

Minutes of the 95th Annual General Meeting of the Association held in the Town Hall, Ayr on Saturday 27th February 1993

CHAIRMAN

Mrs Jill Cochran - President

The President invited Provost Gibson McDonald to open the Annual General Meeting. Mr McDonald welcomed delegates to Ayr and hoped they would have a worthwhile meeting.

He went on to comment that Associations such as the SASA were needed, especially when the attendance of swimming baths throughout Scotland had declined, the numbers of children in particular declining. He hoped that the Association would encourage more youngsters to take up the sport.

1. PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

The President welcomed all in attendance. She noted that looking over the past year she had a lot of sympathy with the Queen!

The past year had been a difficult one for everyone in the Association, but in one respect the SASA had been very fortunate in that the Sports Council had agreed to accept the Association in the Development Initiative Programme. She informed members that Mr Alistair Gray, consultant appointed by the Sports Council, would explain this matter further later in the meeting.

The President said that she had enjoyed her year of office and her associated travels representing the Association. However, she made the comment that she was concerned by the negative attitude of some members and went on to say that a lot of people were working extremely hard for the Association who get little appreciation.

The President concluded her address by thanking particular individuals of the Association for their work and assistance throughout 1992/93 and in particular, thanked her husband for his support during her Presidency.

2. ATTENDANCE

20	Northern
27	Midland
42	Eastern
65	Western
3	Scottish Schools Swimming Association
1	Scottish Universities
17	Life Members
175	Total Delegates

3. APOLOGIES

Life Members

Eric Amos
Mary Black
Douglas Cape
David Dinnie
Cdr Gerald Forsberg
Don Hawthorn
Bill Law
Ian Martin
Norman Sarsfield MC MBE
Edith Thomson
Austin Rawlinson MBE

Clubs

Gala ASC	Noel Dashwood-Brady
Kinross Otters	Brian Littlejohn
Upper Deeside	Gary Elder
Clydebank Ladies ASC	Alison Sheppard

4. MINUTES

Delegates were informed of amendments to the 1992 minutes. These amendments and the 1992 minutes as a whole were adopted by Mr Jack Snowden and seconded by Mr George Philp.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Mr Max Holland (East Kilbride District) raised again the question of Diving Development Strategy. The 1992 Minutes did state that the National Convenor was not present at this point and the matter was deferred until his arrival. However, the matter was not dealt with later in the meeting. He went on to say that Bill Law satisfactorily answered the queries raised.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- 1) Letter from Mrs Margaret McWhir thanking members for their kind thoughts and visiting her husband Jim during his illness. She extended her appreciation and thanks.
- 2) Letter of apology from Water Polo Convener stating that Mr Gary Elder would not be available at the AGM for presentation of the Junior Water Polo Player of the Year Cup due to a competition commitment on the same day.
- 3) Mr Law - letter of apology at Commonwealth Games Preparation weekend.
- 4) Letter of congratulations from Don Hawthorn on the impressive Annual Report.
- 5) Letter of congratulations from Norman Sarsfield on the Annual Report. "A masterpiece of logic and information".

7. OBITUARIES

A short silence was observed in memory of the following members:

Jim McWhir - Past President
Bill Cowan - Past President
Alex Cooper - Former Secretary Midland District

8. GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

The General Secretary commented that he had little more to add to his report and invited delegates to raise any queries they may have, bearing in mind that certain sections of the report were subject to sub judicii and therefore could not be discussed at this time.

He commented on his 20 years service as General Secretary to the Association and stated that when he was first elected to the post, he did not expect to be in the job so long. He also stated that the role of General Secretary had grown steadily over the years to the point that it was almost the equivalent of a full time job and asked members to appreciate this fact.

The General Secretary invited delegates to voice any queries or the like they had on his report:

8.1 Constitution (Great Britain)

Mr Michael Sheppard - Milngavie West District, raised the question of proposed changes in the Constitution of the ASFGB in particular the rotation of the Chairmanship. He asked what, if any, benefit this would be to the SASA as a whole.

In reply to Mr Sheppard's question, Sir Peter Heally reiterated, as stated in the Annual Report, that the proposals came from the Great Britain Committee. He stated that in the past it had been up to individual countries to put forward proposals for change and equally in the past, these had been knocked down by one or other of the other countries. On this occasion it was decided that it would be better to look at the situation as a whole and put it forward as the unanimous proposal of the Great Britain Committee to each of the three countries.

