

**REGIONAL MANAGEMENT BOARD - 12 MARCH 2007  
ITEM FOR DECISION****ANNUAL DINNER****PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To assist the Board to decide who should preside at the annual dinner in 2007 and future years.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

The Board is requested to decide who should preside at the annual dinner

**SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 1 At its last meeting, the Board deferred, to this meeting, consideration of a point, which arose during debate on the structure of the annual dinner in 2007, as to who should preside at the annual dinner.
- 2 It was the practice of the former Southern Counties ASA to hold its annual dinner on the day before the annual council meeting. Thus, the outgoing president presided at the dinner, which was effectively a valedictory event for him or her. However, the practice in the former Midlands District was that the dinner was held on the evening following the annual council meeting.
- 3 In recent years, the ASA's annual dinner has been held at the end of the annual council weekend (now day). Thus, the newly installed president has presided.
- 4 The Region's first dinner was held on the evening before the annual council meeting, following former SCASA practice. In any event, the first President of the Region will hold the office for 18 or so months: his term expires at the annual council meeting later this year.
- 5 The Board has agreed that the annual dinner in 2007 will be in the evening, following the annual council meeting. The 2007/8 President will have been elected at that council meeting, and normal protocol suggests that she will have then been installed in office.
- 6 3 options were mentioned at the Board's last meeting, as to presiding at the dinner:
  - the president installed at the annual council meeting earlier that day, as that person's first formal engagement;
  - the immediate past president, as a valedictory event for him or her;
  - defer the installation of the president to the dinner.

A 4<sup>th</sup> option would be for some other person, e.g. the Chairman, to preside, although doing so would marginalise the largely ceremonial role of the president.

- 7 Given the thrust of the proposals from the Communication Group about the form and function of the dinner, it would seem inappropriate then to include formal business, like the installation of the president, at the dinner. Accordingly, the choice seems to be between the newly installed president and the immediate past president.