

SWIMMING SCENE

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The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Association

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Volume 4 No. 2 April, 1981

THE NATIONAL PLAN Where Are We Going?

Dear Sir,

I would like to express my utter dismay at the decision taken at the Annual General Meeting of not accepting the swimming calendar proposals made by the Director of Swimming.

I feel sure that the decision was one of the most retrograde steps ever taken in Scottish competitive swimming, leaving Scotland once more 'out of step' with all the major swimming nations. It could prove also to be the final nail in the coffin of senior swimming in Scotland and without these seniors we will for ever remain a second-class swimming nation. It will place on the swimmers the added burden of choosing between swimming championships and examinations, with obvious results.

The tragedy of the whole matter is that the people responsible (and I believe that they are neither representative of the majority of coaches or clubs in Scotland) and so hell-bent on undermining the Director of Swimming that they are prepared to destroy Scottish swimming, even one year away from the Commonwealth Games.

One of the main arguments seems to be that the plan was not discussed. It was my understanding that a great deal of discussion took place throughout the Districts, with very favourable results. Those who did not attend these discussions have no one but themselves to blame.

I have heard the words "democratic vote" bandied about during the past week. What about a little common sense and intelligent thinking? Speaking as a coach, I would like the perpetrators of the decision for status-quo to explain how a plan can work that

- is out of step with the rest of the world? (Can we really be the only ones who are correct?)
- always has its swimmers peaked at the wrong times of the year?
- forces senior swimmers to choose between exams. and championships?

- has no logical progression?
- makes District Championships meaningless?

Example :

In the 1980 Long Course Nationals, only 5% of Scottish based swimmers made their entry times. With other nations making 60% of their entry times, something must be wrong.

The most disturbing factor is that the Director of Swimming has been placed in the most uncompromising position. This, together with the action of the President of the Scottish Amateur Swimming Association at the Annual General Meeting, when he asked a most embarrassed Jim Park to speak, whilst denying that privilege to the Director of Swimming, seems deplorable.

I do not intend to comment as to why all this took place but I feel sure everyone is aware that it stems from the appointment of the Director of Swimming. What concerns me and should concern everyone involved in Scottish swimming is the irreparable damage that this type of politics can have on our sport. It is true that many problems will have to be solved before we get the whole thing right, but we must first get the basics correct.

I therefore implore everyone who has a concern for our sport to make their voices heard in the hope that we can correct this grave error.

I would also ask the Executive of the Scottish Amateur Swimming Association to give some indication of what happens next with a vote that seems to me to be one of—

No confidence in the Director of Swimming.

No confidence in their Swimming Committee and Executive.

No confidence in the Districts

all of whom indicated total support for the new swimming calendar.

W. W. Lord, *Chief Coach,*
City of Aberdeen A. S. C.

OUR NEW PRESIDENT



Mrs. May Cochrane Warrender, B.C.

I am greatly honoured to have been elected your President and would like to thank all Districts for their support in my nomination.

All in our Association must be aware of their responsibility for its image, progress and success, so I would urge all clubs and members to work hard and together as a unit to a common aim. To achieve this aim we must not be too concerned about individual ideas and wishes. It has to be recognised that change in attitude and methods must take place and I am pleased to say that some of our disciplines have now embarked upon an extensive development programme and are showing early signs of success. Our aim must be for all the disciplines in our sport to take their rightful place in the National and International scene.

Finally, let us have a little more fun and enjoyment. This must be high on our list of priorities for all involved, especially the youth. Enjoyment at all levels brings its own reward.

THE NATIONAL PLAN

A Second Viewpoint . . . Kerr Brown

Dear Sir,

Where do we go from here? The National Plan is in tatters and still coaches do not know whether they should go ahead with plans they made some time ago for their club swimmers, or whether there is to be any practical substance to the National Plan.

The Commonwealth Games are next year in Brisbane, Australia. What is to be the criteria for selection policy? What are the qualifying times for Scottish swimmers? What provision is there for swimmers to achieve these times in long course competitions?

The alteration to the Age Group Championships was, in my opinion, quite rightly rejected by club delegates at the S.A.S.A. A.G.M. in February and it is hoped that the planners of the proposed new format of the Championships will "think again".

The Age Group Programme

The present format of the National Age Group Championships culminates in very exciting finals of a high standard of competition and if any reader requires to have that confirmed, ask the swimmers who reach the Finals. The area to which further thought requires to be given is the Preliminary Heats in each District. There is too long a gap in time between the closing date for entries, the District Heats and the Finals themselves. However, an analysis of the results over the past few years shows that there is insufficient depth in Scottish Age Group swimming to hold heats and finals at the same venue over a three day period. Indeed some events in the 1980 Finals showed an alarming range in times from the 1st through to 8th. If the Finals show that level of standard of performance, what would the standard be like if there were three or four or even more heats? Would our sponsors and the television companies consider being involved with the Championships if the overall standard was reduced? It is also debatable whether spectators would pay to sit through heats prior to watching the excellence achieved by some in the Finals.

