

**SASA Past President's Association
Annual Dinner 2016 - Stirling Court Hotel**

Minutes of the SASA Past President's Association Annual Dinner held at the Stirling Court Hotel on Saturday, 27 February 2016 after 7.30pm

Present:

Margaret Neil, widow of Jock Neil (1973)
Mary Black (1976 and 1977) and Bill Black (1995)
Isobel Smith, widow of Peter Smith (1978)
Don Hawthorne (1983) and Carole
Jack Snowdon (1984)
Jill Cochrane (1992) and Gordon
Norman Grierson (1996) and Myra
Jean Hoare, widow of Derrick Hoare (1997)
Robin Dale (1998 and 1999) and Jennifer
Ron Taylor (2000) and Sheena
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 Issy
John Deans (2012) and Tricia
Eddie Wilmott (2015) and Irene

Guest of Honour

SASA President Elizabeth Stewart (2016) and her husband Brian

There were several apologies and these were tabled for everyone to read. They were from:-

George Philip (1991) and Agnes
Winnie Ferguson (1993)
Sandy Brunton (2001) and Lorna
Stewart Davidson (2002) and Joan
Tom Tracey (2005) and Sadie
Sheila Hitchen, widow of Jim Hitchen (2006)
Gina Logan (2013)
David Downie (2014) and Susie

John Deans, Chair for the evening and organiser of the dinner opened the proceedings. He welcomed everyone to the dinner and continued with a special welcome to our guests for the evening, the new SASA President, Liz Stewart, and her husband Brian. He wished them well over the next year and hoped that they would enjoy their time in office.

John continued by asking those present to stand and raise a glass in memory of two stalwarts of the Association and these dinners – Sir Peter Heatly and Les Turberville. Those present complied and there was a toast to Sir Peter and Les and all absent friends.

John then asked the Rev Don Hawthorn to say grace. Don, thanked John for the invite and proceeded, in his usual style, to say a short, relevant grace which allowed us to proceed with the dinner as quickly as possible.

There followed an excellent meal accompanied by plenty of water as well as copious amounts of red and white wine. There was a constant hum of noise from around the table as several friendly conversations got into full swing as the dinner was efficiently served around us.

Can I just add that the hot air being generated was very welcome as the room was slightly on the chilly side at the start of the evening, however, it warmed up along with the company.

The dinner was enjoyed by all present.

John Deans prevented any discussions on comfort breaks this year by declaring that there would be a 10 minute break. He added that this would give those assembled a chance to look at the grand display of photographs from previous years' dinners.

With a wee sting in the tail, he added that it would also allow those present to settle up what they were due for the evening's repast. With a generous donation from Scottish Swimming towards the dinner this left the princely sum of £25 per head to cover the cost of the evening.

The minutes of the 2015 Dinner, held at the Stirling Court Hotel were read by the Scribe, Blair Prentice. Don Hawthorn proposed the adoption of the minutes as being roughly what had transpired, Doris Mair seconded the proposal.

The Scribe added that this years Dinner was to be organised by David Downie on behalf of the North District and that John Deans was to organise the 2017 Dinner on behalf of the West District. However, using their own initiative, they had agreed to swap round as David was unable to be here this year and thus he will organise the 2017 Dinner. The 2018 Dinner will be organised by the East District and Gina Logan, President 2013, will be the newest Past President in that District and so will have the honour of organising it. Thereafter we will continue with the allocated order, handed down in tablets of stone many generations ago, and follow up with a Midland District organiser for 2019.

The Toast to the SASA was given by Allan Fletcher. He added that this was his 31st AGM and the lack of attendance by delegates was very noticeable. It was a short, compact and to the point meeting. He commented on the STO report and the fact that there 562 new timekeeper assessments in 2015. He added that although Scottish Swimming had made a surplus we needed more members to keep the funds at a suitable level to sustain the high performance of our athletes as well the broad grassroots numbers underpinning the performance swimmers. He felt that the Association was in good hands. He finished by proposing the Toast to the Association.

Liz Stewart, the newly appointed SASA President replied to the toast. She thanked the Past Presidents for their kind invite for herself and Brian. She added that like so many other volunteers in sport she had started because of her son. As she has moved up through the levels of volunteering it was now her passion to see athletes perform to the best of their abilities. The pinnacle, so far, of her swimming life has been to officiate at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow in 2014.

The business of the evening then moved on to Business – Competent or Otherwise.

Helen Murray raised the matter of the lack of information about athletes who represented Scotland in the Annual Report for the Scottish Swimming AGM that morning. John Deans pointed out that the reports were submitted by the Discipline Committee Chairs.

Eddie Wilmott then put Mary Black on the spot by asking her for more stories from her swimming past.

Mary started by thanking Helen for bringing along the photos for everyone to enjoy. She continued by telling everyone about Margaret J R Brown, association's longest swerving Life Member – from December 1958 if I have deciphered my scribbles correctly.

Mary then went on to relate part of her memoirs to the assembled gathering with tales of
1960s bathing suits,
Earthquakes in Japan,
being kidnapped in Mexico,
sharing a room in Baby dolls,
being called the President of Great Britain in Egypt.

Mary's memoirs have now been published and you can buy a copy at all good bookshops – I believe the title is “50 shades of Black”.

Robin Dale gave a vote of thanks to every one who had contributed to the evening, in particular John Deans for organising another successful Dinner.

The Dinner finished at approximately 10.45pm and the gathering split up into smaller groups where no more minutes kept of what transpired.

Thank you
Scribe, Blair Prentice.
March 2016.