

**SASA Past President's Association  
Annual Dinner 2017 - Stirling Court Hotel**

Minutes of the SASA Past President's Association Annual Dinner held at the Stirling Court Hotel on Saturday 27 February 2017 after 7.30pm

Present:

Mary Black (1976, 1977) and Bill Black (1995)  
Don Hawthorne (1983) and Carole  
Jack Snowdon (1984)  
Jill Cochrane (1992) and Gordon  
Norman Grierson (1996) and Myra  
Robin Dale (1998, 1999) and Jennifer  
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  
John Deans (2012) and Tricia  
David Downie (2014)  
Elizabeth Stewart (2016)

Guest of Honour

SASA President Margaret Somerville (2017) and her husband Gordon

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

Isobel Smith, widow of Peter Smith (1978)  
Ron Taylor (2000) and Sheena  
Sandy Brunton (2001) and Lorna  
Stewart Davidson (2002) and Joan  
Sheila Hitchen, widow of Jim Hitchen (2006)  
Neil Valentine (2011) and Issy  
Gina Logan (2013)

David added apologies from

Susie Downie, wife of David Downie (2014)

David Downie, Chair for the evening and organiser of the dinner opened the proceedings adding that he was not Mrs David Downie as per the menu but the real Mr David Downie. He also added an apology from Susie, his wife – the real Mrs David Downie.

He then welcomed everyone to the dinner and continued with a special welcome to our guests for the evening, the new SASA President, Margaret Somerville, and her husband Gordon.

He wished them well over the next year and was sure that they would enjoy the year in office and all the championships and functions that it would entail as well as the more mundane Board and Council meetings. Gordon mentioned that he could work a microwave.

David continued by advising that Ron Taylor had sent in his apologies before he passed away earlier in the month. He asked those present to stand for a minutes silence in memory of Ron.

David then asked the Rev Don Hawthorn to say grace.

Don, thanked David for the invite and proceeded, in his usual brief and witty style, to say a grace penned by Rabbie Burns after which those present proceeded to move to the enjoyment of the dinner and refreshments.

There followed an excellent meal accompanied by red and white wine and finished off with tea or coffee. There was a constant background of noise from around the table as several friendly conversations, and a few discussions, got into full swing as the dinner was efficiently served around us. The dinner seemed to be thoroughly enjoyed by all present.

David then had a false start with the order of events but this was recalled and at the second attempt he invited the Scribe Blair Prentice to read the minutes of the 2016 Dinner.

The, 100 per cent accurate minutes of the 2016 Dinner, held at the Stirling Court Hotel, were read by the Scribe, Blair Prentice. As no one could remember enough to challenge the accuracy they were proposed as being near enough a true reflection of what had transpired by Doris Mair and seconded by Carole Hawthorn.

The Scribe added that the 2017 Dinner was to be organised by Gina Logan who will be the newest Past President in the East District.

David then invited Helen Murray to give us the Toast to the SASA.

Helen welcomed Margaret as the newly appointed SASA President and also welcomed her husband Gordon. Helen went on to give us a bit a Margaret's background. She was born in Aberdeen and has now retired. Margaret married Gordon, brought up her family, who got her heavily involved in swimming and have now given her a new job in life – being a grandmother.

Margaret volunteered in Lothian for 25 years and worked her way through the STO ranks to become a starter. She also volunteered at all levels for her Club, Livingston & District Dolphins, West Lothian Swim Team and, of course, the East District where she held many posts including being minute secretary and then President in 2002 to 2004. Helen added that Margaret is a member of the East District "All Ladies Club".

Margaret has also been on the Scottish Swimming Appeals panel as well as the British Swimming Judicial Panel for many years and has been a hard working member of the Editorial Board for the last few years.

As it was now after the watershed, Helen went on to tell us of tales of themed parties where Margaret's true self came to the fore and she went along, amongst other outfits

- Dressed as a tart in short leather skirt, etc.
- in a mini dress
- in a blazer and short school skirt.

Helen concluded by asking those present to raise a toast to Queen Margaret and her spell on the throne.

Margaret Somerville replied to the toast by thanking Helen and the rest of the exalted company for the warm welcome and added that she would make her reply brief.

She informed us that she had moved from the North to the West and on to the East. To complete the set, she had also ventured into the Midlands District.

She added that she started swimming at Denniston Baths in Glasgow.

After having a family and watching over their early years she made the same mistake that we all did – she took her daughter to Learn to Swim classes and as the say the rest is history.

Margaret added that she enjoys holidays and socialising.

She also enjoys family life with her daughter and granddaughter and is looking forward to her son's wedding later this year.

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

Mary Black started things off by saying that Bill was archiving his photos and they had spent many hours reminiscing over old times. She recalled Ales Spence and his poem “Memories of an Outdoor Dooker”.

Don Hawthorne starting by stating that he used to be “regular in his habits”, 1961, 63, 65, 67 & 69. He added that he took up swimming in 1970.

Several other anecdotes of years gone by were told to amuse us.

Mary then went on to entertain us with more of her true tales of Mexico, Masseur and Hombres Only establishments that she frequented.

Bill Black informed us that was pulling together a book of Past Presidents photographs and had made a DVD of photographs from the archives in his garage.

Don Hawthorne ended the formal proceedings with a vote of thanks to Mrs David Downie for organising the evening.

The Dinner finished at approximately 10.30pm and the gathering dispersed to where no minutes could be taken as evidence of what occurred.

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As you are aware Gina was not able to organise the Dinner at this time and we are thankful to John Deans for stepping in to organise the 2018 Dinner.

The 2019 Dinner should be organised by the Midland District and Eddie Wilmott, President 2015, 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 - North, West, East and Midland as decided at the discussion on 23 February 1957 in Glasgow.

Thank you  
Scribe, Blair Prentice.