No, the solution to improving Scottish swimming is not to change the Age Group programme at present, simply because it works in other countries — e.g. the U.S.A. and England. It is the structure of clubs which requires to be analysed and consolidated. There are a large number of clubs in Scotland, all producing some fine swimmers — but not enough. How many more swimmers would be produced if club structures were improved? Why do the big competing units succeed at the highest level where the smaller clubs do not? Clubs need to look closely at themselves and if they are not providing the best type of competition for their better swimmers all year round, then I suggest they need to think in terms of larger units by

amalgamating with other clubs. There are many problems associated with this type of venture as has been already experienced by some clubs in Scotland, but if clubs want their swimmers to succeed, then they must at least consider the possibility of forming larger competing units. Only once that has been achieved, can we think in terms of altering our Championships to cope with the improved standard of competition which, I am sure will ensue — viz. as in America and England.

Club delegates at the S.A.S.A. A.G.M. were asked to approve an alteration to the structure of Age Group Swimming in Scotland, without the details first being discussed with coaches or club delegates with regard to the proposed new format of Age Group Championships or District Graded Meets and in fact, contrary to earlier reports, the plan was not agreed by the West District, nor has any plan ever been put to the Coaches Association other than one which contained a very broad outline. Indeed, five of the seven members of the Coaches Association Executive Committee were in favour of considering an alternative format for the Age Group Championships, but they considered that the proposals put to them at a meeting last October were incomplete and they were not prepared to recommend any alteration to the format of the Championships at that stage.

The proposals are still incomplete and the motion to approve the alteration to rule with regard to the Age Groups was quite rightly defeated at the A.G.M., particularly when one considers that no information was released by the Scottish office regarding the format of Graded Age Group Championships prior to the A.G.M. A lot more work is required before a meaningful plan can be evolved, which attempts to solve the problem in a realistic manner — i.e. from the grass roots and NOT by destroying a Championship which has already proved successful.

National Championships

Turning now to Short and Long Term Course Open meets, I have read, and accept in principle, that part of the "Proposed National Calendar 1981 and Onwards" and the document entitled "Director of Swimming, 1981 and Onwards — National Calendar Proposals" which deals with the natural and necessary progression of events through to major National and International events. I agree totally with the principle that, and I quote from the latter document mentioned above, "The Long Course programme should culminate in International representation at both Senior and Junior level, thus providing a worthwhile goal and fulfilling the philosophy of progression through competition." The same statement has been made in the Director of Swimming's proposal document as regards Short Course competition.

What I cannot understand is why no attempt has been made to conform with and adhere to those principles in practical terms. If one accepts that the National Long Course Championships are the premier event in Scotland, then there is no provision in the calendar for an International Meet following these Championships. Indeed in the first "Calendar" proposal document the Long Course Championships were placed in the second weekend of July and the 8 Nations Contest — the only full International event in the Scottish calendar — is fixed for 3/4 July 1981. There has been a change of heart regarding the placement of the Long Course Championships because it clashed with one District's traditional holidays and they are now placed during the week 22nd-25th July 1981.

District Championships

Another example of the lip-service paid to the Director of Swimming's Plan is apparent when one considers the events which followed the Swimming Committee meeting in October, specially convened to discuss the Plan. The Midlands, East and North members on that Committee all agreed wholeheartedly to support the proposed Plan, yet in opening up their District Senior Championships, the Midlands made a number of their 100m event qualifying times so tight that swimmers from other Districts simply could not enter—viz. Women's 100m Freestyle: Q.T. 1.00.00 — only six women in Scotland have ever made that time and two of them live in the London area. The East initially considered having their Championships over two Saturdays — 7th and 14th March and advised the Scottish Office to that effect, only to be informed that the West's Open Championships were arranged for Saturday/Sunday 14th/15th March, a fact which had been announced at the Short Course in December.

As I have stated earlier in this article, I do not argue that the main principles behind the Plan were not sound, indeed the original basis of the Plan is extremely sound and had, in fact, been in operation for some time by at least one District. However, it appears the Director of Swimming has tried to satisfy several differing factions and in so doing, the proposed Plan has lost its entire credibility. No Plan, certainly not this one, can ever hope to succeed in Scotland by forcing through major changes in National competitions in which a large majority of swimmers, particularly in age group swimming, will be left floundering in its wake, unless and until a solution is found to improve club structures and raise the overall standard of Scottish swimming by so doing. And that sort of change will take some considerable time to put into effect.

It is important therefore, that any Plan which is devised for Scottish Swimming should relate wholly to Scottish swimming and take into account the peculiarities which exist in Scottish Swimming.

COMMITTEE CONVENORS 1981

Swimming Committee:

Mr. R. B. Taylor,
36 Silverknowes Grove,
EDINBURGH EH4 5NH.
Tel: 031 336 5923.

Water Polo Committee:

Mr. R. Elder,
160 Broughty Ferry Road,
DUNDEE DD4 6JJ.
Tel: 0382 42967

Diving Committee:

Mr. W. Law,
49 Silverknowes View,
EDINBURGH EH4 5PS.
Tel: 031 336 4826

Synchronised Swimming Committee:

Mrs. M. Laidlaw,
27 Rothesay Place,
MUSSELBURGH.
Tel: 031 665 5028

Long Distance Swimming Committee:

Mr. W. Stein,
62 Palmerston Place,
EDINBURGH EH12 5AY.
Tel: 031 225 6622.

