

SCOTTISH AMATEUR SWIMMING ASSOCIATION

REPORT FROM SWIMMING CONVENER : ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE SCOTTISH SPORTS ASSOCIATION : INVERCLYDE : 6th/7th OCTOBER 1990

1. Representation

The SASA was represented at the Conference by Mr. Barnett and myself as Delegate. Mr. H.H. Smith (Director of Swimming) was a guest speaker.

2. Conference Business

The 'working' sessions were linked by the theme of the 1990's and consisted of the following :-

(1) Sport in Scotland in the 1990's : Political Perspectives.

This session, chaired by Sir Peter Heatly and with input from M.P's Menzies Campbell and Brian Wilson and from Tory and SNP representatives, produced a remarkable degree of agreement on many of the major sports issues.

If the political parties acted in accord with their representatives at the Conference then sport in Scotland in the 1990's would have few monetary or facilities problems.

However, the representatives also provided the reason why sport in Scotland is more likely to have major problems - the lack of a sufficiently powerful lobbying force.

(2) Coaching and Training - NCVQ and all that !

I think it is fair to point out that the majority of Conference members were shocked by the scale and speed of 'imposition' of these qualifications which will be administered through SCOTVEC. Mr. John Hart (Assistant Director of SCOTVEC) stressed the significance of the European dimension and 1992. However, the presentation by our Director of Swimming pointed to the real significance to sports and, in particular, to the education and training policies of sports bodies. This was a good presentation which provoked considerable informal discussion during the remainder of the Conference.

(3) Sports in Scotland in the 1990's - Trends and Forecasts

This presentation by Kit Campbell (Kit Campbell Associates, Leisure and Recreation Consultants) was the highlight of the Conference.

Mr. Campbell wove his way through a mass of evidence to produce a worrying picture of population changes and likely social trends through the 1990's and into the start of the next century, summarised by a neat parody on the SAS motto.....

1970's and 1980's.....'Who dares, wins'...the era of approved greed ;
1990's.....'Who cares, wins'...forecasting a swing towards

a more caring society ;

2000's.....'Who cares who wins'...forecasting a less competitive society in sports terms.

Conference members were clearly of the opinion that this presentation could have provided the core for the whole weekend.

Mr. Campbell has agreed to circulate a copy of his notes to all member Governing Bodies (Mr. Barnett already has a copy).

3. Scottish Sports Association Annual General Meeting.

The main topic of debate was the proposal to change the Constitution to provide opportunity for the appointment of a full-time Secretary, independent of the Sports Council. There are two basic reasons for this proposal. First, because a full-time officer is required if the Association is to be successful in developing and feeding the kind of lobby which is going to be essential to the interests of sport in Scotland over the next decade. Second, to demonstrate independence from the Sports Council and be free to oppose the Sports Council if necessary.

Members were clearly concerned about the financial implications and the likelihood of annual subscriptions in the region of £300 per Governing Body.

However, the needs were recognised and the 'enabling clause' approved subject to the requirement on the new Executive to make formal proposals to the Governing Bodies once details (eg more accurate costings) can be provided.

Mr. Alan Grosset retired as Chairman of the Association and Mrs Ann Gulland as Vice Chairman. In view of the volume of work which they have undertaken and their length of service, I suggest that the SASA Council might wish to write to them to express

our appreciation of their efforts on our behalf.

Mr. Fred Nelson (Scottish Canoe Association) was elected Chairman of the Association for two years and I have the honour to have been elected Vice Chairman for one year.

Douglas C.J. Brown
SASA Delegate
9th October 1990

Enclosure : 'Occupational Standards for Sport and Recreation'
(Industry Lead Body for Sport and Recreation)