

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

Minutes of Annual Dinner held at Stirling Management Centre on Saturday 26th February 2011 at 7.30 pm

Present : Sir Peter Heatly (1975 and 1988)
Jack Snowdon (1984)
Donald M'Gillivray(1989)
Isobel Smith , widow of Peter Smith (1978)
Norman Grierson (1996) and Myra
Robin Dale (1998 and 1999) and Jennifer Baird
Ron Taylor (2000) and Sheena
Stewart Davidson (2002) and Joan
Blair Prentice (2003) and Ann
Helen Murray (2004) and Stuart
Allan Fletcher (2007 and 2008)
Doris Mair(2010) and Michael
Tom Tracey(2005) and Sadie
Winnie Ferguson (1993)
Mary Black (1976 and 1977)
Bob Reekie (2009) and Evelyn
Margaret Neil (Widow of Jock Neil (1973)
Don Hawthorn (1983) and Carole
~~Les Turbeville (1974)~~

Guests of Honour SASA President Mr Neil Valentine and Isobel and a gathering of 30 all told.

Stewart Davidson President in 2002 and Chairperson and organiser of the Dinner opened proceedings . He welcomed the new President Neil Valentine and his wife Isobel to the Dinner and referred to his personal experience of Neil's skills as one of our Country's leading orthopaedic surgeons.

Have the following apologies for non- attendance. There were apologies from:

Bill Black (1995) Bill had recently had a Pacemaker fitted and is making good progress
Jim Thomson(1980) (As you know Jim sadly died the next day at Erskine Hospital where he had been in residence for some time. (I shall say a few words about Jim later on in the programme.Jim from the Clydebank Club served Scottish Swimming well over the years and one of his last attendances was at the "get together " here at Stirling arranged by Bob Reekie. Great character.)

Douglas Cape (1985) and Amy
George Philip(1991) and Agnes
Sheila Hitchen (Widow of Jim Hitchen(2006)
Sandy Brunton (2001) and Lorna
Monica Linklater

~~Les Turbeville (1974)~~
Grace Was given by Jack Snowden our 1984 President

Prof Robin Dale
Winnie Ferguson

There followed an excellent meal complimented by a good choice of wines and soft drinks with the Chairman setting a nice pace for chat and reminiscence.

The meal was followed by a 10 minute comfort break.

On resumption of proceedings there followed a tribute by Mary Black to Jock Neil who passed away last year. Mary in her inimitable style spoke warmly of Jock and her experiences with him in Swimming, especially on trips abroad with Scottish teams. It must have been fun to be on those teams with Jock and Mary around.

Blair Prentice gave a very warm tribute to Tom Nelson, our 1982 President, who also passed away last November and recalled some of his experiences with Tom. Tom was a hard taskmaster on Officials on occasion and was one of the Association's early experts on the electronics front but underneath it all he had a heart of gold.

The third tribute of the evening was given by Alan Fletcher for Helen Brunton our 1994 President who passed away recently. A number of us attended Helen's funeral in Paisley. Helen, affectionately known by most people as Mrs B was a nurse specialising in midwifery for 20 years before retiring. Son Sandy who also became our President in 2001 took up swimming as a schoolboy and like so many parents Helen and her husband Bill became involved at Club Level and progressed from there. Bill unfortunately died in 1974 but Helen carried on her work in swimming. Her abilities were warmly appreciated by the Paisley Club where she was Club Secretary for a period and was also a very able Team Manager with various Scottish Teams over the years. On a personal note the scribe appreciated Helen's help back in 1995 when the Scottish team had a training camp in Lanzarote which was for 2 weeks. He was selected as team manager but could only take one week off work. Helen was contacted at short notice and duly stepped in for the second week.

The Minutes of the 2010 Dinner held at the Carnoustie Hotel were read by "Scribe" Stewart Davidson. These were proposed as a true record by Robin Dale and seconded by Blair Prentice.

The Toast to the SASA was given by Past President Helen Murray and she gave a vivid account of her experiences in Delhi at the Commonwealth Games last October. Delhi is obviously quite a place

The Reply, given by new President Neil Valentine who was installed earlier in the day at the AGM

Neil thanked everyone for the kind invitation to him and his wife to the Dinner and it marked his first official duty as our President. He gave a potted version of his time in Swimming and like most of us found himself getting more and more involved in his Club affairs and eventually those of the District.

Neil as most of you will be aware has a very busy professional life but was confident his colleagues in the medical world would help out to allow him to attend events etc in his role as President and he looked forward to his year in office

There being no further business cards were circulated for signing to be sent out to those who were unable to attend. The Dinner finished at approximately 10.30 pm

**SASA Past President's Association
Stirling Management Centre**

Saturday 26th February 2011

PAST PRESIDENTS DINNER

GOOD EVENING LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

WELCOME TO THE STIRLING MANAGEMENT CENTRE FOR OUR ANNUAL DINNER WHICH IF MY CALCULATION IS CORRECT IS OUR 53RD. AN ESPECIALLY WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW PRESIDENT NEIL VALENTINE AND HIS GOOD LADY ISOBEL NEIL WAS INSTALLED EARLIER TODAY. AS YOU KNOW WE HAVE REVERTED TO OUR FORMER CUSTOM OF HOLDING THIS DINNER IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE AGM SO THIS IS NEIL'S FIRST OFFICIAL ENGAGEMENT.