Education Committee:

Mr. F. Mitchell,
51 Springfield Gardens,
ABERDEEN.
Tel: 0224 36436

Technical Training (Officials) Committee:

Mr. G. Battison,
84 Glasgow Road,
EDINBURGH.
Tel: 031 339 3824.

Championships Committee:

Mr. T. V. Howe,
79 Laburnum Grove,
Torbex,
STIRLING.
Tel: 0786 5604.

SYNCHRO

May Laidlaw



Scottish Squad

The Scottish Squad are continuing training under the expertise of Miss Jacinta Murray, who has compiled a very good routine to be used in a forthcoming Triangular Competition between a Scottish Select Team v Yorkshire v Northern Counties of England on 13th June at Huddersfield. The girls are working hard and are

enthusiastic at the prospect of competing at this level. Our congratulations to the swimmers selected — Shona Grubb, April Sands, Catherine Snowdon, Vivien Rewt, Irene Glen, Kim McIntosh, Ann Cochrane and Susan Heyhoe.

Synchro Clinics

Synchro Clinics — designed to cater for all club swimmers, P.E. advisers, P.E. teachers and local schoolgirls — are being arranged in each of the four Districts. The clinics are to be directed by Mrs. Jennifer Gray, A.S.A. National Development Officer and are aimed at promoting the growth of Synchronised Swimming throughout Scotland. Further detailed information is available from District Convenors or the S.A.S.A. Office.

Midland District Successes

We congratulate Ingrid Wieczorek, Gillian Bremner, Barbara and Deborah Yeats, Amanda Boyle, Diane Nash, Katherine Fletcher and Gillian Thirde of the Midlands District on gaining their S.A.S.A. and A.S.A. Grade 1. The girls have been practising Synchro for a short time only and their success is especially encouraging to Alena Smith, Coach to the group, who has worked so hard both in training the girls and in promoting Synchro in the Midlands area.

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SWIM NEWS

Ron Taylor

Bob Craig — A Chapter Closes . . .

At the Annual General Meeting of the Association, Bob Craig, Vice President of the Western District, withdrew his nomination as National Swimming Convenor and closed a chapter of dedication to a job, which he started in 1973.

Bob, who has been Team Manager to the Scottish Swimming Team on innumerable occasions and held that post with the Commonwealth Games Team in Edmonton, has seen Scottish swimming improve and organise itself considerably, over his period in office and has, himself, exerted a guiding influence in the always difficult progress of an amateur association promoting a professional outlook to its sport.

I am sure all in the sport will wish Bob well in the new channel he has adopted in the administering of swimming.

District Championships, New Style

Three of this year's new style District Championships have now been held, with the remaining North District one due on 25th/26th April at Peterhead.

Swimmers have taken to the "open" style events with enthusiasm and have travelled considerably in their efforts to improve their swimming. In doing so, the Championships have benefited from the higher quality of performance and as results show, the swimmers have also benefited from the increased competition for final places.

Highlights, so far, must be the new British Junior record established by Graeme Wilson of Carnegie in the 100m Freestyle event at Whitburn and, at the same pool, the new Junior and Senior Scottish Record by Iain Campbell of the Taybridge Club in the 100m Breaststroke event. Other new Scottish and District records have also been established and the atmosphere generated by knowledgeable swimmers, spectators and officials played a large part in the general high standard of swimming.

This intangible atmosphere, so helpful in the production of good swims, has a basis in the professional appearance of the swimming facility with its uniformed officials, anti-turbulence lane dividers, automatic timing equipment and the all-important time display board, which communicates its information to one and all, and permits awareness of potential record-breaking swims.

The organisers of these championships are to be congratulated on providing, within the limited resources of the Association, the best possible basis for quality, swimming, and hopefully, in the future, for commercial support.

THE SCHOOLS' CHAMPIONSHIPS

SCOTTISH SCHOOLS' SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS — EDINBURGH — A. D. SPENCE
SPEEDO SCHOOLS' INTERNATIONAL 1981 — EBBW VALE — CHARLES RAEISON



Scottish Schools' Swimming Championships, Edinburgh — A. D. Spence

Thanks to generous sponsorship from the Royal Bank of Scotland, the Scottish Schools' Association were able to hire the Royal Commonwealth Pool for this year's Championships on 7th February. The choice of venue proved favourable for a variety of reasons — 8 lanes permitted four extra swimmers in the 12/u and 14/u age groups and 2 extra in the 16/u and 19/u age groups; more room for spectators and stewarding of entrants; better catering facilities; excellent, ready-made organisation by the East District.

Some 750 pupils took part on the day and it was appropriate that all of Scotland, with the exception of Shetlands and the Hebrides, took part. The establishment of a pool at Portree may assist in the Western Isles in future.

Fourteen new Championship Records were established and Neil Cochran's time of 2.15.47 for the 200m I.M. was also a Scottish Junior Record.

Speedo Schools' International 1981 — Ebbw Vale — Charles Raelson, Team Manager

The points total shows that England won this tenth contest by a comfortable 31 pts.:

ENGLAND	159 pts.
SCOTLAND	128 pts.
WALES	82 pts.
IRELAND	69 pts.

