

Swimming 2000

SCOTTISH AMATEUR SWIMMING ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

MARCH 1994

Volume 1 Number 6

THREE IN A ROW!

Scotland's Water Polo Teams travelled to Cardiff to defend the Senior Home Nations Trophy and to try to take the Junior title as well. Team Manager Hugh Cullen was delighted with the Senior Team's performance and the retaining of the Mackeson Trophy.

The tournament was hard fought all the way as can be seen from the results. Every game was competitive with some great nailbiting finishes with teams coming back from apparent defeat to snatch victory or a draw. New coach Howie Cartwright guided the players through the various games with great skill and control.

Alex Burgoyne did an equally outstanding job with the Junior players who finished in second place after running out of steam against an aggressive stronger English Team.

Ross Elder National Convener coordinated all the arrangements, managed the Junior Team and refereed as well.

The Teams were accompanied by a host of supporters, Bill Black SASA Vice President substituted for the President Mrs Brunton.

memo:

Keep your contributions coming addressed to the Editor Bill Black at the SASA Office - by the 10th of each month. Views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Scottish ASA.

Advertising Rates are :-

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Half Page £30

Quarter Page £15

Immediate Past President Mrs Winnie Ferguson who was born in a little house in the Wye Valley also supported the boys. Parents were there to give vocal support and with Mrs Elder as chief cheerleader easily won that part of the tournament.

Mr & Mrs Frier (Dunfermline)

Mr & Mrs Steele (Hamilton)

Mr & Mrs MacGregor (Warrander)

were among the supporters.

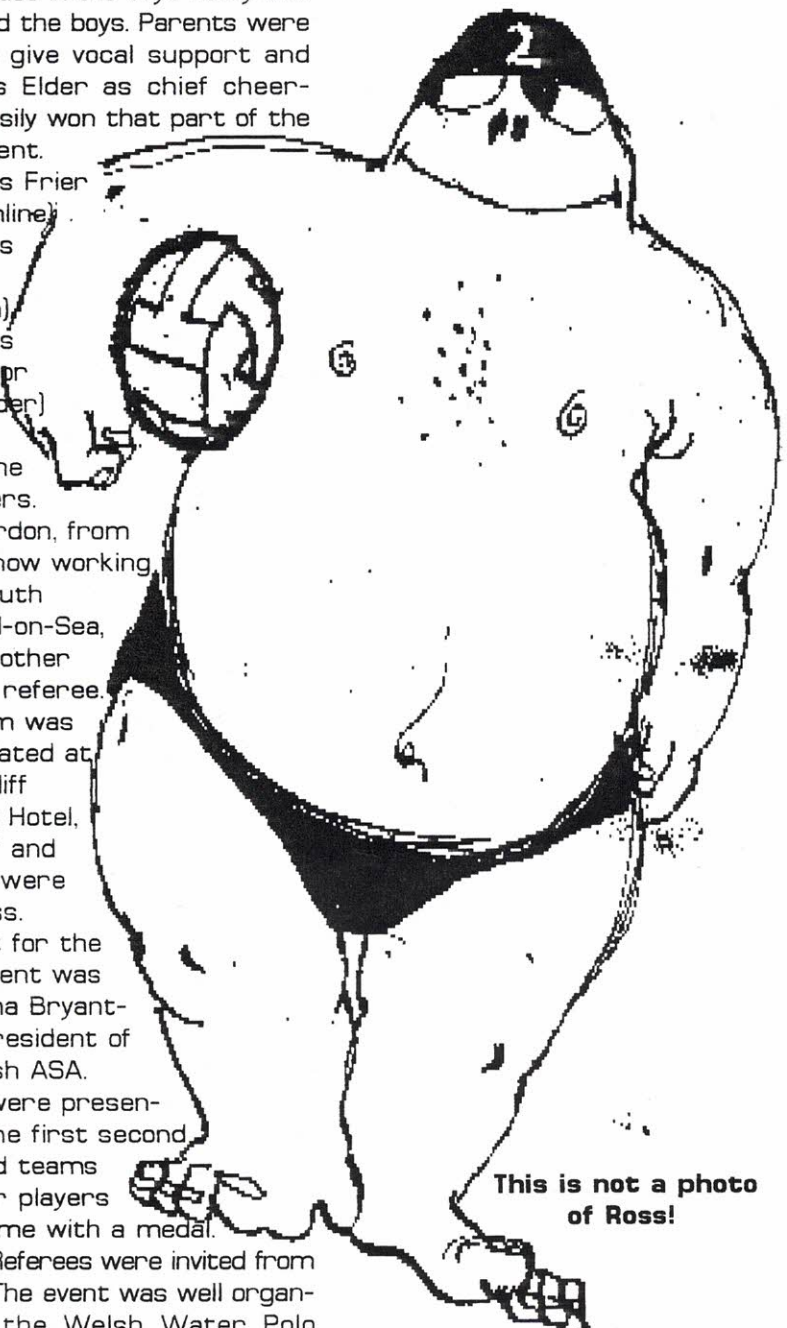
Philip Gordon, from Dundee now working in the south at Bexhill-on-Sea, was the other Scottish referee.

