
MEDIA RELEASE

October 18, 2002

SUTTON AND VOLKERS TO LEAD OLYMPIC CHARGE

Brian Sutton and **Scott Volk**ers were today named as Australia's new Head Coaches to guide the Australian Swimming Team to the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens.

The Australian Swimming Inc. board today endorsed the recommendations made by a five-member panel, chaired by Australian Swimming Vice President Lynne Bates after extensive interviews with seven high quality applicants were completed last week.

Sutton, 40, the head coach of the Sydney University Club, who was the Australian team's head men's coach at this year's FINA World Short Course Championships in Moscow has been appointed Head Men's Coach.

Volkers, 43, who is regarded as one of the world's finest swimming coaches and is currently the Head Swimming Coach with the Queensland Academy of Sport is the new Head Women's Coach.

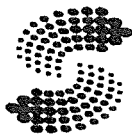
In making the announcement, ASI president John Devitt AM said: "Our congratulations to both Brian and Scott on their appointments to help prepare the Telstra Dolphins for next year's World Championships in Barcelona 2003 and ultimately the Australian Swimming Team for the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens.

"We are confident that these two coaches will provide Australian Swimming with the leadership and inspiration for what is the most prestigious campaigns in swimming – the FINA World Championships and the Olympic Games.

"Apart from their impressive records which includes coaching athletes on to Olympic teams since 1984, they both have a desire to coach at the absolute highest levels.

"What has impressed us most is their passion and their readiness to accept the challenge for the Olympic Games.

"The standard of coaches who applied for these positions was very high and it shows just what a healthy state our sport is in when you have seven applicants for the two positions."



AUSTRALIAN
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Dolphins

The appointment of both Sutton and Volkens drew immediate support from Australian Olympic Committee President John Coates.

Mr. Coates said: "With their records on the pool deck the AOC is happy to have both Scott and Brian on board for the Athens Olympic Games."

Sutton, an Olympic team coach in 1996 and 2000, who has one of Australia's highest profile squads, which includes Michael Klim, Brett Hawke and Elka Graham said he was excited by the challenge Australian Swimming has presented him.

"I am motivated and passionate towards the ultimate success of Australian Swimming and there is no doubt we are entering into an exciting era," Sutton said.

"I am very appreciative to be given the opportunity to make a contribution to our future successes and I'm looking forward to the challenges ahead."

Volkens was ecstatic with the news, saying: "Coaching is my life and coaching at the highest level is what I have strived for since I first began my coaching career.

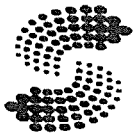
"Preparing your country's swimmers for the Olympic Games is the most challenging of any coaching appointment and I am absolutely thrilled and cannot wait to start work.

"Coaching is my passion and believe you me I will be doing everything in my power to prepare these athletes to the best of my ability."

Susie O'Neill has given her stamp of approval on her former coach's appointment saying: "I think he is definitely the best person for the job. He did a wonderful job with me when I was swimming, and I think he could use that knowledge with other swimmers as well.

"He is very open minded as a coach, and willing to take advice off other people and spread knowledge with other coaches. He is very forward thinking and makes people believe they can be the best in the world.

"He is also a very good with regards to technique and skills. And that is one of the major areas he improved my swimming. I think women's swimming in Australia can only improve with his input."



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Here is a brief look at the coaching careers of Brian Sutton and Scott Volkens. There full profiles are attached.

BRIAN SUTTON

Brian Sutton has been one of Australia's most respected swimming coaches for the past 20 years after a 13-year career as a State and National level swimmer. For the past five years he has been the head coach at Sydney University – a Centre of Excellence under the NSW Institute of Sport structure and jointly funded by the Sydney Uni Sports Union and the NSWIS.

Since 1998 he has coached among others Olympic gold medallist (4x100m freestyle) Chris Fydlar and his 2000 Olympic team mates **Brett Hawke** and **Phil Rogers**. Currently in Brian's squad at Sydney Uni are: **Michael Klim, Scott Miller, Brett Hawke, Nathan Rickard, David Jenkins, Phil Rogers, Elka Graham, Lori Munz and Clementine Stoney** – six of them Olympians.

Brian has also been the National Event Camp Sprint coach for the last two years and was Head Men's coach for the FINA World Short Course Championships in Moscow in April 2002 – where Australian men won nine gold medals.

He was a dual Olympic Games coach on the Australian team at both the 1996 and 2000 Games, as well as a coach on the 1991, '93, '95 and '99 Pan Pacific Championships teams.

SCOTT VOLKERS

Scott is highly regarded as one of Australia's and the world's finest swimming coaches, who was elevated to the status of Master Coach by his peers at the Australian Swimming Coaches and Teachers Association in 2001 – joining the likes of Forbes Carlile, Terry Buck, Joe King, Laurie Lawrence and John Carew.

He took over the reins of Susie O'Neill after the 1994 Commonwealth Games and World Championships and coached "Madam Butterfly" to Olympic gold in the 200m butterfly in 1996 and the 200m freestyle in 2000 and that elusive world record in the 200m butterfly at the Olympic Trials in 2000.

Scott also steered Sam Riley to two world championships and the world record in the 100m breaststroke He has been an Australian Olympic coach in 1992, 1996 and 2000 and was appointed head coach of the QAS Swimming Squad in 2001.

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