However this scoreline reads, it does not reflect the application, the skill and sheer team effort of the Scottish Schools' team.

The 128 points is the highest score gained by Scotland during the ten years of competition. There were ten wins for Scotland — the most ever recorded. The team races, in particular, were hard fought events with no quarter given to the opposition — one particularly exciting win for Scotland was the Senior Boys' Freestyle Team.

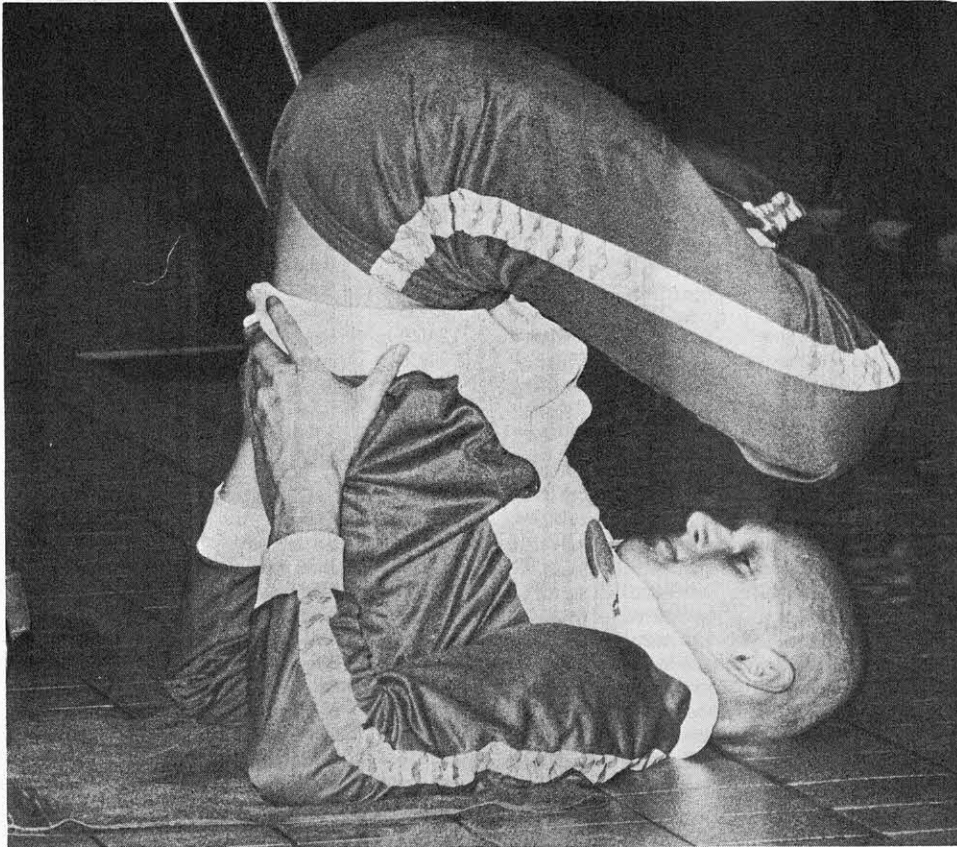
It is always unfair to mention individuals where there has been fine team effort. However some individual aspects of the performance deserve special mention. In the Junior Age Group James Poke (Stromness Academy, Orkney) produced two tremendous wins — 100m Freestyle (56.56) and 100m Butterfly (1.03.34). In the Intermediate Age Group Neil Cochran came in just from behind to win the 100m Backstroke (1.01.90). Graeme Wilson broke a tooth on dive, produced two fantastic relay swims and won the 100m Freestyle (54.20). In the Senior Group, Beverley Rose had a great race with Helen Jamieson, British Record Holder, finishing 2nd on 1.08.05. Maureen Campbell finished second, in a great time of 1.14.86 to Keri Jones — and in the relay produced an amazing breast stroke leg. Maureen also filled in at the last minute on the Senior 100m Freestyle for Beverley Rose, who had a bad back. Wee Shona Cowie (Peterhead Academy) had a really determined swim in the Junior Butterfly, and was acclaimed the "guttiest" team member. Jim Fraser, the Boys' Team Captain, proved himself more than worthy of the responsibility with tremendous support by leading the team "singing" and cheerleading.

However, it was the way in which the team blended together so well despite the problems. These included: 36 $\frac{2}{3}$ yards pool; very tiring journey on Friday; often little rest between events. This positive spirit was commented on by many spectators, officials and opposition team members.

Our thanks are due to Mr. Des Ward, the Welsh Schools' Swimming Association for this organisation; the Borough of Blaenau Gwent for their Reception for officials; the coaches Messrs. Mason, Osborne and Park; and assistant manager, Vera Wilson.

We look forward to next year when it is our turn to host the event — March 20 1982 at the Royal Commonwealth Pool, Edinburgh.

F-L-E-X-I-B-I-L-I-T-Y



Duncan Goodhew "snapped" at the Masters Championships last year.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

You may recall my writing to you last year to say how successful our Sponsored Swim, backed by the S.A.S.A., had been. On that occasion, we raised £1,418 in aid of Scottish Spastics.