The Team was accommodated at the Cardiff Marriott Hotel, the staff and facilities were first class.

The host for the tournament was Mrs Diana Bryant-Lewis, President of the Welsh ASA. Medals were presented to the first second and third teams so all our players came home with a medal.

Neutral Referees were invited from Holland. The event was well organised by the Welsh Water Polo Board.

FLOATING ON AIR!



This is not a photo of Ross!

RESULTS ON PAGE 2

WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS
The results of the Home Nations
Water Polo Tournament held at
the Empire Pool Cardiff on Friday
and Saturday 18-19 March 1994

Senior :-

England	16	v	13	Ireland
Wales	9	v	10	Scotland
England	7	v	7	Scotland
Wales	16	v	7	Ireland
Ireland	5	v	14	Scotland
Wales	9	v	10	England

Junior :-

England	15	v	4	Ireland
Wales	9	v	11	Scotland
England	12	v	8	Scotland
Wales	9	v	6	Ireland
Ireland	11	v	12	Scotland
Wales	7	v	15	England

Senior Team

1 B. Littlejohn	Dunfermline
2 G. Gilhooly	Portobello
3 R. Lucas	Warrender
4 K. Anderson	Portobello
5 D. Stewart	Dunfermline
6 B. Elder	Dunfermline
7 B. Davidson	Portobello
8 G. Elder	Dunfermline
9 P. Lamb	Warrender
10 D. Campbell	Dunfermline
11 S. Holmes	Hamilton
12 G. Ward	Portobello
13 R. Valvona	Portobello

Coach : Howie Cartwright
 Team Manager : Hugh Cullen

Junior Team

1 D. Fleming	Portobello
2 A. Stodart	Hamilton
3 C. Hutchison	Renfrew Aqua
4 N. Rutherford	Portobello
5 C. MacGregor	Warrender
6 G. Smith	Portobello
7 M. Dorman	Renfrew Aqua
8 G. Elder (Capt.)	Dunfermline
9 D. Steele	Hamilton
10 J. Steele	Hamilton
11 G. Kerr	Dunfermline
12 N. Frier	Dunfermline
13 C. Fraser	Dunfermline

Coach : Alex Burgoyne
 Team Manager : Ross Elder

PREMIER PENALTIES

The outcome of serious misbehaviour at the Premier League fixture last October at Drumchapel Baths was the suspension of Andrew Gilhooly (Portobello) for four months from 1st January, Giles Gilhooly (Portobello) received a written warning regarding his future behaviour. The Portobello Club also received a written warning advising that action would be taken against the club if there was any repetition of the misbehaviour by their players and officials.

The Portobello Club appealed against the suspension of Andrew Gilhooly, the Appeals Committee considered their grounds for the appeal and examined all the papers connected with the case. They decided that there were insufficient grounds for an appeal and recommended that the £50 fee should be retained by the Association.

On the other hand a complaint and appeal, arising from the same occasion, from Mr George Spowart (Dunfermline) was upheld by the Appeals Committee. The Committee agreed with the points raised by Mr Spowart but ruled that the Scottish Water Polo Committee Disciplinary Hearing had dealt with the matters of concern. The Appeals Committee recommended that a priority should be given to the training and support of Water Polo Referees.

A separate incident at a match between Renfrew Aqua and Hamilton Baths resulted in a two year ban on spectator Bobby Barr, this was reduced to six months after consideration was given to his previously exemplary behaviour over a period 45 years.

EUROPEAN JUNIOR WATER POLO CHAMPIONSHIPS

31 JULY - 7 AUGUST
 1994 - BRATISLAVA

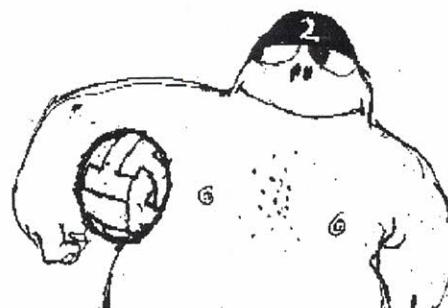
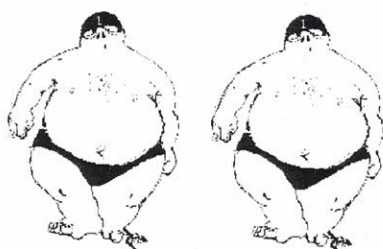
Ross Elder has been appointed to referee at the Junior Championships which are being hosted by the Slovak Republic.

