

## **CARIFTA SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS Extraordinary General Meeting Minutes**

Date: Friday 3 July 2009

Location: Villa Bolivariana, Barquisimeto, Venezuela (during CCCAN)

Agenda:

1. Opening remarks
2. CCCAN 2009
3. Matters arising from CARIFTA Congress 2009
4. CCCAN Elections in 2010
5. FINA Clinics
6. FINA World Championships

Meeting started: 1:30 p.m.

Present:

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| 1. Aruba             | Nicole Hoevertsz, Ronald van den Berg, Mayens Tropm    |
| 2. Bahamas           | Mancel Roberts, Michael Stewart, John Bradley          |
| 3. Barbados          | Sonia O'Neil   |
| 4. Jamaica           | John Eyre  |
| 5. St. Lucia         | Joyce Huxley   |
| 6. Trinidad & Tobago | Roger Rodriguez , Hayden Newallo                       |
| 7. US Virgin Islands | Jodie Lawaetz-Mays, Kevin Tyrell, Cynthia Torres Sanes |

### 1. Opening Remarks:

John Eyre welcomed the delegates in attendance and expressed the opinion that it was important for the Federations participating in the CARIFTA Games to meet more frequently, and not just at CARIFTA.

### 2. CCCAN 2009:

Several issues were raised concerning the organization of the CCCAN Championships. Sonia O'Neil voiced concerns about the use of officials, as the balance of duties always in favour of Spanish-speaking officials. Nicole Hoevertsz commented on her disappointment that a FINA qualified referee sent from Aruba to officiate was being used to make English language announcements only, and so was not gaining the experience needed as a referee at higher-level competitions.

Nicole Hoevertsz expressed concern that so many CARIFTA countries were not in attendance at CCCAN, although it was pointed out that those CARIFTA countries present were performing very well. It was recognized that the

change of venue and difficulty and cost of getting to Barquisimeto had a negative impact, coupled with concerns about security in the host country.

Sonia O'Neil expressed her wish to see the English-speaking Caribbean nations have more input at CCCAN.

John Eyre announced that Jamaica may soon have two operational 50m pools at which time that Federation would be able to host CCCAN events.

3. Matters arising from CARIFTA Congress 2009:

(i) Proposed Constitution and Bye-Laws

A constitution was proposed at the last CARIFTA Congress as currently the host country for CARIFTA works solely with input from the previous host Federation. A draft constitution has been prepared by Hayden Newallo and was circulated amongst those present. A CARIFTA competition guidelines document was prepared by the Bahamas Federation in 2003 and updated in 2006, but this document now needs to be updated again.

It was noted that all the CARIFTA Federations are members of CCCAN and as such should operate under CCCAN rule and regulations. The CCCAN Constitution requires that CCCAN must approve all competitions between member Federations, but in practice this has never been formally addressed and no permission has been sought from CCCAN to stage CARIFTA. In addition to getting approval for a Caribbean Championship, the host country should also pay for a CCCAN official to attend – again, this has never been addressed.

Sonia O'Neil noted that CARIFTA has always been run in accord with FINA rules, and others commented on the need to comply with FINA, CCCAN and UANA guidelines and rules.

As agreed at Congress 2009, Barbados, Aruba and Bahamas will review the guidelines but have not yet had time to update them – Sonia O'Neil agreed to update the guidelines with reference to minutes of 2007, 2008 and 2009 Congress, and circulate to these Federations for further input.

It was noted that in the past, Federations have left host countries of CARIFTA, CISC or CCCAN with large out-standing debts. It was agreed that it is important that the CARIFTA Constitution and Bye-Laws should include sanctions to deal with such cases, similar to what has been reviewed and agreed by CCCAN members at the recent CCCAN Congress.

(ii) CARIFTA Constitution

Nicole Hoevertsz commented that the CARIFTA host country needs a body to refer issues to, so that the host country is not faced with having to make decisions about issues that may impact on many of the competition

participants. She referred to the citizenship issues that surfaced during the lead-in to CARIFTA 2009, and that caused considerable stress to the O.C.