The proposal referred to had been put forward by England on many occasions. It was felt that if there was a package this would be something which could be considered. He explained that the Great Britain was moving towards being more self financing and to this end discussions would commence with the Sports Council in the near future. He went on to say that the Sports Council also took the view that the relatively minor concessions involved in the rotation of the Chairman would outweigh the advantages.

Mr Sheppard proposed a point of order, lodging an objection to the Great Britain Chairmanship as proposed in the Annual Report of 1992. Mr Max Holland second this objection.

A show of hands was requested on this point and the result was:

69 Against
74 For

The proposal was adopted by Mr John Neil and seconded by Mr Tyrie Shiels

8.2 Constitution

Mr Tyrie Shiels - Warrender East District tabled the following queries with regard to the Extraordinary General Meeting: 17 May 1992.

Questioned if it was not in fact the case that three districts had in fact requested an EGM: queried the whereabouts of the minutes of this EGM and the letter of strong dissent which he was sure the General Secretary had been instructed to answer.

The General Secretary replied as follows:

Three districts did in fact request the meeting. With regard to the minutes - he had been unable to transcribe the notes he had made at the time, which had in fact been overtaken by other events. He explained this task had been put aside due to limited time and priorities. He referred to the letter to Warrender BC and explained that it had been sent at the end of July last year. He was unaware that they had not received the letter until he had received a reply from Mr McCallum in which he declined an invitation to join the Project Team.

8.3 Education Report

Mrs Ann Hart - Education Committee Convener, stated her concern that the report submitted by the Education Committee had been altered.

The General Secretary replied that the Annual Report was his responsibility and that he edited submissions received from Conveners as necessary and included information received outwith these reports which would account for the changes noted by Mrs Hart.

8.4 Dollan Baths

Mr Max Holland - East Kilbride District, informed members that East Kilbride District Council had now made the decision that the 50m pool would be retained.

8.5 Scottish Sports Council Submission for Grant Aid

Mr Brian Campbell - Dunfermline & East District voiced the opinion:

- a) Water Polo suffered very badly from last year's budget cuts. He objected to the section in the Annual Report referring to the European Championships. He expressed the feeling that any lack of success would be a set back for all disciplines and not just water polo.
- b) He was disappointed that, once again, no application for grant aid had been submitted on behalf of water Polo players by the Association. He hoped that this year rejected applications would be given the courtesy of a reply and hopefully some water polo players would be put forward by the Association.

The General Secretary replied to the above by informing members that he had received a very detailed letter on the above matters from Mr Campbell which he hoped to action quickly as Mr Campbell had some very good proposals which should be borne in mind when considering candidates for grant aid.

8.6 Mr Michael Sheppard - Milngavie West District, asked if the submission for grant aid had been made.

The General Secretary informed delegates that the SASA would be meeting with the Sports Council on 9th March to discuss the submission.

8.7 Commonwealth Games Swimming Sponsorship Committee

Mr Michael Sheppard - Milngavie West District requested an update on the work of this Committee.

The General Secretary replied that the Chairman of this Committee had been Mr Ron Taylor who had handed over the Chairmanship to Mr Murdo Wallace. The Commonwealth Games Council for Scotland had in fact achieved an £80,000 sponsorship, which would mean that the numbers for the team were now assured, and maybe even a few additional places available.

8.8 Technical Training (Officials)

Mr Colin Wilson INCAS asked if it was still important that referees be aware of the capabilities of AOE?

Mr Lex Taylor, Representative of TTO Committee replied that the TTO Committee had discussed this and felt it would not be appropriate for officials to take an AOE examination. What had been discussed and decided was that referees should have a working knowledge of the automatic Officiating Equipment so they can analyse it and take advantage of it.

Mr Ed Adams, Representative of TTO Committee also commented on the discussions of this Committee and thought one of the Conveners should look into the requirements of the TTO, with a view to bringing forward proposals to this meeting in 1994. He believed this was the view of the TTO Committee as a whole.

9. ALISTAIR GRAY PRESENTATION

Mr Gray expressed his pleasure in being invited to speak at the Association's AGM. He stated the fact that there are few sports which would get such a turn out for their AGM.