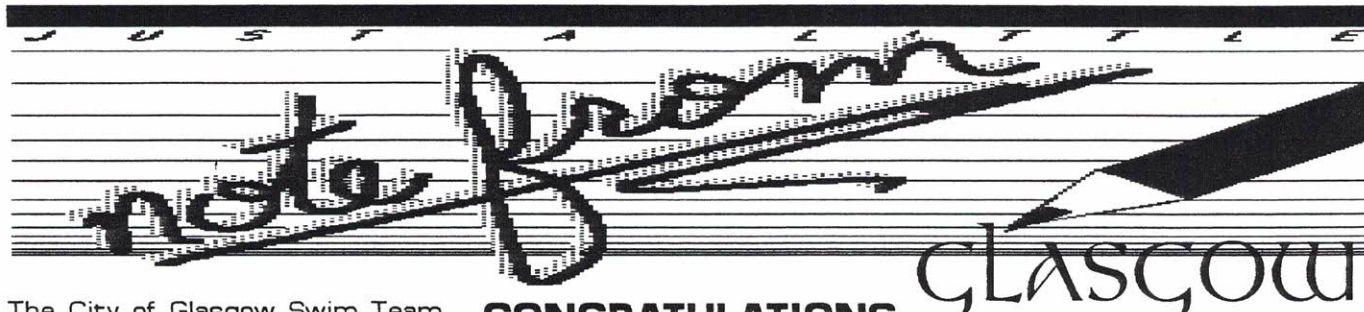
There was consternation at Cardiff when the Great Britain Team Manager announced the GB Senior Squad selection which included only four Scots and eleven English players. However the GB Technical Committee has yet to approve the selection. The Scottish officials also were of the opinion that the Junior Squad selection did not include Scottish players who had shown their ability during the contest.

Mark Taylor will coach the GB Senior and Junior Teams.

REFEREES

Joe Duffy, West District Water Polo Convener, is keen to set up a training and support programme for Water Polo Referees. He feels that Referees should have the opportunity to improve their skills and experience in line with the opportunities available to players. A seminar is planned for all referees and officials in the near future. Information will be circulated by Ross Elder as soon as a date and a venue are confirmed.





The City of Glasgow Swim Team have been involved in three major meets over the past months, with swimmers travelling within the West of Scotland and to England and Wales. Derwentside was the Team's first visit outside Scotland this year and brought with it a host of personal bests from the 16 swimmers involved. A smaller team travelled to the Welsh Dragon Meet in Cardiff, a major meet in Wales. Again it gave the Glasgow swimmers an opportunity to compete in a top class event. The next venue was Johnstone for the Renfrew District Open Meet with the team spirit very high swimmers made several finals.

DUAL MEETS

Glasgow has hosted two very successful Dual Meets this year at Castlemilk Pool on Saturday mornings. These meets are designed to create a competitive programme that will encourage swimmers to achieve PB's. One point is awarded for every 0.1 second improvement on P.B. and these are added to the team's overall points. The heavy fall of snow did cause some problems at the second meet and it was rumoured that the snowploughs made a special effort to clear the road, enabling East Kilbride to compete in this successful meet.

OLYMPIC PATHWAY

As part of the drive to encouraging sport Glasgow is promoting the "Olympic Pathway Programme". This is a multi-sport programme for eight to twelve year olds who have shown potential in swimming; other sports such as gymnastics, netball, volleyball and basketball will be on offer during a one day camp.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations must go out to Neil Aitken who recently joined Pollokshaw and Whiteinch Swimming Clubs and trains with the COG Development Scheme at Drumchapel. Neil competed in the British Junior Swimming Championships for Disabled, at Darlington recently and won eight gold medals and set eight British records.

MINI MEETS

The Mini Meets series between the Glasgow Clubs drew to a close in March, over 80 swimmers were identified as future champions proving how important this type of competition is in the development of successful swimmers.

TOP SWIMMERS

Two top names in World swimming visited Glasgow in February they were Adrian Moorehouse and David Wilkie. Adrian hosted the swimming clinic at Castlemilk Pool, which was a great success, involving 75 swimmers and David promoted the Childrens' Hospice Appeal sponsored swims at Whitehill and Drumchapel pools.

WELCOME

Glasgow would like to offer a warm welcome to Craig Miller, Stuart Hogg, Ruth Leaver and Susan Simpson who have joined the Swimming Development Scheme from Scotia and will be representing Glasgow in future events. Craig is currently a member of the Scottish Youth Squad and Stuart and Ruth have both been placed in the finals of the Scottish National Age Group Championships.

GLASGOW TRAINING WEEKENDS

The U-14 year swimmers have attended two weekend training camps at Girvan, one in late January then again in March. Swimmers attended sessions at the pool, land training and lectures during the weekend which were designed to help them prepare for the West Districts.

