

CARLTON HOTEL, EDINBURGH.

Saturday 25 February 1978.

The 21st annual dinner of the SASA Past Presidents was held in the Carlton Hotel, Edinburgh on Saturday 25 February 1978.

Those present were:-

Ned Barrie - 1946

Tom Myers - 1953

John Dunne - 1965

Wm. M. Sharpe - 1961

Alex. Spence - 1967

Bill Cowan - 1968

Jack Coulters - 1971

Jack ~~Wainwright~~ - 1969

Les Turberville - 1974

Peter Hearty - 1975

Mary Black - 1976/7

Messrs. Sharpe, Spence, ^{Cowan} Turberville and Hearty were accompanied by their wives while General Secretary Bill Black was along with his wife Mary, who had that day chaired the Annual General

Meeting of the Association at the end of a particularly successful year of office in which many difficulties had been surmounted not the least of which had been her own ill-health;

The guest of honour was the newly installed President of the Association Mr. Pete Smith (Belmont A.S.C) along with his wife, Isobel.

The arrangements for the evening were in the very capable hands of Peter Heally who acted as chairman.

In welcoming those present, Peter gave apologies sent on behalf of the following - guests from some of their letters: -

Messrs. R. Paterson, W. Foulds,
Geo Prescott, Ken Brown, Jim
Williamson, George Rae, and
Jack Neil

After an excellent well-served meal fortified by choice wines, the loyal toast was given by the chairman and the cigars passed round.

The chairman said how fitting it was that the dinner should be held once more in the Carlton Hotel, Edinburgh where twenty years earlier the inaugural dinner of the Past Presidents had taken place. It was particularly pleasing to see present two members who had attended that inaugural dinner - Ned Barrin and Tom Myers. It was also 25 years since Tom took office as President of the Association.

The scribe, Les Tushnet, then read the minutes of the previous year's dinner which, as he ~~was~~ still appeared comparatively sober, were apparently understood by all who had been present and were adopted as a true record.

The chairman then called on Alex Spence to propose the toast to the "Scottish Amateur Swimming Association", explaining that it was to have been given by Jim Williamson who unfortunately, as the eleventh hour had been prevented by illness from attending. Alex Spence said that in the circumstances, he felt it appropriate to read from the notes which Jim had prepared. In a few well chosen sentences, the development of the Association from its origin

90 years earlier was traced with mention of various ~~important~~ milestones in swimming, water polo and diving.

The expansion of activities with its present day financial demands was being tackled by the Association. Looking to the future, Jim urged the Association not to lose sight of its responsibilities to Club members and children in the teaching of swimming and other aspects referred to

in the Constitution. In proposing the toast, congratulations were offered on its 90 years of activity and coupled with it was the name of the new president, Mr Peter Smith.

Pete, speaking on behalf of himself and his wife Isabel, said how appropriate it was that his first official function was to attend such a high-spirited and friendly gathering though underlying this there was evidence of the true worth of the Past President Association. There were years of experience round the table and none had more than 50 or 60 letters who had shown remarkable foresight in introducing Age Group swimming to Scotland.

The chairman undertook to pay the best wishes of those present to the members who had been prevented by illness from attending, namely

Bob Paterson, George Proctor
and Jim Williamson

The formalities of the evening

being over, the assemblage lapsed into informality, with reminiscences of personalities and occasions over the years. Among the highlights were some anecdotes concerning Ned Barric's channel-swimming exploits. Ned, at the age of 81 years, also entertained the company with song, impatience (or perhaps fortitude) none of the others followed his example.

To round off the evening Tom Myers proposed a well-deserved vote of thanks to Peter Hally, our chairman for the evening, congratulating him on the organization and quality of the festive board.

In 1979 the Association's Annual General Meeting was scheduled to be held in the Midlands District and arrangements for the Past Presidents Dinner would be in the capable hands of Mr. Alex Spence ably abetted

by the new President, Mr. Pete Smith