I am delighted to tell you that this year's Sponsored Swim, again with the backing of the Association, has contributed more than £2,200. This was raised by 20 member Clubs of the Association, either directly, or through donations.

May I, through your magazine, express to all those who participated, the warmest thanks of the Scottish Council for Spastics and say how deeply grateful spastics themselves are for this effort and generosity made on their behalf.

The 1980 sponsorship competition was won by Gourock Amateur Swimming Club, who will, in due course, receive a shield kindly donated by the Scottish Milk Marketing Board. The award for the best individual achievement went, for the second year in succession, to Mr. David McSwan of Eastwood Amateur Swimming Club.

Needless to say, we are equally indebted to the Scottish Amateur Swimming Association itself.

Yours faithfully,
Eric Dow,
Publicity & Promotions Manager.

SCOTTISH SWIMMING AWARDS

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Focus on Clubs

Sutherland A.S.C.



Guided and encouraged in its initial stages by the Golspie pool manager at the time, Mr. Duncan McInnes, Sutherland A.S.C. first took to the water in January 1977.

Based at the 4-lane 25 x 9m pool in Golspie, the club currently runs two club nights. The Golspie section meets on Monday nights, and the Dornoch half on Tuesdays. The recently formed water polo group also uses the pool on Monday nights. On these evenings we try to cater for all standards — from the complete beginner through to National Age-Group finalists. The Dornoch swimmers and those Golspie swimmers not interested in competitive swimming, concentrate on various award schemes as well as trying to improve their general swimming standard. These classes are taken by a hard working group of instructors, without whose help and commitment the club could not function.

Competitive swimming is almost wholly and not unnaturally, confined to Golspie members, who have easy access to the pool. These swimmers are divided into two squads — the Junior Squad and the Age-Group Squad.

Coaches for the Junior Squad are pool manager Graham McCarthy and founder member, Pearl Mackay.

This Squad serves as the feeder group for the main Age-Group Squad and currently has 20 members, ages ranging from 6-10. Sessions each week are on Mondays from 6.00-6.45 p.m., and on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday lunchtimes, totalling approximately 3 hours each week. These young swimmers are still at the teaching stage, where stroke-work only is practised. They are encouraged to enjoy their swimming — having fun and swimming properly at the same time, and teaching is mainly using widths of the pool. As they

improve, the swimmers join the Age-Group Squad, initially for the after-school sessions, eventually attending the early morning sessions as well.

The club's chief coach, Mrs. Barbara Littlejohn, is in charge of the Age-Group Squad. Mrs. Littlejohn is employed at the pool, which is fine except that she practically lives there! The Age-Group Squad has 24 members between the ages 8-16 and the weekly training is: Monday lunchtime and 6.45-7.45 p.m.; Tuesday 7.00-8.00 a.m. and 4.00-4.30 p.m.; Wednesday 7.00-8.00 a.m. and 4.00-5.00 p.m.; Thursday 7.00-8.00 a.m. and 4.00-4.30 p.m.; Friday 7.00 a.m.-8.00 a.m., lunchtime (gym) and 4.00-4.30 p.m. This is approximately 8 hours pool and $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour gym each week. All swimmers in the Age-Group must have reasonable stroke technique, and great emphasis is placed on this at all sessions. Ability ranges from those swimming 2000m to those capable of 3500m+ per hour. We try to set sensible targets for all swimmers, and are encouraged to see a graded meet in the north for the first time this year. Now that the competitive programme has been sorted out, our better swimmers will aim to be at their peak for the North District and the Scottish Age-Group Championships.

After an attempt at the North District Age-Group Championships in 1977, competitive swimming was temporarily discontinued. Encouraged by the City of Glasgow coach, Alan Davidson, then in charge at Thurso, a "training squad" was set up in the summer of '78 under coaches Graham McCarthy and Pearl Mackay, with a view to competing in the North District Age-Groups 1979. We managed to produce

two finalists then, and have been steadily improving ever since.

1980 brought our first N.D. Age-Group medals. We also gained medals at the Thurso and Peterhead Open Meets and had swimmers in the North District Open Championships, as well as our first National Age-Group finalist. We compete against many clubs in the North District, the highlight of our domestic year being the club championships in May.

Our main aims this year are to win more medals at the District Age-Groups and any colour of medal at the Scottish Age-Groups! We would like our swimmers to be involved in a Highland Area Squad should one ever be set up, and District and even National honours must be our long term aim.

Water Polo coach for the club is Mr. Andrew Akers, supervisor at the pool.

The club has just gained its first victory in water polo, beating Inverness 3—2 in a friendly 110 competition recently. A serious problem arises in finding teams to play against as there are very few water polo teams functioning in the area. We'd be delighted to hear from any clubs interested in arranging games.

As with most clubs, money is a familiar problem, especially because of the distance we invariably have to travel to competition, the cost of pool time, etc., but due to the enthusiasm and ability of committee members, this problem is overcome.

We are ever optimistic about the future, and hope that with the recent acquisition of two Mini-Gyms bought with generous grants from the Sports Council and Sutherland District Council further honours from all levels will be forthcoming.