CLUB MEMBERS HOW ABOUT SOME NEWS FROM YOUR CORNER OF THE SWIMMING WORLD?

Some people comment on the regular articles from the City of Glasgow as though the Editor was writing the report in fact it is the regular submission of information from the Club which provides the news from Glasgow. Swimming 2000 only provides the headline. Let's hear what is happening around the country.

DISTRICT COACHING SEMINARS

EAST - Sunday 10 April
10.00-16.00
Moray House College
Cramond, Edinburgh

WEST - Saturday 23 April
10.00-16.00
Jordanhill College, Glasgow

NORTH - Sunday 24 April
11.00-17.00
Moray Leisure Centre, Elgin

MIDLAND - Sunday 8 May
10.00-16.00
Northern College, Dundee

FURTHER INFORMATION FROM THE SASA OFFICE
TELEPHONE - 041 641 8818

SYNCHRO UPDATE

The Scottish synchro trio, Sarah Burgon, Morag Duncan and Jane Liston, are continuing their quest to compete in the Commonwealth Games in August. The girls are all members of the Scottish Elite Synchronised Swimming Squad and Edinburgh Synchronised Swimming Club.

In December 1993 Sarah and Jane had the opportunity of travelling to Saskatchewan to be coached by the top 2 provincial coaches, Laurie Wachs and Sherry Vannin. The pair had worked with Laurie Wachs on 2 previous occasions, and she was very impressed with the improvement since she was last in Edinburgh in September, 1992. The aim of this trip was to prepare new routines. As a result of spending 5 hours in the water and long periods of land-drill a day, the 2 synchro swimmers returned home with new solo and duet routines. These will be used over the coming competitive season and in the Commonwealth Games if the girls are successful in being selected. They also attended a 2 day figure camp with coaching from Julie Sauve, national coach who took Canada's Sylvie Frechette to Olympic Gold.

Sarah and Jane returned to Canada at the end of February. They trained for 3 weeks, with Edmonton's former chief coach, who has recently moved to Calgary to benefit from her expertise in figure coaching. Unfortunately, Morag was unable to take up this opportunity due to other commitments

All three girls will be hoping to achieve a personal best at the

International German Open Competition in Bonn at the end of March where they will be competing against top class countries. Likewise when they participate in the Swedish Open at the end of May.

NEWS FLASH

Mrs Mary Black has been appointed as Chief Referee for the Synchronised Swimming Competitions at the 1994 Commonwealth Games in Victoria, Canada. Mary is delighted to receive this honour from the Games Organising Committee.

NEWS FLASH

Mrs Elizabeth Bowman has taken over the vacant National Synchronised Swimming Convener's post. The post has been vacant for a year since the previous Convener Mrs Helen Murray was elected President of the East District and was therefore not eligible to serve as Convener.

Mrs Bowman has served on the Committee for many years, has coached the national squads and is a FINA Judge. Her family commitments prevented her from taking up the post last year but her husband has recovered from a serious accident and has resumed work. Elizabeth's mother was ill during the same period and is now keeping much better.

INSTITUTE OF SWIMMING TEACHERS AND COACHES

With the approval of the Education Committee and the Board I attended the AGM of the above at the Highgate House Conference Centre on March 11th and 12th. Education Development is one of the main key action areas to be attacked in the next six months. Major developments are taking place throughout the UK. Implementation into the new structure is vitally important. We therefore have to seriously consider a formation of an ISTC Branch in Scotland. Now is the time for all TUTORS, COACHES and TEACHERS, in all disciplines, to be progressive and look to the future. It is therefore essential you keep abreast and updated, it is to your own advantage. Joining the ISTC is one avenue for you to obtain information as well as the advantages previously offered.

If we wish to have an approved assessment centre in Scotland then it is vital that the Education Committee know about all courses, in all disciplines, being held in Scotland. If you contact me at 0382 53-20-45 well in advance, these can be advertised in the Swimming Times. I have agreed meantime to be your ISTC representative - all help gratefully received.

Winnie Ferguson F.I.S.T.

COACHES-COACHES-COACHES-COACHES-COACHES-COACHES

The Board of Management is currently in process of securing some money to grant aid some of the Association's top coaches to attend events in the course of the year. Through this project they are starting what is hoped will be a programme of Advanced Coach Education that reaches beyond the limits of the certification programme and meets the development needs of our top coaches. It is intended that this programme will include attendance at overseas conferences, seminars and meets, a programme of seminars

at home, an attachment programme to coaches with specific expertise and a constant updating service on new ideas, references etc.

Any coach who feels that they would like to apply for financial support to attend the Canadian Coaches Seminar should make application in writing to Win Hayes c/o the SASA Office fully stating their case for selection for this programme. Application should be in as soon as possible.

RAFFLE UPDATE

There has been a fantastic initial response - Special thanks goes to clubs who are using the Raffle as their main fundraiser in place of their own raffles.

