

**SASA Past President's Association
Annual Dinner 2023 – Stirling Court Hotel, Bridge of Allan**

Minutes of the 65th SASA Past President's Association Annual Dinner held at the Stirling Court Hotel on Saturday 4 November 2023 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
Neil Valentine (2011) and Issy
John Deans (2012) and Tricia
Elizabeth Stewart (2016)
Margaret Somerville (2017) and Gordon
Alison Low (2018) and Ian
Moraig Macdonald (2019)
Ian Fleming (2020) and Joyce
Colin Kennedy (2021) and Anna

Guests of Honour

The SASA President, Fiona Crawford (2023) and Stephen

Apologies:

Isobel Smith, widow of Peter (1978)
Robin Dale (1998, 1999)
Sheena Taylor, widow of Ron (2000)
Sandy Brunton (2001) and Lorna
Stuart Murray, spouse of Helen Murray (2004)
Doris Mair (2010) and Michael
David Downie (2014) and Susie
Michael Milne, spouse of Moraig Macdonald (2019)
Brian Henry (2022) and Anne

Moraig, our volunteer organiser for the dinner, welcomed everyone who was able to attend this year. She added a special welcome to fellow Midlander Fiona Crawford, the new SASA President, and her husband Stephen.

Moraig then asked everyone to enjoy a welcome drink before the dinner, and having asked everyone to be seated she then read out the apologies for the evening. She passed on the absentee's best wishes for the evening to everyone present.

Those present tucked into a three course meal washed down with a fine choice of wine or soft drinks and rounded off with tea or coffee.

Once the meal was finished and the conversations died down Moraig announced that there would be a comfort break, adding that this was not mandatory, however, quite a few did take advantage of the break.

Mary used the break to hand out several photographs, to several of those present, from Bill's vast collection of previous dinners and swimming events.

There was a short remembrance of some of those who had passed away since our previous dinner George Philp, Past president of East District and SASA. It was noted that George's wife Agnes had passed away 4 years previously.
Netta Spence, wife of Alex Spence – one of the first Scottish Team Managers
Andy Harrower a backstroke swimmer at two Commonwealth Games.

Moraig then brought everyone back down to mundane reality by inviting the Scribe, Blair, to read his minutes of the 2022 Dinner.

Blair proceeded to read out his memories of the 2022 Dinner held at the Stirling Court Hotel. The Scribe's version of the events probably bearing little resemblance to what actually happened and was another in his long line of "The Tales of PP Dinners". Yet again he was glad that no one present really cared about what had actually happened.

As usual, no one contested the accuracy of the fictitious minutes.

Blair then added that the organiser next year would be Ian Fleming to welcome Derek McGown and in 2025 it would be Colin Kennedy to welcome Tony Dane.

This is your cue for one of the pantomime audience phrases "Oh no it won't".

After the minutes, Moraig again welcomed our guest – the 2023 SASA President Fiona Crawford adding that Fiona is one of the few SASA Presidents who have had to chair a SASA AGM before actually being President.

Fiona replied to the welcome by asking "what am I doing here?"

I was not a swimmer but did come from a family of sports people and took up sport in several disguises in particular cycling with a bit of triathlon thrown in. Like most of us she got involved as a parent and then rose through the ranks.

She added that swimming is going through a difficult period with pools closing, reducing subsidies, more coached in paid positions rather than volunteers. We need to improve accessibility – in short we, as an organisation need to do more.

Moarig thanked Fiona for her response and asked Neil to propose the toast to SASA..

Neil spoke a few words about the need for Scottish Swimming to take a more holistic approach to our athletes' wellbeing and look after their mental health as well as their physical health. He quoted Hannah Miley as an example of an athlete who had suffered to some degree from both mental stress and physical stress during her swimming career.

Neil then asked everyone who was able to stand and then he proposed the toast to SASA.

Moraig thanked Neil and before throwing the evening open to general conversation she brought reality back to the evening by adding that she would work out the cost of the dinner and email everyone with details of how to pay.

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

There was general chat around the table with a fair bit of circulation before those present made their way to the bar, their rooms or homewards.

Scribe, Blair Prentice.

Can I just add:- that the organiser for the next welcoming dinner will be Colin Kennedy to welcome Tony Dane and then Alison Low to welcome someone (possibly Phil Cartwright).