WATER POLO NEWS

Ross Elder

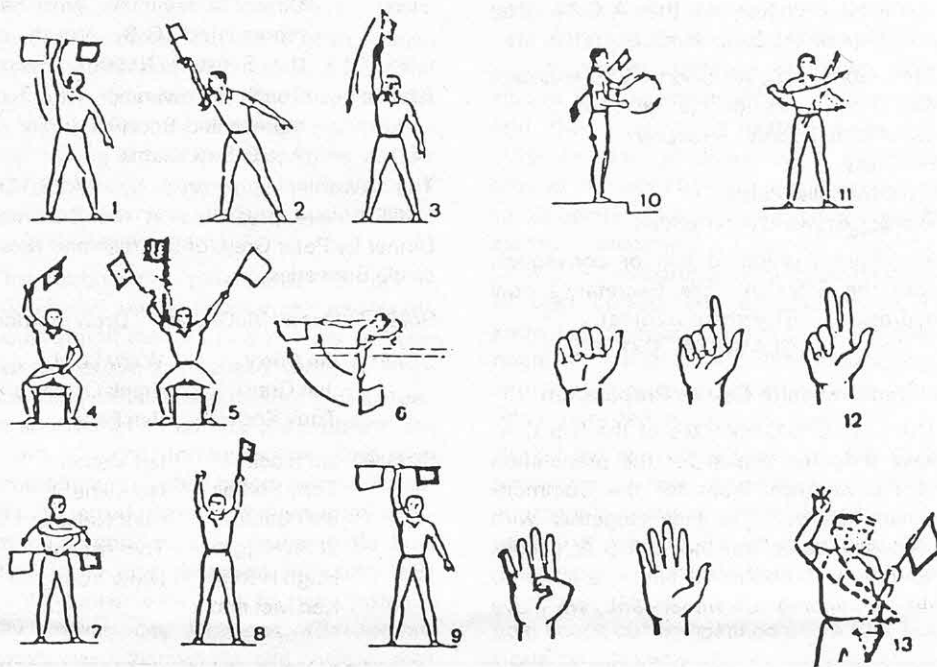
FINA Rules

The new FINA Rules came into operation from 1st February. The main changes affecting Water Polo are:

- Up to thirteen players can be used.
- The time of each period is now 7 minutes.

- The goalkeeper can take a throw from anywhere inside 2 metres.
- If an act of brutality is committed during the interval, the offending team will re-start with 6 players.
- Game time does not start until the ball is played by either of the teams.

Signals by Referees



- Fig. 1: Signal for start of Game.
- Fig. 2: For execution of a free-throw, goal throw and corner throw.
- Fig. 3: For the execution of a penalty throw.
- Fig. 4: Goal Judge signal to start game, goal throw, corner throw.
- Fig. 5: For when a goal is scored.
- Fig. 6: For a major foul and ordering a player from the water.
- Fig. 7: For ordering two players simultaneously from the water.
- Fig. 8: Offensive "dead time" personal foul.
- Fig. 9: For a neutral throw.
- Fig. 10: For ordering a player from the water with substitution.
- Fig. 11: For ordering a player from the water without substitution, and informing both Captains.
- Fig. 12: Signals for indicating the number of the offending player, by one hand without a flag. If the number exceeds five, first an open palm is shown with five fingers, then additional fingers to make up the sum of the number of the player.
- Fig. 13: For a penalty throw: the Referee raises up the hand with four fingers open and immediately lowers it down indicating the four metre line from whence a penalty throw should be executed.

The signal for the start of the game shall be given by the referee whose position is on the side where the Referees' table is placed, but the signal after a goal shall be given by the referee on the left of whom is located the goal in which the goal has just been scored. When awarding a foul, the referee shall lift the flag of the colour corresponding to that of the cap of the player of the team in which favour the throw is awarded and shall indicate by hand the place where the foul occurred. The similar signal is used for a goal throw and corner throw but in this case, the referee indicates the goal or the two metre line from where a corner throw shall be taken. The sequence of the execution of gestures is recommended as follows:

1. Indication of the character of the foul: for a personal foul is a clenched fist; for a penalty throw — four fingers with the immediate lowering of the hand and simultaneously showing a flag of the appropriate colour;
2. Indication of the place where the foul occurred and the number of the offending player;
3. Permission for the execution of a throw when it is necessary, for example when a personal fault is awarded during "the dead-time" by lifting a flag of the appropriate colour vertically high.

SCOTTISH SWIMMING COACHES ASSOCIATION

Kerr Brown

Annual Dinner

The 1981 Annual Dinner was a tremendous success. Held this year at the Albany Hotel in Glasgow, the Dinner featured Johnny Beattie and Andy Roxburgh as the main guest speakers. Andy's talk on motivation and passion was well received and it was very obvious to the 60 plus members and friends present why Johnny Beattie was voted "Comedian of the Year" recently. His half-hour talk had everyone roaring with laughter and if any jokes were missed it was because they came so thick and fast. He threw a challenge to the illustrious company for someone to teach him to swim but any coach who thinks he can concentrate for even a few seconds between jokes, will have a tough job on his hands!

Director of Swimming — Duties and Responsibilities

In line with their aims and objectives in offering advice and assistance to the S.A.S.A., the Coaches Association have

continued on page 10

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forwarded their policy document: "The Director of Swimming — Duties and Responsibilities" to the National Body, and have arranged a further meeting to formulate their policy on team and squad selection.