PLEASE RE-ORDER IMMEDIATELY WHEN YOU REQUIRE MORE TICKETS



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SWIMMING ASSOCIATION**

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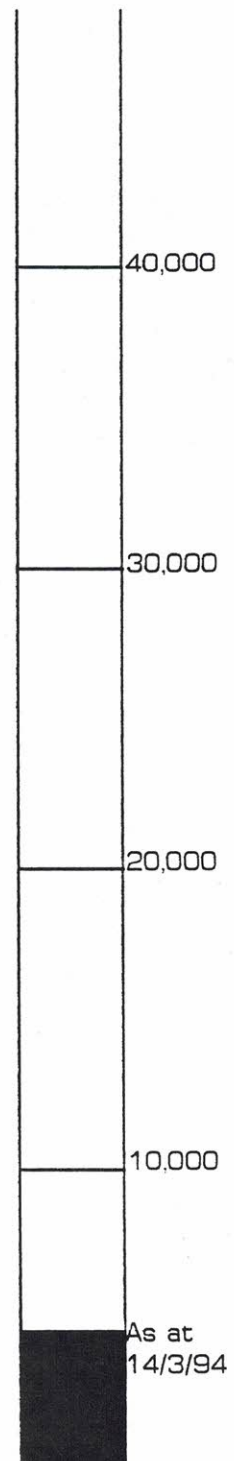
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RAFFLE PROMOTER: W. D. Charles, S.A.S.A., Holmihills Farm, Greenlees Road, Cambuslang, Glasgow.

To be drawn on 3rd July, 1994 at Ayr Baths, Ayr.



**SASA
RAFFLE
1994**

SCOTLAND'S LEADING CLUBS

Based on those already re-ordering

- 1 MILNGAVIE AND BEARSDEN ASC
- 2 ABERDEEN ASC
- 3 ELGIN ASC
- 4 ST.THOMAS ASC
- 5= BRECHIN BEAVERS
- 5= YTHAN ASC
- 5= DUNFERMLINE WATER POLO CLUB
- 5= RENFREW DISTRICT ASC

TAKE THE PLUNGE WITH THE NEW SCOTTISH SPEEDO AWARDS

CONTACT
THE SECRETARY
44 FREDERICK STREET
EDINBURGH EH2 2HB
031 225 7271

HI TECHS!

National Convener Lex Taylor left the SASA AGM to head for a Technical Officials' Seminar on 27th February Birmingham at the invitation of the ASA.

After reporting back to the SASA TTO Committee a report will be circulated to all registered Technical Officials - The message to all Technical Officials is do not forget to renew your registration so that you will be included in the distribution of this and other information pertinent to all aspects of being a Technical Official.

COMMONWEALTH GAMES WEEKEND AT INVERCLYDE 18/20 MARCH

Anne Murray and Fiona Couttie attended this very well organised weekend with all the Commonwealth Games sports taking part. The weekend consisted of training and lectures. The theme was to introduce the competitors and staff to the various local conditions in Victoria and to prepare them. Unfortunately, Fiona was unable to train as intended, when she and Anne arrived at Ayr Baths the West District Championships were in full swing. They concentrated on dry land training in the gymnasium.

WELSH NATIONAL DIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS - CARDIFF 25/27 March 1994

Anne Murray and Steve Forrest were the Coaches accompanying the following divers who participated in the Championships:

M. Ellington	Ellon Diving Club
O. Gilmore	Edinburgh Diving Club
E. Thom	Edinburgh Diving Club
D. Leslie	Edinburgh Diving Club

RESULTS NEXT MONTH.

DIVING NEWS

BDCA NOVICES COMPETITION 1994

The Scottish heat of this competition was held at the RCP in Edinburgh on 19th February 1994.

This was the second BDCA Novices Competition and once again it was very well supported. Clubs from Edinburgh, Ellon and Glenrothes took part. This was the first time Glenrothes had taken part and we hope to see them at our National Championships later in the year.

All competitors who qualified will be travelling to Plymouth for the final.

The competitions were judged by :-
W. Law

M. Taylor

S. Forrest

W. McMurray

A. Murray

Medals were presented by

M. Taylor and A. Murray.

Thanks to the RCP staff and to the Edinburgh Diving Club for organising the event.

