether the current fee should be reviewed.

Moved: Kyla Steenhart | Seconded: Chris Howie

OTHER BUSINESS

A letter from Rosie Pittams on behalf of the Levin Masters Committee was tabled. Russell thanked Rosie for taking the time to provide feedback. Megan had responded previously, and the main points were addressed during the AGM. Rosie also raised the issue of meets being held outside Auckland, noting that club members are facing increasing travel costs to Auckland and that, at times, it is cheaper to travel to Dunedin.

Rosie also asked about communication of New Zealand Masters Committee decisions and feedback to members. It was noted that recent survey responses are being compiled and will be available later this year.

CLOSING BY CHAIR

Russell closed by thanking everyone for their participation, the committee for their reports, and all those who have contributed to the work of New Zealand Masters Swimming throughout the year.

The AGM concluded at 5:09 pm.