

The Frank Clark Memorial Meet - March 3, 2012

"Beyond my wildest dreams", is what Andrew Richelson, meet director, said of the number of swimmers who registered for and came to swim in the Frank Clark Memorial meet. "I expected perhaps some 150 swimmers", and the total number registered for this meet was 350! Traditionally, when the meet was held in the Gimsley Highschool pool, the number of participants would be 75.



Of course, a big factor in all this is the fact that this meet was held in the new Greensboro Aquatic Center, where in April the USMS national championships will be held.



Triad Masters is a small swim team, and they did an admirable job of handling all of the challenges that come with putting on a meet of this magnitude. Sure, there were some hiccups as is to be expected in a situation like this, but certainly everyone seemed to be having a good time and the officials and volunteers worked very hard at keeping things run as smoothly as possible.

The lane lines were too slack and the scoreboard was not cooperating, but those things will certainly be taken care of for "nationals". The water temperature was perfect for racing, and there were some very fast swims.

There is something to be said for the one-day meet format: it is nice to be in-and-out within a day. People who live relatively close to the venue can easily make it there and back in that time frame. Those of us who live further away only have to spend one night in a hotel versus two. The fact that this is by far the largest NC Masters meet we've had, seems to support this. And: swimmers can still swim any event they want to, except for the 1650, certainly if they register on time.

One pretty significant hiccup: when we signed in on the day of the meet there was a signup sheet for the 200 choice event. We were asked to declare which stroke (back, fly, or breast) we intended to swim, so as much as possible swimmers with the same stroke could swim in the same heat.

According to USMS rules only events defined with specifically allowed strokes can produce valid results. There is no 200 choice event. Therefore, the results of the stroke events were not uploaded into the USMS database, but they can be viewed by going to the results section of the NC LMSC web site. Those results do not show the specific strokes.

A similar situation has occurred many times at different swim meets. You can find discussions about this on the USMS discussion forum.



Smiling faces by: Hill Carrow (left) - meet director for USMS Nationals and Jon Klein (right) our "relay master" who spends copious amounts of time putting together as many relays as possible for "Nats"