RESULTS

Event 1	Age	Name	Club	Score	Place
Girls 8-9		Laura Grime	Edinburgh Diving Club	59.10	1
Girls 10-11		Danielle Carroll	Glenrothes ASC	56.80	1
		Lorraine Walker	" " "	50.20	2
Girls 12-13		Catriona Wellburn	Edinburgh Diving Club	DNC	-
		Michelle Carroll	Glenrothes ASC	68.95	2
		Wendy Donoghue	Edinburgh Diving Club	71.40	1
Event 2					
Boys 8-9		Duncan Campbell	Edinburgh Diving Club	52.80	2
		Christopher Johnston	Edinburgh Diving Club	47.45	3
		Michael Lambert	Edinburgh Diving Club	67.50	1
Boys 10-11		Alex Gilmore	Edinburgh Diving Club	57.95	4
		James Gatti	Edinburgh Diving Club	71.55	1
		Ruaridh Stevenson	Glenrothes ASC	49.20	5
		Christopher Blair	Edinburgh Diving Club	65.55	2
		Dale Halkett	Ellon Diving Club	DNC	-
		Stephen Hammersley	Edinburgh Diving Club	61.40	3
Boys 12-13		David Rees	Edinburgh Diving Club	77.70	2
		Sean Whittet	Glenrothes ASC	56.35	5
		Craig Hammersley	Edinburgh Diving Club	77.85	1
		Gavin Barnett	Ellon Diving Club	60.65	4
		Robert Hutton	Edinburgh Diving Club	64.80	3

MASTERS INFORMATION

The 1994 Masters Season started with a record entry of 160

competitors for the Alloa Masters on Saturday 5th February.

Organiser Jim Motion had the right formula with a well

organised event and an excellent dinner and Ceilidh afterwards. It was very encouraging to see a good entry from the North;

Inverness, Elgin and Aberdeen were well represented. There were competitors from Kilmarnock for the first time.

The inclusion of a 20-25 year group was popular and the Scottish

Masters Convener has put the inclusion of this group on the Agenda for the next GB Masters

Committee Meeting. (Unfortunately, too late for the FINA Masters Technical Congress at Montreal and the next occasion will be four years hence - inclusion of this age group in a Masters event is contrary to SASA and FINA Rules Editor).

The first Masters trip abroad this year will be to the Florence Masters in Italy, in early March, with mainly Silver City and Edinburgh Masters competing.

The Stirling Masters Training Weekend is full, but new Masters or those who would like to find out about Masters will be welcome on the next course at Stirling on 28/29 May or at the HEATED outdoor pool at Stonehaven in August.

Talking to competitors at Alloa it appears that Scotland will have its best representation ever at the FINA World Masters Championships in July at Montreal.

Lastly the Masters 200 Club subscriptions are now due, so please send £10 to Ron McDonald, 4 Margaret Crescent, West Ferry, Dundee, DD5 1WD.

WORLD MASTERS SURVEY UNDER WAY

Masters Swimming as an organised activity is the newest of the FINA disciplines. Little is known at present of the extent of participation throughout the world. A survey is at present being undertaken by FINA to remedy this situation. A questionnaire has been distributed requesting information on Masters activities in each of the Member Federations. When completed the survey should provide valuable information to assist with future development.

SHEFFIELD TO HOST THE 1996 WORLD MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Sheffield will stage the VI World Masters Championships. It will be the first time that the event has been staged in Europe.

Swimming, Diving, Water Polo and Synchronised Swimming will be held at the Pond's Forge International Sports Centre.

The Open Water 5K will be staged at Holme Pierrepont regatta lake Notting-

MASTERS DATES FOR 1994

05	March	Alloa Masters - Contact Jim Motion Telephone : 0259 216370
19 - 20	March	Scottish Masters Training Weekend - Stirling University - Contact SASA Office
06 - 08	May	Scottish Masters Short Course Championships - Greenock - Contact SASA Office
28 - 29	May	Scottish Masters Training Weekend - Stirling University - Contact SASA Office
03 - 05	June	Great Britain Masters : Leeds - Contact ASA
16	June	Scottish Long Course : RCP Edinburgh Contact SASA Office
03 - 10	July	FINA World Masters - Montreal , Canada
13 - 14	August	Scottish Masters Training Weekend, Stonehaven - Contact SASA Office
22	August	Lomond Masters Competition - Alexandria
27	August	Silver City Blues Masters - Aberdeen Contact S Boyne Telephone : 0224 574716
17 - 18	September	Scottish Masters Training Weekend - Stirling University - Contact SASA Office
22 - 08	Sept/Oct	World Masters Games - Brisbane Australia Contact SASA Office
	October	ASA Championships - Sheffield

October Tayside Masters- Perth
Contact Ron McDonald Telephone
0382 611511

17 - 18 November Glasgow
International Masters - Whitehill
Glasgow - Contact SASA Office

09 - 10 December Paris Masters
Paris, France - Contact SASA
Office

RENDEZ-VOUS 94 MONTREAL

The organising committee of the Vth World Masters Swimming Championships is doing everything possible to ensure the success of this event which is to be held in Montreal 3-10 July 1994.