Coach of the Year

Jim Park has done it again! For the second year in succession, he has won the "Coach of the Year" Award, with Wally Lord from Aberdeen runner-up and Ian Curry in third place.

The Award was presented by Jack Queen, who donated the clock trophy, at the Annual Dinner on 27th February, and is the result of the accumulation of points won by Jim's swimmers last year at the three major Scottish Championships — Long Course, Short Course and Age Groups.

	L.C. S.C. A.G. Total
Jim Park (Paisley)	165 86 254 505
Wally Lord (Aberdeen)	35 82 342 459
Ian Curry (ex-Warrender)	149 60 196 405

The rules of the competition result in coaches of the large competing units having the best chance of winning the coveted trophy and clubs with the greatest depth of swimmers will normally contest the final placings. Coaches of swimmers who set the new Scottish or British records in winning an event gain only the same points as those winning events without setting new records. The rules of the competition do not give added recognition to "excellence". However, the rules have

been set, and the winner of the award is the coach whose swimmers give the best all-round performance over the three national Championships. Jim Park, with seven swimmers in the National and Esso Youth Squads — and three reserves — has the necessary depth within his squads, and with A.S.A. Coaches Ian Mason and Dave Nicholls, and assistant coaches, Marion Law and Sandy Brunton, he has a formidable coaching team to support his successful swimmers.

Coaches Executive Committee

Danny McGowan of Cumbernauld is the new President of the S.S.C.A. — the unanimous choice at the A.G.M. The members of the Executive Committee are:
 Drew Gordon (Scotia Sports) *Vice President*
 Kerr Brown (Kirkintilloch) *Secretary*
 Ian Mason (Paisley) *Treasurer*
 Ian Curry
 Dave Nicholls (Paisley)
 Wallace Steward (Warrender)

For those wishing to join or correspond with the S.S.C.A., the Secretary's new address is: 81 Armadale Street, GLASGOW G31 2PS.

Commonwealth Games Preparation

The Executive Committee of the S.S.C.A. have prepared a plan for the preparation of the Scottish Team for the Commonwealth Games. This Plan, together with proposed dates for the S.A.S.A.'s consideration, is contained within a letter to the Swimming Convenor and we have

asked that the National Association issue a policy statement in connection with the criteria for team selection and squad preparation as soon as possible and certainly no later than the Long Course Championships this year.

Kalback Awards

In recognition of the performances of their swimmers, the S.S.C.A. awarded "Certificates of Merit" to coaches for their swimmers' performances in 1980.

Criteria was agreed for three grades of "Certificates of Merit":

- Gold — Coach of swimmer who had represented G.B.
- Silver — Coach of swimmer who had represented G.B. Youth or the Scottish National Team.
- Bronze — Coach of swimmer who had represented Scottish Junior or Age Group Teams.

The Awards, sponsored by KALBACK LAGER were presented at the Coaches' Dinner by Peter Grey, of Scottish and Newcastle Breweries.

- Gold: Danny McGowan Drew Gordon
- Silver: Ian Curry Wally Lord
 Jim Gray Frank Osborne
 Tony Knowles Jim Park
- Bronze: Ian Black Ian Mason
 Tony Forbes Ian Milne
 Bob Gauld Matt Nelson
 John Higgins Tom Nichol
 Hugh Hodge Drew Young
 Ken McLeod



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THE FORMATION OF THE SCOTTISH AMATEUR SWIMMING ASSOCIATION

Peter Bilsborough, University of Stirling

The Scottish Amateur Swimming Association (S.A.S.A.) was constituted on 28th January 1888 at a meeting attended by over sixty clubs from all over Scotland. The initiative for this development came from a local swimming association centred on Glasgow. The formation of the S.A.S.A. ended a practice which had been prevalent in the 1870s of permitting amateur and professional swimmers to compete against each other. From 1888 the S.A.S.A. was firmly committed to organising Scottish swimming on strict amateur lines.

Several swimming clubs had been formed along the east and west coasts of Scotland during the '60s and '70s. They used the sea as a stage for their activities. However, it was during the '80s that a more regular and serious interest was taken in competitive swimming. Glasgow was the focal point for developments.

Throughout the nineteenth century a continuous rise in population, inadequate housing and the lack of a number of basic sanitary provisions caused immense overcrowding, squalor and disease in Glasgow. In an attempt to control the problem, the Town Council formulated a long-term programme of public health reform including the introduction of Parliamentary legislation to enable public baths to be built from local rates. Between 1878 and 1885 public baths were built in five strategically chosen city locations. Glaswegians could wash themselves and their clothes and enjoy a swim in cheap, well-planned facilities. It was not long before a number of swimming clubs had been formed by local enthusiasts.

Towns and cities in the east of Scotland did not experience the extensive sanitary problems which existed in Glasgow and consequently there was not the same urgency to build public baths. Dundee, Aberdeen and Edinburgh did build baths and a number of clubs were formed. However, it was after 1885 before swimming really started to expand in these centres. Throughout the '80s Glasgow was the centre of Scottish swimming.

