

Summary of the Parents Meeting on 22 September 2011

- Name of club. **SHAPE Seals International Swim Team.**
- Names of members present: see attached list.
- Minutes of the last meeting were not available nor were discussed.

- Officer reports.

President (John Van der Laan) -

Introduction. The President of the SHAPE SIST, John Van der Laan welcomed everyone to the meeting, and introduced key board members, coaches and committee Chair positions. John stated that we have dedicated coaches and a motivated board! We need focused swimmers and excited parents! These four key elements will ensure a successful swim season!

- After the Introduction, John gave a overview of the SHAPE Seals organization, the European Forces Swim League, our team schedule, with specific attention to the Lignano long distance swim competition, divisional champs, and European Champs.

* Lignano - 12-13 Nov in Lignano, Italy, Team members fly into Venice, and estimated costs are about 35 Euro a day. Events include the 400IM, 800 FREE, 1600 FREE, swimming takes place in a 50 meter Olympic Swimming pool. Swimmers must have a qualifying time from the current season. Long distance practices are Friday night at 7 pm with Coach Bob.

* Divisional Champs - 29 Jan in Brussels. This is a mandatory swim meet for all SHAPE Seals, and the coaches will select the events swimmer participate in. The coaches use a particular strategy to maximize our swimmer's potential for placing in the event.

* European Championships - 18-19 Feb in Eindhoven. Swimmers will qualify based on USA Swimming BB Standard, however, there are other consideration factors. 1) must participate in a minimum of 4 swim meets and 2) must practice regularly with the team. The process of "Pulling up" was explained. "Pulling up" means swimmers may possibly attend champs even if they did not "qualify" in their age group. Every lane will be filled at Champs. More explanation on this later in the season.

* Questions or Concerns - John stressed that the Board handles everything that is "DRY" (out of the water), and the Swim Coaches handle everything that is "WET" (in the water).

Vice President (Dave Westrick) -

- Noted that there was a large turnover of parents this past summer, and it is important we fulfill our obligation to provide enough number of Officials, So please consider signing up to be a Stroke and Turn Judge. Without enough officials/volunteers we will not be able to "legally" operate a swim meet.

* Stroke and Turn Clinic - normally held in Brussels, but with enough participation, maybe we can get one at SHAPE. More to come on this.

* Timer Clinic - you only need be 12 years old and older to be a timer. The 30-45 minute class can be conducted anytime at a practice or the Friday night before a home meet.

Head Swimming Coach (Asa Widen) -

-Coach Asa stressed a few important points about swim practice. First, children must be on time for practice, if they are late, they may not be allowed into the pool. Healthy food - ensure your child eats an appropriate meal or snack prior to coming to practice. Children do not perform their best when they are hungry. Misbehavior will not be tolerated. Swimmers will be given one warning, and then they will be asked to exit the pool. Please speak to your child about appropriate behavior while swimming. Spitting water, splashing and playing around during a swim rest period is not considered good behavior.

• Committee reports.

Membership Coordinator (Pam DiNunzio) - Pam is responsible for the ensuring swimmers are properly registered, medical powers of attorney are on hand, and other administrative paperwork. One document that Pam noted is extremely important is the behavior document. This must be signed by both the swimmer and the parent ... as noted above by Coach Asa in her report. Swimmers will be disciplined for inappropriate behavior.

Boutique Coordinator (Heather Seibert) - Heather informed us of the variety of goods she sells in the boutique. She explained that there is a locker outside the changing stalls at the pool, where people can sign up to order a swim bag (Please PRINT name very clearly) as well as a warm up suit. She will look into purchasing more winter caps. We also need someone to work with Heather this season because she is leaving in February, and we will need a replacement for the Boutique Coordinator at that time. Bags will be ordered next Friday 30 Sep, and a date will be announced for when the warm up suits will be ordered.

School Liaison Officer (Kristin Larsen) - High school swimmers who participate and meet additional swim requirements are eligible for a Varsity letter in the sport of swimming.

• OTHER general business

Concessions - We are in desperate need of a Coordinator for the concessions! SHAPE Seals concessions are "famous" within the European Forces Swim League for providing a variety of International dishes at our home swim meets. This is also a super opportunity for you to gain volunteer hours by contributing pasta salads, desserts or other home made goodies to our concession stand. This is also a large Money maker for our team! Profits from the concessions help off set the costs for ribbons, trophies, life guards, and other costs associated with operating the Swim team.

Note: Preparing a food dish for our concession stand counts for 2 volunteer hours, while purchasing a food (chips, fruit etc..) will count as 1 volunteer hour.

Open Volunteer Positions - There are lots of opportunities for volunteering, so please speak with Gail ??? (need name) if interested in a particular position.

Payment - please pay your fees to the Banca Monte Paschi Belgio Account. ACCT: 643-0048328-02,

IBAN: BE32 6430 0483 2802, BIC Code: BMPBBEBB The Fortis account is no longer active. Include your child's first and last name with your payment. at the end of the season, if you have fulfilled the 40 hours of volunteer work, your deposit will be returned.

Signing up for **Away Meets** - There are always opportunities to fulfill volunteer hours at away meets. We are normally expected to provide a fraction of the officials; based on the number of teams participating. Please let the volunteer coordinator know you are available to work an away meet.

BUS transportation for away meets - unfortunately we could not get a bus for the meet next week in Lakenheath, but a bus will be provided at no cost for the following swim meets: Gielenkirchen (15 Oct), Wiesbaden (27 Nov), Ramstein (3 Dec); Weisbaden (8 Jan - Sunday) and for both Divisionals (29 Jan) and Champs (18-19 Feb).

Note on CHAMPS - this is the first weekend of the mid-winter school break. Please consider Eindhoven as a possible vacation spot!

- Time and place of next meeting. Any future parent meetings will be announced via email. The SHAPE Seals board members will continue to meet as required.