All competition venues selected were built for the 1976 Summer Olympics and should result in a high standard of performance. The Championships headquarters will be located at the Swimming Centre in the Olympic Park Complex and will be open from 0900 hours to 1900 hours from the 2nd July until the end of the competition.



send your news and results to the SASA Office for your newsletter
Telephone : 041 641 8818

REMINDER



1994 SCOTTISH MASTERS SHORT COURSE CHAMPIONSHIPS ARE AT GREENOCK ON 6 - 8 MAY. ENTRIES CLOSE ON FRIDAY 15 APRIL

A BLAST FROM THE PAST

Is the fun going out of swimming?

Are swimmers really as bored as they look on the poolside? What is happening to sporting etiquette - applauding swimmers, pride in club achievement, being ready for presentations etc.? Are we becoming so individual in approach that we are not interested in the efforts of others?

Where are we going wrong? Do too many team managers think their only job is to stand in front of swimmers with a stopwatch to the neglect of fostering team spirit and ensuring swimmers are on time for starts and medal ceremonies - and tidily attired for their presentations?

These were some issues addressed by Alex. Spence (President of SASA in 1967) speaking at the Past Presidents' Association Dinner in Edinburgh after the A.G.M.

Alex. is well qualified to comment after 49 years as an official. At 27 years of age he took over as Swimming Training and Selection Convener organising the first National Easter Courses for seven years, acting as Scottish and GB team manager, & organising the first international trip for Scottish Teams outwith Great Britain. He has experience of several Commonwealth Games, & organised the SASA Championships for six years, the Scottish Schools Championships for six years, as well as a number of international events. Following his three year stint as President of the Scottish Schools Swimming Association, he acted as Secretary of the Four Countries International Committee (W.I.S.E.), the only Scot to hold that post. He was a founder member of Scottish Swimming Awards, serving on the Board of Management for 20 years.

This well qualifies him to compare attitudes over the years. He feels there is no single answer to the present malaise. Apart from sloppy work by some club team officials, trendy educationalists' pronouncements against "elitism" prevalent in many schools may lead athletes to believe there is something wrong in excelling.

Prior to moving to the warmer waters of Dundee Baths, Alex. spent his early years as an outdoor swimmer at Step Rock, St. Andrews. He entertained the Ex-Presidents and wives with this East Coast dialect. McGonigall version of some of his early experiences.

MEMORIES OF AN OUTDOOR DOCKER

In June o' 1935

My Mither said, "If you're tae survive
You've got tae learn tae swim and dive"
So I was Ta'en tae Step Rock pool,
Well renowned fer bein' cool.
For temperature low it could not be beaten
By North Berwick, Arbroath or Port Seton.

The fees they chainged defied description-
A shilling fer a years' subscription !
Five shillings fer a season ticket !!
Tae a seven-year auld sich cost wis
wicked !!!

Before ye swam ye'd tae be dressed
In clubbie costume like the rest:
No fer us the present panties -
The civic leaders banned sich scanties.
A full-length cossie ye'd tae wear
Wi' six inch legs - plus underneath a pair
O' extra drawers tae help conceal
Whit young lads noo wi' pride reveal !
Clubbie colours bright royal blue and
Round the middle a broad white band.
Club outfitter wis Fordyce,
19/11d wis the price.
But young wans cossies werena like na
Modern wans made oot o' Lycra.
No' fer us a second skin,
The wans we wore made viewers grin.
Not a single cossie fitted
And that's because oor Aunties knitted
Them fer us tae grow
And so the bottoms aye hung low
The impression ye wid get
Wis that each wis wearin' a trawler net !
When we climbed oot o' the watter chill,
We a' went through identical drill -
We reached behind with practised motion,
Squeezin' cossie bottom hard tae empty oot
the ocean.

And so wi' mony a shiver and choke
We quickly learned tae dae breaststroke.
Followed by Trudgeon, then the Sidestroke-
And, as if that wisna all,
We copied Tarzan Weismueller's Crawl;
And, even though I say it mysel',
That's the stroke where I did excel.

We swam frae May tae late September
And tae this day I still remember
A' the fun and pleasure then;
I'd like tae live it a' again.
We tackled onything, nae inhibitions,
Opening new outdoor pools wi' exhibitions.
Before ye heard o' Synchro Swimmin'
We entertained baith men and wimmin
Wi' Rollin' Log, the Washtub, and the Seal;
The Submarine had great appeal.
The divin' display wis next tae follow -
Isander, Pike and then the Swallow.
Inter-club swims against Kirkcaldy
We won them a' - no' bad, eh?
And so oor fame spread far and wide
Throughout the local countryside

Buckhaven built an outdoor pool.
Eight-sided wis their little jewel
We received an invitation
Accepted wi' nae trepidation -
Would we play their 'polo team'?
(Their first match ever it would seem)
Oor team composed o' scrawny minors
Were faced by brawny, muscled miners.
They'd nae idea o' the rules,
Or maybe they jist thocht us fools !
Oor team had seven,
they'd eleeven.
We didna believe their East Coast patter
That they thocht it wis fitba' in the watter.
However, after much persuasion
They agreed to stick by regulation.

