



**DOWN SYNDROME INTERNATIONAL SWIMMING
ORGANISATION**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Sardinia September 15th 2019



Dear Friends,



This has been another busy year for me. For the first time there has been a Regional Competition for the Americas held in Morelia in Mexico. Many of you will remember the event in Morelia for different reasons. Starting with an Opening Ceremony and gifts for every team individually, then the cold water, but taken as a whole a great competition. I mention this because the swimming event in the Americas Championships was held at the same swimming pool as the DSISO 2014 World Championships.



Sadly, the pool is not as it was. The boom has gone and the pool is now organised as a 25m pool with lanes from side to side – there are now lots of lanes of course!

It was great to welcome some new teams at this event from Kuwait and Columbia. Two more teams for our World Championships next year in Turkey. Results from this event can be found on www.SU-DS.org.

SARDINIA



This is proving to be another successful European Open for DSISO. Once again, the Italian Federation, Fisdire, their President Marco Borzacchini and Progetto2000Olbia with the organising skills of Dario, Antonella and all his staff will give us another memorable competition.

There are 17 Countries coming and we welcome USA and Argentina to join us in Europe to make it truly a European Open. Almost 100 swimmers will make for a really competitive event to look forward to.

INDIVIDUAL ENTRIES

Since the Swimming Assembly in Truro DSISO has found it necessary to revise the Rules regarding Individual Entries. After Sardinia, Individual Entries will only be accepted with the expressed permission of the member country organisation.



This only affects Individual Entries from Countries where we have a Member Organisation. There are some swimmers who currently do not have a Member Organisation. Such swimmers should not be concerned by this rule, since it will not affect them. However, DSISO is working actively to identify an Organisation, within all countries where we have swimmers, that can co-ordinate teams for all events.

FUTURE PROGRAMME

2020 Trisome Games

Everything is progressing really well for Antalya. The first Form A is now out and you should all have seen this. If you have not then it can be downloaded from our website (www.DSISO.org) Please be sure to let the organisers TOSSFED have your Form back so that they can begin to estimate the need for accommodation etc.



Note that a Capitation Tax of €25 is payable in addition to the costs in Form A: This payable for each Sport for Athletes and all Team Staff (It is not payable for supporters or parents etc.). Please keep this in mind because it was missing from Form A.

Therefore, if an athlete is entered for two sports, e.g. Swimming and Table Tennis the Capitation is due for each Sport.

This is because the Capitation goes to the Sports Federations to support them. Finally, the Form A just asks for numbers of swimmers – be assured this includes Synchro swimmers.

2021 European Multisport event

ANDDI-Portugal will organize the 1st Open European SUDS Tri-Games in Mealhada region, Aveiro district 100km south Oporto and 20km from Coimbra. This will be another multi-sport event following the first such event in 2019 for the Americas Region held in Morelia.

For 2021 in Portugal there will be 8 sports and this will include the DSISO Short Course Open European Championships.

2022 World Championships

We have two intentions for this event. From Portugal and from Denmark. The Executive Committee will be reviewing the two bids and making a decision whilst we are in Sardinia. Once the decision is made you will be informed.

GOOD-BYE

Some of you will now know that whilst in Sardinia I am resigning my position as President of DSISO. I'm sure you can image how difficult it has been to write, what this will be, my final report as DSISO President.

My involvement with DSISO started shortly after the 2000 Paralympic Games in Sydney. I was invited to join an ad-hoc committee, created by Ron Phillips and John Hudson, which starting by organising a small 'World Championships' in 2002 in the UK. Ron and John have



now died but I'm sure they will look down with pleasure and pride on the great organisation they were responsible for creating. This same small committee joined forces with Barbara Higgins and Lizzie Vogel to organise the second World Championships in Durban in 2004. From these humble beginnings we have moved on to holding DSISO World Championships every two years, moving round the world as we did so. Although still at its early stages Synchronised swimming joined our programme some years ago.

In Durban we held our first Swimming Assembly and from this in 2004 I was appointed as the CEO for DSISO – a role I continued with for the next 10 years until 2014 when I became President. Whatever my role I have thoroughly enjoyed my time with DSISO, its dedicated Executive Committee and its family of wonderful swimmers, coaches and team staff.

The last 5 years have been full of ups-and-downs for all of us. However, in spite of the difficulties DSISO has risen above everything and, if anything, has become stronger through adversity.

But, now it's time for me to leave DSISO and focus on my role of President of the Sports Union for athletes with Down Syndrome, known to you all as SUDS. At the first SUDS Sports Assembly in Antalya, Turkey; during the 2nd Trisome Games in 2020, it is my hope to be elected to continue as the President of SUDS. Of course, this means that, whilst in this role, I will still have a connection with DSISO, and, if successful, I hope to be invited to some future DSISO competitions in my role as SUDS President.

Until the next DSISO Swimming Assembly in Antalya in 2020, Arly Heide Peterson has been invited by the Executive Committee to take the provisional role of President. You will all know Arly as the current Medical Officer for DSISO. By resigning now there will be an opportunity for me to give whatever support Arly asks for over the next six months, and ensure continuity in the leadership of DSISO.

Nominations for the President's position will be invited for the 2020 Swimming Assembly and a new President will be elected there to stand for the following 4 years.

Who-ever this is, I know he or she will have the support of an exceptional Executive Committee. Their support to me has been truly professional and also in the spirit of real friendship. I will miss them all considerably.

I urge you all to give the Executive Committee, Arly and then the new President your full support. With your support, DSISO will continue to give your swimmers a full programme of both World and Regional Championships for the foreseeable future. I urge you all to bear in mind that everyone involved with the DSISO Executive is a volunteer and does the job for the love of swimming and in particular swimming for Down syndrome swimmers. Yet, without their enthusiastic commitment there would be no DSISO and no Down syndrome exclusive competitions for your swimmers.



We are growing across the world and I am confident that DSISO will continue to attract more countries and more swimmers as it moves to the future.

Eventually, I believe that the International Paralympic Committee will be unable to continue to discriminate against swimmers with Down syndrome and our wonderful swimmers will take their rightful place in the Paralympic Games. My roles with DSISO and as the President of SUDS has always had this belief uppermost in my thoughts and actions

Sincere best wishes for the future and thank you for your support and friendship over the past years.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Geoff Smedley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Geoff Smedley

DSISO President 2014 - 2019