WE ALL HOPE YOU HAVE A SUCCESSFUL YEAR IN POST AND I AM SURE YOU WILL ENJOY THE EXPERIENCE. AS MOST OF YOU WILL KNOW NEIL IN HIS DAY JOB IS ONE OF OUR COUNTRY'S TOP ORTHOPEDIC SURGEONS AND I CAN PERSONALLY TESTIFY TO HIS EXPERTISE. HOWEVER NO DOUBT HE WILL TELL US ALL ABOUT HIMSELF AND HIS INVOLVEMENT IN SWIMMING LATER ON. A SPECIAL WELCOME ALSO TO DORIS AND HUSBAND MICHAEL WHO NOW JOINS THE RANKS OF THE PAST PRESIDENTS AND CAN NOW RELAX A BIT. I HOPE YOUR DAY WENT WELL EARLIER .

GOOD ALSO TO HAVE DONALD M'GILLIVARY HERE. DONALD HAS HAD A WEE SPELL IN HOSPITAL BUT IS MUCH BETTER NOW.

THIS PAST YEAR WE HAVE HAD ANOTHER COMMONWEALTH GAMES OUT IN DELHI WITH THE SCOTTISH TEAM PERFORMING WELL AND WE HAD OUR HIGHLIGHTS IN THE PERFORMANCES OF HANNAH MILEY AND ROBBIE RENWICK. PETER HEATLY AND HELEN MURRAY WERE BOTH THERE. AND I CAUGHT SIR PETER HOGGING THE TELEVISION SCREEN AT ONE POINT PRESENTING MEDALS. CONGRATULATIONS TO HIM ON BEING SELECTED AS ONE OF THE FIRST TO BE INDUCTED INTO OUR NEW HALL OF FAME. VERY WELL DESERVED .

THIS PAST YEAR HAS SEEN US LOSE THREE OF OUR STALWARTS. JOCK NEIL PASSED AWAY LAST APRIL; TOM NELSON IN NOVEMBER; AND HELEN BRUNTON EARLIER THIS MONTH. CARDS WERE SENT ON YOUR BEHALF AND WE SHALL HAVE TRIBUTES PAID TO THEM LATER ON IN THE EVENING. I WOULD ASK YOU TO RISE AND OBSERVE A MINUTES SILENCE IN THEIR MEMORY

APOLOGIES

A note of the messages passed on from Past Presidents or widows who are unable to be here this evening

- Leslie Turberville (President 1974)
Les phoned me to say he was not attending this year
- Read out letter

15 Blakeley Brow
Raby Mere
Wirral
Ch63 0PS

17 February 2011

Dear Stewart

It was good to talk with you the other day though disappointing to hear that you had not received the two e-mails I had sent to you.

It is also with some regret that I shall be missing the Past Presidents Dinner on the 26th. I think it is only the third I have missed since becoming president 37 years ago. All being well, I shall definitely make every attempt to travel next year. With the ageing process and living so far south of the Border, I am sadly finding it difficult to keep in touch with Scottish Swimming. Although not as physically active as I would wish to be, I am fortunate in that I have no serious health problems. Where I live does not have a very convenient bus service so I am hoping to go on driving for as many years as possible.

I am involved in quite a number of activities mainly centred around the church, the theatre, short breaks at a nice hotel in Llandudno and the occasional swim. While I do not enjoy the winter months, our experience here is nothing compared to many parts of Scotland. I look forward eagerly to the Spring and Summer.

Please convey my apology for absence at the dinner and my best wishes to all concerned.

Every good wish to yourself and your good lady.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Leslie", with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

- Bill Black (Bill 1995)
Regretfully Bill is unable to attend on this occasion. Bill as most of you will know had a pace maker fitted a couple of weeks ago and is unable to drive at the moment. His good lady Mary President in 1976/77 IS HERE(walked here from Balfron ; not true) .
Best wishes to those in attendance for a successful and enjoyable night.
- Jim Thomson (President 1980) *Send Card*
E-mail from Jim's son which says. "My father Jim Thomson would love to come to the Dinner but afraid that old age and infirmity prevents him from doing so. I know he would want me to pass on his best wishes and be remembered to all those who knew him well in Scottish Swimming.
- Douglas & Amy Cape. (President 1985) Doug phoned me. *Send Card.*
Please pass on our apologies for absence and best wishes to the members at the dinner.
He said "I am afraid our health prevents us attending, Amy does not get out and my hips have gone". He also sends his good wishes for a successful evening.
- Sandy & Lorna Brunton. (Sandy President 2001)
Thanks for the invite to the Past President's dinner.
Unfortunately Lorna and myself will be unable to attend.
Please give our apologies and best wishes to all and have a good evening

Jill & Gordon Cochran (Jill President 1992)

They are on holiday in Australia and Jill sent an e-mail to me this morning which says "Dear Stewart; Please give my apologies for this evening. I hope you have a very enjoyable dinner. My best wishes to everyone from Sydney"

Jean Hoare (Widow of Derek Hoare president in 1997)
Presently on holiday but wishes us a good evening.

Sheila Hitchen (widow of Jim Hitchen President 2006 and who sadly died just last year at this time.

" Thanks for the invite. Still waiting on the result of Andrews's treatment

and don't feel I could cope at the Dinner just yet; maybe next year. Give Neil my best wishes for his year as President. Does not seem like 5 years since Jim was taking it on. Have a good evening"

3 *No Reply from Allan Robertson (Davis or Don know anything about him)?*
who have passed on:
I would now call upon Jack Snowdon to say grace.