

## SASA Past President's Association

### Annual Dinner 2014 Stirling Management Centre

Minutes of the Annual Dinner held at Stirling Management Centre on Saturday 23 February 2014 at 7.30pm

Present:

Mary Black (1976 and 1977) and Bill Black (1995)  
Don Hawthorn (1983) and Carole  
Jack Snowdon (1984)  
Jill Cochran (1992) and Gordon  
Winnie Ferguson (1993)  
Norman Grierson (1996) and Myra  
Robin Dale (1998 and 1999) and Jennifer  
Ron Taylor (2000) and Sheena  
Stewart Davidson (2002) and Joan  
Blair Prentice (2003) and Ann  
Helen Murray (2004) and Stuart  
Allan Fletcher (2007 & 2008) and Monica  
Bob Reekie (2009) and Evelyn  
Doris Mair (2010) and Michael  
Neil Valentine (2011) and Isobel  
John Deans (2012) and Tricia  
Margaret Neil, widow of Jock Neil (1973)  
Isobel Smith, widow of Peter Smith (1978)  
Jean Hoare, widow of Derrick Hoare (1997)

Guest of Honour:

SASA President David Downie and his wife Susie.

Bob Reekie, President in 2009, Chairperson and organiser of the Dinner opened the proceedings. He welcomed the new President David Downie and his good lady to the Dinner and wished them well over the next year in all the various duties they would preside over.

A minutes silence was observed for two of our Past Presidents R. A. Robertson, Penguin Club (1979) and Doug Cape, Cupar (1985) who had passed away in the past year.

There were apologies from

Sir Peter Heatly (1975 & 1988)  
George Philip (1991) and Agnes  
Sandy Brunton (2001) and Lorna  
Tom Tracey (2005) and Sadie  
Gina Logan (2013)  
Netta Spence, widow of Alex Spence (1967)  
Sheila Hitchen, widow of Jim Hitchen (2006)

Grace was given by the Rev Don Hawthorn, 1983 President, following which there was an excellent meal which was enjoyed by all and taken at a leisurely pace.

The meal was followed by a 10 minute comfort break.

The minutes of the 2013 Dinner, held at the Stirling Management Centre were read by Scribe Stewart Davidson. These were proposed as a true record by Jack Snowden and seconded by Robin Dale.

The Toast to the SASA was given by Past President Doris Mair, President in 2010, and she referred back to the origins of the Association and the fact that it was 125 years old this year. She noted that last year Helen Murray in giving the "Toast" had delved into the early history of the Association and in comparison she felt like a novice. However, the "free meal" to celebrate the 125 years we were enjoying is good and much appreciated by everyone here tonight. She also referred to our new President David Downie whom she had known for many years and wished him and his wife well in the various tasks he would perform over the next year in the role of President.

The reply to the "Toast" was given by our newly elected President, David Downie. He thanked Doris for her kind words and friendship over the years he had known her. He also referred to Don and Carol Hawthorne who founded Dyce Swimming Club and had it not been for them he did not think he would be in the position he now found tonight. As a swimmer he swam at District level and looking back felt he might have done better at swimming but for the fact that he fell in love with a redhead – a hose called Tanya – and for a while took part in show jumping competitions. He outlined his achievements in swimming, ie being President of Dyce Swimming Club (and pretty much every other job required of a Cub official (sound familiar?)); becoming a FINA listed Referee in 2011 and reaching the pinnacle of his officiating career by taking part in the 2012 London Olympics.

He referred to his two young children, Aiden and Charlotte, and was pleased to report that, young as they are, they are both at Learn to swim classes.

He looked forward with pride (although nervous) to the next year as President, busy though it would be with the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, etc. and concluded by asking everyone to raise a glass to Scottish Swimming and everyone here tonight who have contributed and made the Scottish Swimming Association such a success.

Scribe, Stewart Davidson intimated that he felt that having performed the task of "Scribe" for the past few years it was time to hand over the reins to someone else. After a short discussion Blair Prentice "volunteered" to take over for 2015.

The gathering gave a vote of thanks to Bob Reekie for organising the Dinner on their behalf.

The Dinner finished at approximately 10.30pm.

Thank you  
Scribe, Stewart Davidson.

## Past Presidents Dinner – Speech

Ladies and Gentlemen: it is with great pleasure that I am here this evening as your newly installed President.

Thank you Doris for your kind words and introduction. We have known each other for a long time and you are a great friend. So long in fact, that I was worried what stories you may have come up with. But I am glad I have got off lightly and that you have stuck to the North's motto "What goes on in the North District, Stays in the North District". \*Phew!!\*

I have to mention that there are 2 guests here tonight that are probably responsible for me being in this position. If it hadn't been for Don and Carol Hawthorne founding Dyce (Aberdeen) Amateur Swimming Club then who knows.

It is a great honour to be an invited guest to this prestigious group of past Scottish Swimming Presidents. I would like to thank Bob for his kind invitation and I hope I meet your expectations as the forth-coming President for this exciting year ahead. I welcome any advice you can pass my way.

I began my swimming career at Dyce Amateur Swimming Club and although I very much enjoyed competing, my swimming talent only reached as high as district level. I like to put this down to falling in love with a lovely red-head – a horse called Tanya – with whom I competed at show-jumping. A strange but true fact which is something a lot of people don't know about me.

For myself, the last few years especially have been exciting, challenging and a dream come true. The highlights have been:

- being President of Dyce Swimming Club for many years (and pretty much every other role that I was needed for... Sometimes there was a lot of juggling!)
- becoming a FINA listed referee in 2011 and;
- reaching the pinnacle of my officiating career by officiating at the London Olympics in 2012;
- And now here today, becoming Scottish Swimming President – am not sure anything will ever match this.

Family has always been of great importance to me and as some of you may know the last 2 years have been busy in the Downie household with the pitter-patter of tiny feet (and the many nappies that goes with them!).

I welcomed my son, Aiden, into the world in February 2012 (which caused me to miss the AGM that year - I am sure you will have forgiven me by now!). But I better planned it the next time and welcomed my beautiful daughter Charlotte just last June. So as the parents amongst you will know – life (and sleep!) have never been quite the same, and I wouldn't change a single thing! They have been an amazing addition to the family and have already got them both at 'learn to swim' you will be glad to hear.

I have always felt that I have been part of a bigger family when it comes to swimming. It is a special family which welcomes everyone into its hearth. Indeed, it

feels like every event is more a family reunion. Everyone works together putting in their time, talents and good humour for the sake of the family business.

And this is what I feel is at the very heart of Scottish Swimming – family. Although there is a job in hand to be done, it is like catching up with relatives from both near and far and the warmth and friendship I have received has far out-weighed any contribution or sacrifice I have made. Seeing our young children having fun in the water, seeing them grow and develop into talented young men and women and making friendships which will last a lifetime is what drives me in my ambition which sees me here today.

The main love of my life has been swimming. It is thanks to the many volunteers and our swimmers that make life at the pool both fun and focused. I firmly believe in our ‘family’ as the key asset of our sport. From being a swimmer to a volunteer or as part of our professional staff, there is room for everyone in our Scottish Swimming family.

To become President in such an important year for our organisation, not to mention, Scotland as a whole, makes me extremely proud (albeit nervous!). It is going to be an even busier than usual schedule for the year ahead but I am looking forward to making the most of this special opportunity and flying the Scottish Swimming flag.

I look forward to making the whole family proud!

I would like to raise a glass to Scottish Swimming and everyone here who has made our association a success.