

A History of BSM 1976 to 1996

The Club came into being when a small group of Masters swimmers formed a Club at Hibiscus Pool, fairly soon after the formation of AUSSI in Queensland in 1976. This Club was the second Club to be formed in Queensland.

Original members were Coral and Russell Bond, who formed a Club at Hibiscus to cater for swimmers from the Southside who didn't wish to travel across the city to Everton Park. Early names in the Hibiscus Club included May Hilton, Pat Liddle, Pat Watson, Rita Knight, Ross Tilley and Brian Brymer. Others early members were Ken Boardman, Barry Guthrie, Thor Eriksen and John Beresford.

In 1979 the Club moved to Tri-Sports Complex. At the Annual General Meeting that year G. Neale was appointed president, R. Tilley vice-president, R. Rose secretary/treasurer, B. Guthrie registrar. Karen Ryan, another early member, was appointed as secretary in 1980.

Tri-Sports (former name of BSM) Club entered a inter-club swim meet hosted by Gold Coast on the 26 November, 1981. Entry fee was \$1.00. Ken Boardman was among the record breakers with 31.25 for 50m freestyle and 1:14.20 for 100m freestyle. It was about this time that the Club acquired two stopwatches, our first purchase!

August 1981 saw Barry Guthrie as president, Ross Tilley as vice-president, Ray Rose as secretary/treasurer (it was noted then that it was difficult to find replacements for secretaries!!), Barry Guthrie registrar, Ken Boardman coach and Ron Nagel publicity officer. The Club's first swim meet was held on the 21 November 1981 and the Club has continued to run a swim meet in November each year since. 45 swimmers attended the first meet and paid \$2,00 to nominate. It is believed that this was one of the first competitions conducted at the then recently opened Sleeman Aquatic Centre. Top point winners in age groups were Ken Boardman, Ron Richards, Barry Guthrie, Thor Eriksen, Eryl Rees, Brian Shapiand, Michael Rollason. Ron Richards, now living in New Zealand, returned to Brisbane to swim in the 1994 World Masters Games.

Membership grew and swimming at the Tri-Sports Complex was described as "impossible". In February 1982 the Club hired lanes at Chandler after a meeting attended by, amongst others, R. Tilley, T. Buckberry, K. Marion and J. Beresford. The treasurer's report showed the Club had a bank balance of just \$8.14.

In June 1982 a meeting of twenty members decided to change the name of the Club to Brisbane Southside Masters. One member, Ralph Walker donated \$100 for advertising, Ron Nagel donated \$25 and the Club's funds rose to \$138.10. Membership had also risen to 50. Max Gillespie attended this early meeting as a relatively new member. Max's contribution to Masters swimming in Queensland has been honoured with Life Membership of his Club and life Membership of the Queensland Branch. One of the State Titles Trophies has also been named the Max Gillespie Trophy. Max and his wife Rosita have continued to assist at both Club and Branch activities throughout the years.

The State Titles in 1982 were held at Chandler and the Southside Club came fifth in their home pool. Other early members who contributed in the Club were Hilda Daniels, Eva Kiss, Ailsa James, Ineke Grant. The Club entered the Gold Coast meet and gained second overall points behind Gold Coast and ahead of Northside.

In 1982 the Club started a tradition of travelling down to Tamworth swim meet. This yearly pilgrimage which has even become an addiction for some, continued for many years. Southsiders have been to every Tamworth meet since 1982.

By the end of 1982 the Club was spreading wings with 68 members and started looking around for an emblem. This emblem, with the art work arranged by Paul Atkinson, endures to present day. The annual fees in 1982 were \$14.00. The entry fee for the 1982 November swim meet had risen to \$3.00, inflation had hit swim meets. Gold Coast was successful that year and won top aggregate points. Southside has not been beaten by any Club at Southside's swim meet since that one time. New names to emerge as winners were David Wilson and Debbie Guthrie. Jim Thomas was appointed president.

Regular newsletters were produced in 1982 with Max Gillespie as scribe. These newsletters have been produced monthly since then. Other Club members around this time were Jack Hick, Edna McKenzie, Anneliese Gildner, Manual Panaretos, James Walker, Irene Nogaski, David Haley, Mal Ferguson, Alan Robinson and Gary Henry. Ruby Tilley.

In November 1984 the club became one of the first to use computers for recording at a swim meet, possibly the first at other than the state titles (Rockhampton earlier that year). On this occasion a parallel paper based system was used with only one discrepancy being an error in the paper based sorting. The software was purpose written by David Haley and at that time ran on IBM compatible machines running CPM-86. The software was ported to MS DOS and subsequently sold to other clubs, remaining in use until superseded by National software.

Over the ensuing years the Club has maintained a good momentum with membership ranging as high as 130, depending on what major events were occurring. We have had, and still have, some outstanding swimmers and it is difficult to mention names because of the variety of events and age groups. Jen Thomasson and Gary Henry have had World ranking times in open competition and others have done well in aerobic distance events conducted on a world basis.

If pressed to mention consistency and effort, we would probably be safe to mention Harry Redpath because of his significant achievements in Aerobic and other long distance swims including the 10,000m events. Harry probably swum the equivalent of around the world in total distance over the years. The club's annual award for the swimmer achieving the most points in aerobic swims is named in his memory.