

# STATION HOTEL, AYR

27 February 1993

The 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Gathering of the Past Presidents of the Scottish Amateur Swimming Association was held in the Station Hotel, Ayr on the evening of Saturday 27 February 1993. Following the Association's Annual General Meeting which had been held in the Town Hall, Ayr earlier that day.

The following past presidents were in attendance:-

- |                 |                 |              |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Jim Gunning     | (1957)          |              |
| Geo Prescott    | (1964)          |              |
| Alex Spence     | (1967)          | and Nellie   |
| John Neil       | (1973)          | and Margaret |
| Les Torkieville | (1974)          | and Ruby     |
| Peter Hearty    | (1975) + (1988) |              |
| Alan Robertson  | (1979)          | and Sheena   |
| Jim Thomson     | (1986)          | and Chris    |
| Mae Hearty      | (1981)          |              |
| Jack Snowden    | (1984)          | and Alberta  |
| Andrew Taylor   | (1987)          | and Nan      |
| Don McGilivray  | (1989)          | and Nancy    |
| George Philp    | (1991)          | and Agnes    |
| Jill Cochran    | (1992)          | and Gordon   |

The guests of the evening were the newly - installed president of the Association - Mrs Winnie Ferguson and her husband George.

After a pleasant short session of pre-prandial drinks, the company adjourned to the room set aside for our meal, the tables being set in the traditional square pattern so that none could escape the eagle eye of the chairman, who on this occasion was Mr. Jim Thomson of Old Kilpatrick and Clydebank A.S.C.

Before the meal the company observed a short solemn in memory of two former past-presidents Bill Cowan (1968) and Jim McVicker (1991) and of Alex Cooper (Life Member) and Mrs Helen Sharp (Past President's widow) who had died during the past twelve months.

After an enjoyable meal, followed by the Loyal Toast, the chairman intimated apologies from the following

Mary Black (1976/7)

Tom Nelson (1982)

Don Hawthorne (1983)

Douglas Cape (1985)

Mrs. Margaret McWhir

Mrs Black had sent a contribution towards  
the expenses

The Scribe (Les Turberville) was then called upon to give his recorded version of the 1992 Past President's Dinner in Inverness. This he did without hesitation, a minimum of deviation, some repetition and a lot of interruption from those present. However, in the end, all seemed satisfied and the minutes were approved on the proposal of Rev. Hearty seconded by Alex Spence

John Neil - from Shores A.S.C. and the West District - in proposing the Coast to the S.A.S.A., wished the newly installed president - Winnie Ferguson - well the best in her year of office. He congratulated her predecessor, Jill Cochran for her efforts on behalf of the Association during the past 12 months and for the efficient conduct of business at the AGM earlier that day. Jack recalled the early beginnings of the Association when 60 persons from 20 clubs gathered in Edinburgh in 1858. Now the Association

was 5 years into its second century. There had been good ambassadors for Scotland in all disciplines of the sport - none more so than Peter Huxley who after a lifetime in international sporting circles was currently serving a second term as chairman of the A.S.F. of Great Britain. In conclusion he wished all the company a very enjoyable evening and called upon them to join him in the hope that in the next 12 months the Association would go from strength to strength.

Winnie Ferguson, in her reply, thanked all present for the very warm welcome which she and her husband had received. Though the prospect of 12 months in the president's chair was somewhat daunting, yet it was re-assuring to be in the company of all those who had managed to survive. She recalled how she had become embroiled in the sport through her two sons, Malcolm and Colin. To some it might seem like a life sentence but she had enjoyed it all and was looking forward to her "year of parole" knowing she could count on the support of all present.

This concluded the formal business and the chairman, Jim Thomson, referring to our two Senior past-presidents said he was pleased to see Tom Gurney here following a minor operation in hospital only a few days earlier. He also asked George Prescott to convey the best wishes of all present to George's wife, Ruby, when next he visited her in hospital.

Shortly afterwards, Jim Thomson was obliged to leave the gathering as he was feeling unwell. He asked Les Turberville to take over in the chair. Les, referred to the galled way in which Jim had stepped into the breach at rather short notice to arrange the Past Presidents dinner. Jim McWhir had been ~~appointed~~ ~~to~~ ~~the~~ ~~give~~ the remit originally but following his unfortunate death, the responsibility seemed to have been passed around until Jim had agreed to put the matter in hand.

In 1994 the A.G.M. was due to be held

in the East District. George Philip as  
the most recent president from that district  
was asked to undertake arrangements for the  
Past Presidents Dinner at a suitable venue and  
readily agreed.

There was some concern expressed at  
the current standing of swimming in Scotland  
and G.B. difficulties in relation to changing  
responsibilities in the management of swimming  
facilities and in the structure of the Association.  
However, it was perhaps too late after  
a fairly long day, to have any meaningful  
discussion on ways of advancing the sport  
and so the members and their partners  
relaxed in the warmth of the  
good fellowship around the table.

Before departing, the members  
expressed their appreciation of Jim  
Thomson's efforts in arranging and  
chairing the function.