

## SASA PAST PRESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

*Minute of Annual Dinner held in McDonald Cardrona Hotel, Peebles  
on Friday, 24 February, 2006*

*Arrangements were in the capable hands of Mrs. Helen Murray as most recent Past President from East District which was host to the Annual General Meeting.*

*Present were - Alex. Spence, 1967, and Netta  
John Neil, 1973, and Margaret.  
Les Turberville, 1974.  
Peter Heatly, 1975 and 1988.  
Mrs. Isabel Smith, widow of Peter, 1978.  
Jack Snowden, 1984.  
Don McGillivray, 1989, and Nancy.  
George Philp, 1991, and Agnes.  
Winnie Ferguson, 1993.  
Norman Grierson, 1996, and Myra.  
Robin Dale, 1998 and 1999, and Jennifer.  
Ron Taylor, 2000, and Sheena.  
Sandy Brunton, 2001.  
Stewart Davidson, 2002, and Joan.  
Blair Prentice, 2003, and Anne.  
Mrs. Helen Murray, 2004, and Stuart.  
Tom Tracey, President-elect and Sadie  
Jim Hitchen and Sheila.*

*Apologies received from - Bill and Mary Black, Don and Carole Hawthorne, Douglas and Amy  
Cape, Helen Brunton, Jim Thompson, Tom Nelson, Mrs. Jean Hoare,  
Alan Robertson, Lorna Brunton, George Ferguson.*

*The passing of Andrew and Nan Taylor and senior Past President John Gunning was marked by a short silence.*

*After an excellent meal accompanied by fine wines, there followed a comfort break. The group statistician noted that those who headed the Queue for the Loo, or the Onedin Line as it was*

*known on my staff were not in the older age category. Perhaps we are being physically spoiled by galas restricted to three hours duration!*

*The Loyal Toast was proposed by Mrs. Helen Murray, chairman for the evening.*

*Toast to SASA: Proposing the toast, Stewart Davidson referred to the vast change which had taken place in Scottish Swimming. The creation of company status had opened up a new chapter in our history. What exactly does SASA stand for?*

*The Scottish is self-explanatory, but "amateur" causes difficulty as sport is governed now by professionalism, politics and pharmaceuticals. Top swimmers now receive prize money, lottery funding or government aid. He praised parents for the sacrifice they made financially with club fees, training courses, accommodation for championships etc. While swimming was doing well, diving and waterpolo were fairly static. Synchro also suffers from lack of interest in most Districts.*

*Stewart praised our technical officials, several of whom had been selected for World and European meets.*

*We still suffer from lack of facilities with only East and West having 50m. pools.*

*The media were criticised for their lack of interest in our sport - little press coverage and few TV events.*

*In conclusion, he wished Tom Tracey a successful meeting next day and offered best wishes to Jim Hitchen who would be installed as President at the end of the meeting.*

*Reply: Jim Hitchen thanked Stewart for his speech and paid tribute to the past presidents in general, welcoming their advice on occasions. He had come into swimming through his family 25 years ago and had become "hooked". His involvement had been in coaching and organisation of training schemes and eventually as Midland District President.*

*On behalf of the SASA he offered thanks to the past presidents for their contribution to development.*

*The company then engaged in reminiscences and general chit-chat before the chairman brought them down to earth with the cost of the dinner. The evening concluded at 11.30 p.m., to be continued elsewhere until a much later hour.*

*A.D.Spence,  
Scribe.*