He took the opportunity to report on the progress made by the Project Group which was set up through the Council to develop the new way forward for Scottish swimming. He also extended the apologies of Mr Ian Mason, Chairman of the Project Group, who was unable to attend the meeting.

Mr Gray went on to say that in the next few weeks a report would be submitted on the key findings of this Group. He explained that the information had been gathered in two stages and informed delegates that the Group had contacted 12 other countries throughout Europe in a fact finding mission on how Scotland stands in relation to resources available, right the way through to international level, in particular, financial resources. He informed delegates that the Group had also looked at other sports in Scotland to see how they had changed in the last 5 - 10 years.

He informed delegates that the Group had consulted with at least 500 people which included clubs, districts, media, sports, local authorities, Scottish Sports Council and so on and took the opportunity to thank those in attendance who had contributed and asked delegates to put forward any further views which they thought may be of assistance in this study.

A conference to discuss various viewpoints was to be held in Perth at the end of March this year and it was hoped that this conference would come up with guidelines on what Scottish swimming should be trying to achieve over the next five years. From this information a development plan would then be put together by a Steering group and put forward to the Sports Council.

10. GENERAL TREASURER'S REPORT

The General Treasurer said that following the usual custom of submitting a fairly comprehensive financial analysis, he felt that he did not have a great deal to add. However he went on to explain the outline of his report and invited delegates to put forward any queries they may have:

- 10.1 Robin Dale - Cunningham West District, expressed the view that it was encouraging to see the Association's net assets rising, however, he would be appreciative of a more detailed breakdown of sundry expenses.

The Treasurer explained that sundry expenses were an amalgam and informed Mr Dale that there were items which he intended to discuss with the Office Manager i.e. telephone, fax, wage expenses.

- 10.2 Mr Hugh Steele - Kingston West District, raised the question of annual competition fees, querying if this figure should in fact be £2.08.

The Treasurer agreed that annual fees stand at 20% of the annual competition fee and the figure recorded in the Annual Report of £2.00 should in fact be £2.08.

- 10.3 The Treasurer asked all club Treasurer's and Secretary's to endeavour to increase their club membership to avoid increasing the per capita fees. He stated he was aware of club members who were not paying per capita fees and explained that the Association could only allocate and spend what was received in revenue.

- 10.4 Mr Harvey Renfrew District ASC noted that current liabilities included a figure of £6,000 for swimmers training funds. He stated that a few years previously he wrote to the General Treasurer recording that he was not happy about the inclusion of this item in the SASA accounts. His understanding was that these funds belong, not to SASA, but the swimmers and in the event of any insolvency of the Association, any funds held by the swimmers could be swallowed up in the assets and distributed to creditors subsequent to insolvency taking place. The then legal advisor was also concerned on this point.

The Treasurer replied that an account had been opened with the Bank of Scotland and £8,000 deposited and during the course of the current year further deposits would be made to cover what the Association owes this fund.

Mr Harvey tabled the motion that serious consideration be given to the administering of this fund by a body other than the SASA.

Mr Steele - Kingston adopted this proposal
Mrs Rogers - Ayr seconded.

11. PRESENTATIONS

Honorary Presidency of North District was given to Mr Les Turberville by Mr John Frew North District President.

12. PROPOSED ALTERATIONS TO CONSTITUTION AND RULES

A	Not accepted
B	Agreed
C	Agreed
D	Not accepted
E	Not accepted
F	Agreed
H	Not accepted
I	Not accepted
J	Agreed
K	Agreed
L	Not accepted
M	Agreed
N	Agreed
O	Not accepted

13. INSTALLATION OF THE PRESIDENT

Mrs Winnie Ferguson was installed as President by the retiring President Mrs Jill Cochran. Mrs Cochran wished Mrs Ferguson good luck in her year as President which should be a year of great change for the Association.

Mrs Ferguson thanked delegates for their support in nominating her to office she said it was a great honour, especially this year that the past year for Jill and the Council had not been easy and she saw this year being an easier one because the Association had clearly defined where they were going in the future.

14. LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Mrs Ferguson presented Mrs Cochran the retiring President with Life Membership and a plaque and thanked her for her time, effort and enthusiasm over the last year.

15. VOTE OF THANKS

Mr Donald McGillivray gave a vote of thanks to the two Presidents Mrs Jill Cochran and Mrs Winnie Ferguson.