

SASA PAST PRESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

MINUTE OF ANNUAL DINNER 2003

The Annual Dinner was held in the Camoustie Hotel on Friday, 21st February, 2003 at 7p.m. for 7.30 p.m. Photographs of the company were taken before the dinner commenced.

Attending were:

Alex. Spence (1967) and Netta
John Neil (1973) and Margaret
Peter Heatly (1975 and 1988)
Mary Black (1976 and 1977)
Isabel Smith, widow of Peter (1978)
Don Hawthorn (1983) and Carole
Jack Snowdon (1984)
Andrew Taylor (1987) and Nan
Don McGillivray (1989) and Nancy
George Philp (1991) and Agnes
Jill Cochran (1992) and Gordon
Winnie Ferguson (1993) and George
Helen Brunton (1994)
Bill Black (1995)
Norman Grierson (1996) and Myra
Robin Dale (1998 and 1999) and Jennifer
Ron Taylor (2000) and Sheena
Sandy Brunton (2001) and Lorna
Stewart Davidson (2002) and Joan
Blair Prentice (President - elect) and Ann as guests, making a total of 34.

Mr. Don McGillivray, Chairman for the evening, referred to the sad loss to our Association with the death of Ruby Turberville at the beginning of the week. Ruby had been a staunch supporter of the Association and had displayed remarkable courage fighting her illness. The scribe would write to Les expressing the sympathy of the Association. A short silence was observed. Don also referred to the illness of Mae Heatly who was too weak to attend the dinner. Similarly, Sheena Robertson had suffered a severe stroke and was still in care. John Gunning, Senior Past President, tendered apologies. He is now registered blind and regretted his non-attendance, but sent best wishes to all. Other apologies were received from Les Turberville, Alan Robertson, Tommy Nelson, Douglas Cape and Jean Hoare.

Mrs. Winnie Ferguson (1993) said Grace and an excellent meal, accompanied by first-class wine, was enjoyed.

The Loyal Toast was proposed by Chairman Don McGillivray, followed by a short break for various reasons.

After the break the Toast to the SASA was proposed by Alex. Spence (1967)

He made reference to the many changes seen over a long period of association with the sport. The last ten years or so had been the most eventful with vast sums of money coming from the Lottery Fund, SportsScotland and various sponsors. The balance sheet for the AGM showed we were now dealing with over one million pounds more than in the late fifties/early sixties. The professional organisation administering the sport had taken a great burden from the shoulders of amateur officials. The professional coaching set up was now paying dividends as was instanced by our success at the Commonwealth Games in Manchester when five medals were won by the team. He welcomed the President-elect, Blair Prentice, and referred to the work Blair had already done in the Association, ably supported by wife Ann. He wished him well in his year of office and finished by thanking Stewart Davidson for his contribution to Scottish swimming during his year of office.

In his reply, Blair Prentice gave a short resume of his swimming career and thanked the Past Presidents for their support. He looked forward to the challenge of his year of office.

It was intimated that next year's AGM would be in North District and probable venue would be Aberdeen. Arrangements for the dinner would be in the hands of Sandy Brunton as most recent president from that area.

That ended the formal part of the evening and there followed reminiscences and stories. It was pointed out by one member that the date of the dinner had been printed as November and not February. The scribe explained that February was more difficult to spell than November and that if this really was November then those on pension had received an extra two months' payments. This explanation was accepted, no doubt due to the quality of the alcoholic beverages consumed.

The cost of the meal was calculated and divided by the number of past presidents present and all dues paid by those present. It was noted that on this occasion Winnie got her sums correct.

Peter Heatly thanked the organisers - Don Mc Gillivray, Winnie Ferguson and Alex. Spence - for arrangements made. He referred to Alex's toast to the Association, particularly the part where he referred to the very much shorter swimming season. He quoted from a letter sent to the Convener of the Polo Committee by Warrender B.C., complaining about the decision to hold the Cup competition in March and not at the usual earlier time. The secretary stated that "the young members of his club had other things to do in the spring".

Members retired to various parts of the hotel or home. It should be noted that Don Hawthorn has made a good recovery from being charged £24 for three whiskies in the Midnight Bar.