

**SASA Past President's Association
Annual Dinner 2022 – Stirling Court Hotel, Bridge of Allan**

Minutes of the 64th SASA Past President's Association Annual Dinner held at the Stirling Court Hotel on Saturday 12 November 2022 after 7.00pm

Present

Mary Black (1976, 1977)
Don Hawthorne (1983) and Carole
Myra Grierson, widow of Norman Grierson (1996)
Blair Prentice (2003) and Ann
Helen Murray (2004)
Allan Fletcher (2007, 2008) and Monica
Doris Mair (2010) and Michael
John Deans (2012) and Tricia
Elizabeth Stewart (2016)
Margaret Somerville (2017) and Gordon
Alison Low (2018) and Ian
Moraig Macdonald (2019) and Mike
Ian Fleming (2020) and Joyce
Colin Kennedy(2021) and Anna

Guests of Honour

The SASA President, Brian Henry (2022) and Anne

Apologies:

Isobel Smith, widow of Peter (1978)
Jean Hoare, widow of Derek (1997)
Robin Dale (1998, 1999)
Sheena Taylor, widow of Ron (2000)
Sandy Brunton (2001) and Lorna
Tom Tracy (2005) and Sadie
Sheila Hitchen, widow of Jim(2006)
Neil Valentine (2011) and Issy
David Downie (2014) and Susie

Alison, who had organised the dinner welcomed everyone here. She added a special welcome to fellow Northerner, Brian Henry, the SASA President, and his wife Anne.

Alison, then proceeded to shower out gifts

Wine to Margaret for all her help in the organising
Wine to Doris for her birthday
Chocolates to the Men
A flower to the Ladies

Alison read out the apologies for the evening passing on the absentee's best wishes for the evening.

Everyone then settled in at the table ready for the feast that was to follow.

Those present tucked into a lovely meal with a choice of Lentil & Winter Vegetable Soup or Ham Hough Terrine followed by Balmoral Chicken with a whisky peppercorn sauce, Salmon Fillet or Chargrilled Aubergine Cannelloni and finished off with Sticky Toffee pudding, Cranachan or

Apple & Berry Crumble. The meal was enjoyed by all and was all washed down with a fine choice of wine or soft drinks and rounded off with tea or coffee.

Alison introduced some light hearted fun into the proceedings. This included a game of “Heads or Tails”. Colin was the selected “tossler”, rather than having a questionnaire, and Joyce was a worthy winner.

After the meal and fun Alison announced that there would be the customary short comfort break.

As no one had got lost during the break, Alison brought proceedings back to dreary reality by inviting the Scribe, Blair, to read the minutes of the 2021 Dinner.

Blair then delved into virtual reality mode and read out his memories of the 2022 Dinner held at the Stirling Court Hotel. The Scribe’s account was another of his masterpieces combining pieces of memory recall and fiction which, with the passing years, are becoming more fiction than recall. He was just glad that no one really cared about complete accuracy.

The minutes were accepted as being as accurate as needed.

Blair then added that the organiser next year would be Moraig Macdonald to welcome Fiona Crawford and in 2024 it would be Ian Fleming to welcome Derek McGown.

After the minutes, Alison continued with the business of the evening by saying a few additional words of welcome to Brian Hendry the new President.

Alison then invited Margaret to say a few words about Colin, our Immediate Past President.

Margaret went on to say that Colin had coped excellently with all the trials and tribulations flung at him as Scottish Swimming got back to some normality after a few fraught years of pandemic. This included an attended AGM with ratification of all the decisions made at two virtual AGMs and the EGM. Luckily Colin is a man of some stature and was able to cope.

Margaret ended by thanking Colin for his sterling (or should I say Stirling) work.

Margaret then asked Doris, another Northerner, to say a few words of welcome to Brian and propose the toast to SASA.

Doris thanked Alison for the invite and added that the different approach to the formalities of the dinner was very welcome.

She went on to speak of Brian.

Brian, like most of us, got involved through his children being swimmers and his wife being heavily involved in the work of the Club and District.

Brian started to help out at the District and took up the STO path becoming a referee in 2007.

Brian has held many posts at the District and progressed to officiating at Scottish Nationals

including the Dual in the Pool in 2014 and then the Glasgow Commonwealth Games, also in 2014.

Doris added that she was confident that Brian would prove to be a worthy and conscientious President of our association.

Doris finished by proposing a toast to Scottish Amateur Swimming Association.

Brian replied to the toast by thanking Doris for her kind words adding that he hoped to be able to attend events in all our sports and visit all the Districts now that we were almost back to normal proceedings.

Alison then continued the theme of 2021 by having a guest speaker and welcomed a guest speaker from amongst our midst – our very own John Deans. She then invited John to make a short presentation on the “Review of the Scottish Swimming Archive Website”.

John gave a very short two minute presentation and sat down.
Oops amend that I have just had a memory flashback.

John thanked Alison for the opportunity to speak about what became his pet project during lockdown – the Scottish Swimming archives. John started by pointing out that were bits of archives in various places around the swimming community, some in Edinburgh, some with Peter Bilsborough, loads in the Black's garage apart from those at Scottish Swimming and several peoples' houses, in particular in the attics.

John decided to create a web site and load up all the archives he could get his hands on from all possible sources – there were too many to mention (or really for Blair to remember). He accessed the records from 1907 to 1988 Peter Bilsborough pulled together for our centenary year and then proceeded to badger as many people as possible for their records.

This included Mary Black (as custodian of Bill's files), Colin Kennedy (East District files), Ian Wright (Swimming), Brian Bain (Open Water), Malcolm Taylor (Diving), George Sprowart (Water Polo) as well as Mary, Phyllis McLean and Cath Fleming (Artistic Swimming).

He added that Masters and Schools are a task still to be completed.

Although John has started this project he hopes others will contribute and that it will become a living archive of Scottish Swimming for many years to come.

Alison thanked John for his comprehensive presentation and wished him well with the ongoing task of adding to the archive.

Alison brought proceedings back down to earth by adding that she would work out the cost of the dinner and email out her bank details so everyone could settle up.

Alison then opened the evening up to Business – Competent or Otherwise.

Colin started off by paying tribute to Jack Snowdon who sadly passed away during the year. Jack had been a member of Portobello and was SASA President in 1984. He was involved in Swimming for most of his life and will be sorely missed, both in the East District and at Scottish Level.

Several of those present had spotted the TV appearances of "Super Volunteer", Helen Murray, at the Birmingham Commonwealth Games and she was asked to tell of her experiences there.

Helen told of the personal cost, the long hours they were expected to "work as volunteers", the lack of supplied transport and having to source her own accommodation.

Despite these annoying parts she had thoroughly enjoyed being there, had enjoyed the fantastic friendly atmosphere and had the opportunity to watch the athletes' performances at several sports.

Alison brought the proceedings to an end and the assembled guests having enjoyed the evening made their ways to their rooms, their homes or the bar.

Scribe, Blair Prentice.

Can I just add.

That the organiser for the 2024 Dinner will be Ian Fleming, to welcome Derek McGown, and for the 2025 Dinner will be Colin Kennedy to welcome Tony Dane.