

2003 NEM 25-METER CHAMPIONSHIP AT PORTSMOUTH CITY POOL AND WHEATON COLLEGE

The 2003 New England Masters 25-Meter Championship will be held over the course of two weekends. The 1500 free will be swum at the Portsmouth City Pool on Saturday December 6. Individual events 400 meters and shorter, along with all the relays, will be swum at Wheaton College, Norton MA, on December 13-14.

The Balfour Natatorium at Wheaton College is an 8-lane pool with electronic timing and display, and additional swimming area for continuous warm-up and warm-down. It is a great facility: deep, fast water along with plenty of space for all our swimmers. The NEM 25-Meter championship meets held at Wheaton in 2001 and 2002 saw numerous New England, USMS national, and FINA world records.

The NEM 25-Meter Championship is one of the largest, if not THE largest, 25-meter masters meets held in the United States each year. It is also one of the finest run masters meets in the country. The Seacoast Swimming Association meet management team of John Barbary and Harold Whitney will provide their top-notch meet management for the third consecutive year.

As always the spirited competition between NEM workout groups will be the highlight of the meet. Great Bay Masters will attempt to win their fifth consecutive NEM 25-Meter Championship banner. Minuteman Masters, Cambridge Masters, Andover YMCA, Granite State Penguins, SWIM RI, and possibly MIT are expected to challenge for top honors this year. In addition, championship banners will be awarded in a new team category: the top three non-NEM USMS clubs will receive award banners.

WHAT'S NEW THIS YEAR?

- ***1500 FREE***

The 1500 free will be held at the Portsmouth City Pool, on Saturday December 6, 2:00 warm-up, 2:45 start. Heats will be seeded from fast to slow, alternating heats of men and women. The meet must conclude by 10:00 p.m., even if all heats have not been swum. The fee for individual events 400 meters and shorter is \$3 per event, and the fee for the 1500 free is \$15. The higher fee for the 1500 is necessary to cover the costs for hosting the event. Since the 1500 free is so much more time consuming than the shorter events, a higher fee is required to cover the pool rental, official's fees, meet management fees, equipment rental, etc. Even at \$15 for the 1500 free, NEM will likely lose money on the this event.

- ***SEED TIMES***

Swimmers are expected to seed themselves with their fastest time, or converted time, from the past 18 months. The meet director reserves the right to change seed times per the above requirement. Historically it has been common practice for masters swimmers to sandbag their seed times. That means swimmers frequently enter a seed time that is slower than the time they think they can achieve in a race. For most people there is a psychological advantage to racing to win their heat, and some people wish to take advantage of this by entering an artificially slow seed time. On the flip side there are those who want to have a tough race, and enter an artificially fast seed time. These people want to chase after faster swimmers. Entering seed times to gain competitive advantage is unethical. The ethical practice is to enter the fastest time, or converted time, that you have swum in a meet during the past 18 months. If you have not swum the event in a race during the past 18 months, try to get to a meet so you can establish a real seed time. Otherwise, have your coach or a friend time you with a stop watch during practice.

- ***NO REFUND POLICY***

There will be no entry fee refunds under any conditions, including meet cancellation, entry rejection, splashes lost due to expired pool time, or for any other reason.

- ***NON-NEM USMS TEAM AWARDS FOR TOP THREE PLACES***

The top three USMS clubs, excluding New England Masters, will receive award banners. This continues the practice established at the 25-Yard NEM Championship in 2003.

- ***POSITIVE CHECK-IN REQUIREMENT***

All events will be deck seeded from entry form times. Swimmers must confirm their entries by 2:30 p.m. on December 6th for the 1500. Swimmers must confirm their entries by 8:30 a.m. on December 13 and 14. Swimmers who do not check in by those times will be scratched from all their events for that day. If you arrive late, check-in immediately and you will be re-entered in events that have not yet been seeded and posted. *IN PERSON CHECK-IN REQUIRED; COACHES MAY CHECK A SWIMMER IN ONLY IF THEY HAVE CONFIRMED THAT THE SWIMMER WILL ARRIVE IN TIME FOR THEIR RACE. "NO SWIMS" WILL BE TRACKED.*

MEET WEBSITE:

Complete meet information is posted on the NEM SCM Championship web site:
<http://www.greatbaymasters.org/03scmchamp.html>