John Eyre proposed that a committee be formed that was not too formal, but should be composed of 3 or 5 members, including the last Federation to host CARIFTA and the upcoming host plus 1 or 3 additional members. It was further suggested that one member should represent the smaller Federations that are unable to host CARIFTA, and one member should be the English speaking VP of CCCAN.

Following some further discussion, it was unanimously agreed that the CARIFTA Executive Committee be comprised of the following members for the interim period:

Aruba	Nicole Immediate past host of CARIFTA (2009)
Jamaica	Host of upcoming CARIFTA (2010)
CCCAN	English-speaking VP of CCCAN, currently Errol Clarke
St. Lucia	Small Island Federation
Trinidad	

#### 4. CCCAN Elections in 2010

It was noted that the Caribbean countries hold the balance of votes and could greatly influence the outcome of the elections if a concerted effort was made to plan and support appropriate candidates for posts of President, English-speaking Vice-President, Secretary General, and members of the CCCAN Technical Committee.

It is expected that Orban Mendoza will stand down and not seek re-election as President of CCCAN, as he has been proposed as a Bureau Member of FINA. It was suggested that Mr. Mendoza was preparing someone as his successor. John Eyre indicated that if his present workload remains unchanged in 2010 he would not consider running for the Presidency. This could change in a few months. He noted that it was important that any candidate proposed by the CARIFTA Member Federations be one willing to represent the needs of ALL CCCAN members, not just those of the CARIFTA members.

Sonia O'Neil suggested that in order to have CARIFTA Federation support, any Presidential candidate should be able to show how he/she can help with the growth of swimming in the region, assisting in the development of coaches, officials, leaders – currently all that the existing committee does is to organize the CCCAN Championships every two years.

It was recommended that all Federations discuss the upcoming elections and consider who each would support in the CCCAN 2010 elections and the what should be included in the 2010-2014 CCCAN Plan. All Federations will attend CARIFTA 2010, and should suggest potential candidates prior to CARIFTA.

John Eyre advised that he would, during CARIFTA 2010, organize a meeting to discuss:

1. Potential candidates (not limited to CARIFTA member Federations);
2. Issues, plans, proposals that Federations believe should be included in a candidates plan and manifesto;
3. Decide which of these the CARIFTA Federations should support.

It was suggested that CARIFTA Federations should carefully consider the above items *before* CARIFTA 2010 so that the delegates attending the meeting will represent the views of the Federation and not only that of the delegate.

It was agreed that any proposed candidate should not just be pro-English speaking Federations, but also have recognizable authority and be an acceptable, creditable candidate for the Spanish-speaking nations as well.

Noted that the minutes of the current meeting should be distributed as soon as possible so as to appraise Federations of the upcoming elections and the need to give careful consideration to potential candidates.

#### 5. FINA Clinics 2009

During the CARIFTA meeting held in Jamaica during CISC 2008, it was announced that Federations should no longer apply direct to FINA for funding to host development Clinics, but instead to apply to UANA. UANA would in turn submit an application for the member Federations to FINA for approval. Several island Federations had applied to host a clinic in 2009, including Jamaica, Barbados and St. Lucia, but the applications were not processed or approved. St. Lucia finally received approval in April, eight months after applying, and only after regular follow-up with both FINA and UANA, but Barbados and Jamaica have yet to receive any response.

It was generally agreed that the previous system of each Federation applying direct to FINA was more efficient.

It was agreed that communication from UANA was not effective, and John Eyre advised that he would send an updated list of contact information for CARIFTA Federations to UANA President, Eldon Godfrey.

#### 6. FINA World Championships, Rome

It was confirmed that all of the Federations present at the meeting were sending teams to the FINA World Championships in Roma.

Meeting closed 3:00 p.m.