In the late '60s a distinction had been made between amateur and professional swimmers. However, in 1874 the national governing body of swimming, the Swimming Association of Great Britain (S.A.G.B.), allowed amateurs and professionals to compete against each other. By 1880 this had created a variety of practical, social and moral problems amongst swimming supporters. In 1884 the S.A.G.B. put its house in order by adopting and rigorously enforcing a new amateur definition. They informed all Scottish clubs that after 1st January 1885 any amateur swimmer who competed in a mixed race would lose his amateur status.

Such an important matter required careful consideration. In November 1884 the Secretary of one of Glasgow's leading clubs, the West of Scotland S.C., issued circulars to all local clubs, "... inviting

their co-operation for the purpose of, among other things, defining the status of our local swimmers, and coming to some definite settlement on the amateur question."

On 3rd December 1884 Glasgow's swimming clubs met to discuss the matter. They decided to form a governing body for Scottish swimmers which would "look after the manifold interests of the art, and settle the vexed question of amateurism and professionalism..." Although it was proposed to call the organisation the Scottish Amateur Swimming Association, it was ultimately decided that the body should limit its initial efforts to Glasgow and the surrounding district since the small number of other clubs scattered around the country had not been asked to deliberate. They adopted the title Associated Swimming Clubs of Glasgow (A.S.C.G.) and proposed to forward copies of their objects and constitution to all known clubs in Scotland in order that they might form their own district associations with the ultimate object of amalgamating into a more national organisation.

During the next three years the A.S.C.G. established a firm competitive swimming structure in Glasgow which offered a wide variety of benefits for all members. The Association arranged swimming championships, introduced an inter-club water polo knock-out competition and a Glasgow North v Glasgow South representative game, all run on amateur principles. It also gave advice and assistance to new clubs, arranged favourable terms with Glasgow Town Council for the hire of public swimming pools and introduced an award scheme to raise skill levels and encourage further interest in swimming. The sphere of influence soon spread outside Glasgow. Clubs from as far as Dundee and Dunfermline were members by 1887.

After 1885 the A.S.C.G. tried hard to encourage clubs in other districts to form local amateur associations. However, the relatively small number of clubs in Dundee and Aberdeen did not necessitate the formation of local associations, while in Edinburgh, the A.S.C.G.'s good intentions met with a considerable amount of opposition from a handful of clubs who insisted on mixed amateur and professional galas and championships.

By 1887 the Association's positive contribution to amateur swimming, the establishment of many new clubs outside the West of Scotland and a more tolerant attitude from a small but influential Edinburgh contingent intensified the need for a more national amateur association.

At a meeting of the A.S.C.G. in May 1887, Mr. G. Howarth from Carnegie S.C., proposed and spoke in favour of his motion, "That this Association pledge itself to promote a National Association forthwith." The motion was carried. A month later the largest and most representative conference of swimming clubs ever held in Scot-

land took place in Glasgow. There was unanimous agreement that a national association should be formed and the title chosen was the Scottish Amateur Swimming Association. The A.S.C.G.'s amateur code was adopted and Western delegates were given the responsibility of drawing up a constitution. By 20th December 1887 the draft constitution had been examined by all clubs and the A.S.C.G. took steps to finalise matters. On 28th January 1888 in Edinburgh, the S.A.S.A. was constituted. Over sixty clubs attended to appoint office bearers, to elect a committee of management, to establish local centres to deal with local swimming matters and to confirm a constitution and rules.

PROFILE ON... NEIL FOSTER

NEIL FOSTER, who hails from Dundee, swims for the newly named TAYBRIDGE SWIMMING CLUB — formerly NCR (Dundee). Neil belongs to a swimming family, following in the flipper-trail of his brother Kevin. It was through Kevin that the whole family became involved in swimming. First his father became a coach, while his mother got caught up in Club Committee work. Now Mrs. Foster is Secretary to the Midlands District and serves on the Scottish Council. Young brother Bruce decided not to be left out and shows promise as a competitive swimmer.

1980 was a most successful year for Neil. His achievements were Scottish Junior Records in the 100 Freestyle (Long Course) with 55.67, the 100 Fly (Short Course) in 58.20 and the 200 Fly (Short Course) in 2.08.73. 1980 saw him break his own Junior records twice, his 100 Fly five times and his 200 Fly twice.

Since leaving school, Neil has found employment with Stirling University in a sports and recreation capacity. Being based at Scotland's national Swim Centre enables Neil to train with Director of Swimming, Ron Braund. Neil greatly appreciates the help and encouragement he has received during these years of development from club coaches, Mr. Frank Jordan and Mr. Frank Osborne, to name just two. Like other successful and up and coming swimmers he is also appreciative of the financial help he has received from the Scottish Sports Aid Foundation.

A day for Neil begins with an early 6.30 a.m. call from his landlady, Mrs. Paterson, who sends him off to training till 9.00 a.m. Then it's on to work, with a one-hour lunch break from 1.00 p.m. to 2.00 p.m. After the afternoon's work is over he trains again from 5.00-6.30 p.m., covering approximately 50,000 metres per week.

Neil hopes to continue improving and has set his sights on successfully qualifying for the 1982 Commonwealth Games. Butterfly and I.M. are the most likely events he'll go for, but he's keeping his options open at the moment.

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