Tho' play wis tough,
They're tacklin' rough,
By first half we were 5-0 leadin' -
Then their supporters showed their
breedin' !
They pelted us wi' coal and graivel
About oor heid an' chest an' navel.
It's nae fun when ye're cauld an' chilly
Trying desperately tae protect yer -
(anatomy?)
Oor captain got us in a huddle,
"We've got tae get oot o' this guddle,
If ye want tae go on leevin'
Ye better let this gang score seven.
Efter the whistle, mak nae fuss,
Grab ye're claes, get on the bus;
Forget a' thochts o' aprés-polo winchin',
This mob is set upon a lynchin' !
Buckhaven's aff oor fixture list -
I've never been sae bloommin' - (disappointed?)
And yet despite this dire affray
We lived tae play anither day.
(In thae days ye didna mak' appeal
Tae the likes o' Taylor or Neil !)

We were feared at Water Polo;
Dundee clubs' spirits sank sae low,
Not because o' oor inate skills,
But at the thocht o' gettin' chills
Through playin' in the cauld sea watter.
(Ye should hae heard their team's teeth
chatter !)
Seven minutes' play, then cups o' tea;
The opposition ye wid see
Pour in rum tae mak' a toddy
Or rub hot tea a' ower their body.

Whatever becam' o' the handicap?
Tae swim in wan we'd scour the map.
We'd traivel to ony place on earth -
Weel, Dundee, Dunfermline or Perth !
Sixpence an entry, yards not metres
Gosh, we thocht we were world-beaters
"Heat 26, ye're in lane 2.
Heid doon an' see whit ye can do.
Watch ye dinna break yer time
Disqualification's fer that crime.
Next time yer handicap they'll lower,
But it'll no be raised if ye go slower !"
Ye win yer heat mak' semi-final;
Nerves set in - waur's the urinal?
Ye mak' the final, say a prayer,
A bit o' luck an' ye're first there.
Ye've won first prize - oh, the elation !
But ye've nae time fer celebration.
It's half past ten, quick! Get yer claes on.
Ye've jist ten meenits tae reach the station
Ye jist mak' the train, admirin' eyes
Are desperate tae see yer prize.
Pals can't believe that ye hiv got
A genuine, aluminium teapot !

On the local holiday
We looked fer ither spots tae play.
We usually headed fer Dundee,
Day excursion 2/3d.
10d fer the Central Baths:
No fer us the "second class"
Apart frae a' the ither things

Did your pool, like Dundee, hae rings,
Whaur ye could swing frae end tae end?
Success, of course, wid aye depend
On whether the Corporation bathin' slips
Managed tae bide upon yer hips.
If they fell aff, ye maun let go.
Never mind the fowk below!

At galas there were bathin' belles
In one-piece costumes - oh, whit swells,
Posin', smilin', showin' dimples.
(At Step Rock, substitute goose pimples!!)
I could go on but fear I'd bore
Wi' swimmin' tales o' days o' yore -
The midnight galas, Peg-leg Pete,
Ned Barney climaxing the Meet -

But noo the sport is sae intense:
Club gear, subscriptions sic expense.
But does the average girl or boy
Club meets an' trainin' still enjoy?
Whaur's the spirit o' the teams?
How bored the average swimmer seems!
Instead o' watchin' their club heroes,
They wag heids in time tae personal stereotypes.
Few clap winners, raise a cheer,
Unlike the fowk o' yester year.
Wi' simple things we were contented, -
But then, "Teenagers" hadna been invented!
When they look back as I dae noo,
I'll guarantee there are very few
Can truthfully, honestly report
They'd fun like us oot o' the sport!

A.D. Spence
26/2/94

GLOSSARY

Shilling - coin equivalent to 5p
10d - approximately 4p
Sixpence - half a shilling
2/3d - about 11p
19/11 - almost £1
Trudgeon - front crawl arms, breast-
stroke leg action

**NB English translations available -
contact the author**

LATE NEWS FLASH

**Martin Woodroffe, Olympic
Silver medalist at the Mexico
Olympics has been appointed
as Director of Swimming for
Scotland**

**Martin has an outstanding
record as a Swimming Coach
with several clubs but mainly
with Warrington Warriors
producing swimmers from
national age group champions
through to Great Britain
internationalists.
More in next issue**

COULD THIS BE ANY OF YOU?

There were once four people
Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody
There was an important task to do and
Everybody was asked to do it
Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it
Anybody could have done it, but in the end,
Nobody did it.
Somebody was very angry over this because
it was really Everybody's job
Everybody thought Anybody would do it
But Nobody realised Everybody wouldn't do it
It ended up with Everybody blaming Somebody,
when actually Nobody had asked Anybody.

Thanks to Mrs Helen Murray who sent in the verse

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