

SASA PAST PRESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Minute of 47th Annual Dinner , 27th February, 2004

The Annual Dinner was held in the Thistle Aberdeen Airport Hotel, Dyce, on Saturday 27th February, 2004, at 7.30 p.m., for 8.00 p.m. Arrangements were in the more than capable hands of Sandy Brunton as the most recent Past President of North District origin. Sadly he had no control over the meteorological conditions and snow blizzards made travel tricky.

In attendance were;

Alex Spence (1967) and Netta
Les Turberville (1974)
Peter Heatly (1975 and 1988)
Allan Robertson (1979)
Don Hawthorne (1983) and Carole
Jack Snowdon (1984)
Andrew Taylor (1987) and Nan
Don McGillivray (1989) and Nancy
Jill Cochran (1992) and Gordon
Winnie Ferguson (1993)
Helen Brunton (1994)
Norman Grierson (1996) and Myra
Mrs Jean Hoare, widow of Derek (1997)
Robin Dale (1998 and 1999) and Jennifer
Ron Taylor (2000) and Sheena
Sandy Brunton (2001) and Lorna
Stewart Davidson (2002) and Joan
Blair Prentice (2003) and Ann
Helen Murray (President - elect) and Stewart as guests, making a total of

31.

Apologies were received from

John Gunning (1957); John Neil (1973) and Margaret; Mary Black (1976/77); Isobel Smith, widow of Peter (1978); Jim Thomson (1980) and Chris; Douglas Cape (1985) and Amy; George Philp (1991) and Agnes; Bill Black (1995).
No response had been received from Tom Nelson.

Chairman for the evening was Sandy Brunton, fresh from the snowfields of Inverness.

Sandy referred to the death of Mae Heatly, President in 1981. Mae had been a remarkable force in the SASA and in the Past Presidents' Association and would be sorely missed. She would have been proud to see her daughter, Helen, installed this year. The company observed a short silence in her memory.

Grace

Don Hawthorn said Grace and there followed an excellent meal with liberal wine, followed by coffee and mints.

Loyal Toast

The assembled company responded to the toast proposed by the Chairman.

Toast to the SASA

The appropriate choice was Les Turberville who had been installed as President in Kirkcaldy thirty years ago to the day.

Les referred to his club, Bon Accord which had been formed in 1862 with competitions held in the R. Dee. The first Water Football or Water Polo match was played in the Dee between Bon Accord and Dee Clubs.

He referred to the contacts made with Stirling University during his year of office and to the eventual setting up of the Association Office there in 1976. After a break in the 1990s it was good to see the Association re-established at Stirling University with a fully professional staff and magnificent pool facilities.

Les made reference to the establishment of the Past Presidents' Association in 1957 and the changes which have taken place in the Association since then.

The young swimmers in SASA with excellent coaching back-up had made remarkable progress recently and he looked forward to a large Scottish presence in the GB team at Athens later in the year. He wished the Association continued success.

Reply

Reply on behalf of the Scottish Amateur Swimming Association was made by the President-elect, Mrs. Helen Murray, nee Cochrane. Despite her apparent youth, Helen had been involved in many capacities in the Association, first as competitor, then club, East District then Scottish committee member. She had been involved in coaching and in synchro swimming.

Unusually she chose to present her speech in poetry, rather than prose and ably set out her intentions and aspirations. So well did she perform as a rhymester that one person even suggested she be Official Bard to the SASA Company. This produced for the first time complete unanimity from those present. However, it transpired in later conversation that some of the hearing-challenged guests thought the proposal had been that she be officially barred from the assembled company. The more cynical felt things were going from bad to verse!

The Chairman thanked Helen and wished her every success in her year of office. He also thanked Blair Prentice for his contribution to SASA as President and wished him a good AGM on Saturday.

There followed what is known as a comfort break.

On resumption Andrew Taylor made a strong plea for more conviviality, stories etc. Andrew and Nan then departed after the Chairman expressed the good wishes of the company when he entered hospital on the Monday.

The Chairman announced the result of the "divi" and members forked up the requisite £18 per head.

With a vote of thanks to the chair, the company dispersed.