

S.A.S.A. PAST PRESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Minute of Past Presidents' Dinner held in the Pinehurst Suite of Carnoustie Golf Club Hotel on Friday 23rd. February, 2007, at 7.30 p.m.

Arrangements were in the capable hands of Stewart Davidson.

Present were:

Alex. Spence (1967) and Netta.
John Neill (1973) and Margaret.
Leslie Turberville (1974) and Pat Dixon.
Peter Heatly (1975 and 1988)
Mrs. Mary Black (1976 and 1977)
Mrs. Isobel Smith, widow of Peter (1978)
Don Hawthorn (1983) and Carole
Jack Snowdon (1984)
Don McGillivray (1989) and Nancy.
George Philp (1991) and Agnes.
Mrs. Jill Cochrane (1992) and Gordon.
Mrs. Winnie Ferguson (1993).
Bill Black(1995).
Norman Grierson (1996) and Myra.
Mrs. Jean Hoare, widow of Derek (1997)
Robin Dale (1998 and 1999) and Jennifer Baird
Ron Taylor (2000) and Sheena.
Stewart Davidson (2002) and Joan.
Blair Prentice (2003) and Ann.
Jim Hitchen (2006) and Sheila.
Alan Fletcher (President-elect) and Monica
Total of 35.

Apologies were received from:

Jim Thomson
Alan and Sheena Robertson
Douglas and Amy Cape
George Ferguson
Helen Brunton
Sandy Brunton
Helen and Stuart Murray
Tom and Sadie Tracey, a last minute withdrawal owing to
Sadie's father's illness.

The Chairman welcomed the guests and in particular Alan Fletcher as President -elect and Monica. He wished him a successful year in the chair. He referred to the death last year of Chris Cowan, widow of Bill Cowan

(1968). He passed on best wishes to Helen Brunton after her recent operation and to Don McGillivray who, although present, was still recuperating after his operation. Stewart congratulated Ian Mason and Paul Bush on their recent awards of O.B.E., for services to sport. Congratulations also went to Helen Murray who had been appointed team manager for the Great Britain team training camp in Australia prior to the World Championships.

There followed an excellent meal, accompanied by fine wine, all served by an extremely attentive staff.

Toast to Scottish Amateur Swimming Association:

Proposing the toast, Robin Dale congratulated Alan Fletcher on his appointment to the chair of the association and wished him a successful year in office. Alan was an engineer with Rolls Royce and, like many, had come in to swimming through his family and had worked his way through the swimming technical officer grades. He was a past president of West District and had excellent organisational skills.

Robin referred to the performance of the Scottish Team at the Commonwealth Games last year and congratulated the swimmers and coaches. He highlighted the successes of Kirsty Balfour at European level. The successes of past swimmers like David Wilkie, Neil Cochrane and Paul Smith were a pointer to what we could achieve at Olympic level with the generous funding now provided by Sportscotland. He wished all our young aspirants success in their endeavours.

Reply:

Alan thanked the assembled company for the invitation to attend. He referred in particular to the encouragement Helen Brunton had given him to move forward in the sport. He was aware of the huge task facing Scottish swimming and would do his utmost to facilitate the progress of an ambitious programme for the sport. He looked forward to the challenges ahead and would do everything he could to uphold the prestige of the sport.

There followed a comfort break.

Competent Business:

The scribe informed the meeting that John Gunning's legacy to the SASA was to be used to purchase four quiches to be allocated to volunteers in each category. The meeting felt this was a suitable use.

Jim Hitchen drew the attention of the company to the record of Alex. Spence who attended his first AGM in 1947 and who became

president 40 years ago. He had served the association in many roles . He presented Alex. with a framed Certificate of Diligence and a bottle of Drambuie to add to the spirit of the evening.

The Chairman intimated the cost of the dinner as being £22 per head. Unfortunately people drifted off thereafter without the opportunity of thanking the chairman for his organisation of the event or indulging in reminiscences.

At the end of the evening many members of the company joined George and Agnes Philp in the Tom Watson Suite which they had been allocated, rather unfairly as one member mentioned as they did not require superking-sized beds. For once everyone was able to find a seat and chat in comfort.

A.D.Spence,
Scribe