

SKEAN DHU HOTEL, ALTENS, ABERDEEN

Saturday 25 February 1984

The 27th Annual Dinner of the SASA Past Presidents was held in the Skean Dhu Hotel, Altens, Aberdeen on the evening of Saturday 25 February 1984 following the 862 Annual General Meeting of the Association which had taken place in the Beach Ballroom, Aberdeen, earlier that day.

Mr. Don Hawthorn was in the chair and the organisation of the evening had been in the capable hands of Allan Robertson.

The following members were present

John Gunning	1957.
Willie Sharp	1961
George Prescott	1964.
Alex Spence	1967
Jack Wainwright	1969
John Neil	1973
Les Tschervill	1974
Peter Hearty	1975
Mary Black	1976/7.

Bob	
Allan Robertson	1979
Jim Thomson	1980
Mae Cochrane	1981
Tom Nelson	1982
Don Hawthorn	1983

~~Also~~ In addition to our two former Lady Presidents, it was a particular pleasure to welcome the wives of Messrs Sharp, Prescott, Spence, Neir, Turberville, Robertson, Thomson, Nelson and Hawthorn.

To complete the company our guests of honour were the newly installed president of the Association, Jack Snowden and his wife, Alberta.

Mr Don Hawthorn extended a welcome to all present and said grace after which an excellent meal was very tastefully served in extremely pleasant surroundings.

At the conclusion of the meal, the

company relaxed with some enjoying liquors and cigars - others indulged themselves with more innocuous habits.

Allan Robertson intimated ~~apologies~~ that ~~from~~ he had received apologies for absence from Tom Myers (1953), Willie Foulds (1939), George Rae (1963), Bill Cowan (1968) and Pete Smith (1978).

The scribe, Les Torberville, then reminded those present that during the previous year we had lost, by death, three former presidents Ned Barrie (1946), Bob Paterson (1949) and John Donne (1965), also the wives of two past presidents Mrs. Ethel Wainwright and Mrs. Ella Reid. A short silence was observed in their memory.

It was noted that the evening's attendance - 25 - appeared to be a P.B. for their gathering.

The minutes of the 26th Annual Dinner in Danden were read and, since no one present could recall otherwise, were adopted.

as a Croc record.

Allan Robertson then proposed the toast to the S. R. S. A. In his speech, Allan referred to the great pleasure it had given him to see Bill Black accorded Life Membership of the S. R. S. A. that day. Unfortunately, Bill was unable to be present at the dinner because of in-service training. Allan reported that Bill had been one of his pupils as a young teacher but Allan disclaimed responsibility for Bill being away home after the AGM that day with three Synchro girls. Allan congratulated the other new Life Member Don Hawthorn on the manner in which he had conducted the affairs of the Association during his year of office and at the Annual General Meeting that day. Allan then said how appropriate it was that in the "Granite City" Leslie Turberville had been chosen to be the first recipient of the J. Y. Coull's Memorial Award and to receive it from Jack's daughter Mrs Joan Comber, herself a Life Member of the Association.

Allan referred to the appointment of Harry Smith as the new Director of Swimming and said that he had been impressed by his vision of the future for Scottish Swimming. As a member of the Scottish Sports Council he felt we should not lose sight of the part played by that body in the ^{practical} encouragement of our sport. Finally, he welcomed the new President of the Association Jack Snower - a popular and respected figure in Scottish Swimming and wished him and the Association every success in 1984.

Jack, in his reply, spoke of his feelings as that akin to a new boy with much a wealth of experience around him. He congratulated Don Houston on what he had been able to achieve in 1983 and, looking to the future, stressed the importance of the next few years in the life of the Association embracing as it did the Edinburgh Commonwealth Games in 1986 and the

Association Centenary Year in 1988

Finally, on behalf of his wife and himself,
Jack 'charter' the members for their
hospitality at his convivial evening & the
pledged himself to work for the interests of
the Association during his term of office.

The chairman, Don Hawthorn, then
circulated a diagrammatic representation of the
S.A.S.A. Presidents Chain of office. He felt
the chain itself could be adapted so as to
include our first presidents detachment and incorporate
further ~~cross~~ ^{CROSS} links to take it up to 1988,
the Centenary Year. He ~~invited~~ ^{invited} the members to
consider (1) Requiring the second center of the
Association with a new President's chain of office
(2) the possibility of a Vice-Presidents chain of office
(3) the identifying of Past Presidents in the
Association hand book. (4) Appropriate
Ties and/or Scarves for ladies and (5)
A medal for the Vice-President

Peter Hearty then invited the
members to give some thought to the

approaching centenary. All things being equal that being in four years time would mean the B.G.M. being held in Aberdeen.

~~Peter also cast his mind back to 1948~~
~~when there were 10~~ This being Olympic Year Peter also cast his mind back to 1948 when 10 Scots won in the Olympic Trials and 5 finally selected for the Swimming and Diving Team. We should keep in mind that we still had in our midst, a notable ~~member~~ Olympian, Ellen King who had won a silver medal at the Olympic Games in 1928 - sixty years before our projected Centenary Celebrations

Next year (1985) would see the Association's Annual General Meeting being held in the West District, probably at Paisley. As the most recent ~~past~~ Past President from the West, Tom Nelson was asked to undertake arrangements for the Past Presidents Dinner

Les Taskwith reminded the meeting that photographs of past presidents from 1979 onwards

were required to complete the pictorial record.

Proceedings continued informally with duties being read by Allan Robertson and Garry Prescott. Mary Black gave a recitation and various raconteurs told their stories - some old some new.

To conclude a most enjoyable evening, Garry Prescott accorded a vote of thanks to the chairman and to Allan and Les for the arrangements. He wished the guests Jack and Alberta Snowden every happiness in the year ahead and looked forward to seeing everybody again in 12 months' time.