

ARGYLL HOTEL, DUNOON

25 February 1989.

The Past Presidents of the Scottish Amateur Swimming Association gathered in the Argyll Hotel, Dunoon on the evening of Saturday 25 February 1989 following the Association's Annual General Meeting which had been held in the Queen's Hall there, earlier that day.

The occasion was the 32nd Annual Dinner of the Past Presidents and there were present -

John Gunning - 1957

Alex Spence - 1962 + Mrs Spence

John Neil - 1973 + Mrs Neil

Les Torberville - 1976 + Mrs Torberville

Peter Hearty - 1975 and 1988

Allan Robertson - 1979 + Mrs Robertson

Mrs Mac Hearty - 1981

Tom Nelson - 1982 + Mrs Nelson

Jack Snowdon - 1984 + Mrs Snowdon

Andrew Taylor - 1987 + Mrs Taylor

The members were delighted to welcome Bill Black - General Secretary and husband of Mary Black - 1926/77 who had been prevented at the last moment by illness from attending.

Also the newly installed President of the Association - Donald McGilivray and his wife Nancy

Tom Nelson, chairman for the evening, welcomed everyone to the dinner. Before the meal a short silence was observed in memory of those who had died during the time that had elapsed since the previous function in 1988, viz. Pete Smith, 1978, Willie Sharpe, ¹⁹⁶¹ George Rae ¹⁹⁶³ and Mary Thomson (wife of Jim Thomson).

At the conclusion of the meal, the chairman intimated apologies from George Prescott who had another unavoidable engagement but sent his good wishes, Jim Thomson following his recent sad bereavement, Norman Pather on holiday after a recent operation, Mary Black prevented at the last minute by illness from attending, Jack Wainwright, Don Hawthorne and Douglas Cape, two

Letters sent to Tom Myers had been returned
"Not Known"

It was agreed to try and trace the whereabouts of Tom Myers and also of Bill Cowan who had not been heard of for some time.

The Scribe (Les Turberville) then traced his way through the notes he had made on the occasion of the dinner held in Aberdeen at the start of the Association's ~~and~~ Centenary Year. As usual, nobody's ~~own~~ recollection of the events that night was sufficiently good to dispute what had been written and the minutes were then approved.

John Gunning, the Senior past-president present - 32 years previously but defying his years - then gave the toast to the Scottish Amateur Swimming Association - He said that the Association though frequently taken for granted, provided the organisation which in these complex days was essential ^{to} any swimming nation. This had never been more apparent than in the Association's Centenary Year which has just been concluded. We, on

Past Presidents were all aware of the sterling work which lay behind this organization ^{and} ~~but~~ he was sure that the same sentiments permeated further down to the grass roots.

Much enthusiasm, effort, friendship and support existed throughout the Association and he hoped that it might long continue ^{so} to do ~~so~~.

Donald Mc Gillivray, in his reply, thanked the members and wives for the warmth of their welcome to Nancy and himself. He echoed John Gunning's statements on the spirit prevailing in the Association and indicated that this meeting together of past-presidents reflected and ~~permeated~~ ^{excrayed} the spirit throughout the District. He referred to the excellent leadership given to the Association by Mr. Healy in the Association's Centenary Year and to the developments taking place particularly in Coaching and Education. Also to the work of the Review Committee under the chairmanship of Andrew Taylor. He himself looked forward to the coming year in the knowledge he could

count on the support of all Past -
Presidents

Toasts were drunk to the "Ladies"
and to "Absent Friends" ~~which~~ thus
concluding the formal part of the evening
which continued for some time with
the usual reminiscences and humour -
The ^{apoc} said John Gunning was asked by
the Scribe to be in particularly good
forms with reference to King-Kong's
anatomy and other - large as life - tales

Before the evening closed, it was noted
that next year's A.G.M. would be in the
East District and that Andrew Taylor would be
charged with the responsibility for organising the
Past Presidents Dinner.

In conclusion, warmest thanks were extended
to the proprietors and staff of the Argyll Hotel,
Dunoon and to Tom Nelson for his
chairmanship and for the excellent arrangements
he had made for this year's function.