There is a time to go

By Hans Van Meeteren

Since the previous Across the Lanes newsletter, I have resigned from the Board of the LMSC for North Carolina. In doing so I am no longer the recorder of Top 10 and records. I have performed my duties with great pleasure, but there is an end to everything in life.

During my tenure there have been ups and downs, and significant changes to the Top 10 and records process. Let me start with the changes.

When I started as TTR for North Carolina meet directors would send meet results to a USMS volunteer who then had to download all the meet results for all meets for that week into the USMS results database. This was a horrendous task and allowed not much time for verifying meet results. Recognizing that in the end the LMSCs are responsible for correct meet results to be published in the USMS results database, the Top 10 recorders became responsible for downloading the meet results. The other significant change was that web tools became available for creating the Top Ten files for an LMSC directly from the results in the USMS database. Before that LMSCs used a variety of "home grown" tools that were not always easy to use. This resulted in many errors that had to be corrected at the national level. IT persons at the USMS National Office did an excellent job creating all the web tools for downloading meet results and creation of Top 10 files, allowing TTRs to focus on getting results right in the first place.

This brings me to the downs. Every year there have been one or two meets where for various reasons meet results were not valid for National records and Top 10. Some progress has been made to prevent this from happening. Hopefully, the LMSC will take on the responsibility to eliminate this problem altogether.

The upside of my involvement in records and Top 10 has been the contact with the swimmers related to NC record keeping. Many swimmers have contacted me about their record swims and also provided me with corrections and sometimes information related to older record swims that cannot easily be found in archives.

To all of you that I have been working with: *See you in the pool!*