



The new year is off to a flying start with plans well underway for the delivery of our 2009 plan. In 2008 we achieved and exceed many of our targets but of course the work is never done and in 2009 we have plans for a range of activities to develop the sport and ScotSAC. This will include a range of marketing activity to assist branches gain new members; providing support to Branches and developing instructors; and an even bigger dive conference in the autumn. Work on the training review is taking shape with Sam Paske and the NDC developing the new materials. We also await an announcement on funding for a new marine archaeology project which we hope will inspire and educate members. More details soon! Following the AGM we will begin recording equity information on members as we continue working towards the Equity Standard. This will assist us in understanding the equity profile of the membership.

Your views as members are always helpful, so if you have any comments, queries or suggestions on how we can improve our services, then please get in touch. Delivering our goals relies on volunteers so if you would like to get involved in any of our activities, we'd love to hear from you.

I hope 2009 is a great year for you all with safe and enjoyable diving.

Andy Murray, Chairman

Dive Conference 2009

We are currently seeking enthusiastic volunteers to lead and assist in the organisation of the 2009 Scottish Dive Conference. The 2008 dive conference in Oban was a great success. In 2009, we plan to build on this success, broaden the event and incorporate new ideas. Being part of the organising team is highly rewarding and motivating. If you would like to volunteer to take part, please contact conference@scotsac.com or further information, an informal discussion or to register your interest.

AGM Date

The date of the AGM has been set for Saturday 21st March 2009, 3pm. The meeting will take place at Stirling University. Full details will be circulated to all members in late February.

New Child Protection Resources

Child Protection in Sport has recently developed new resources in response to the needs of governing bodies and clubs. The resources include guides on risk assessment and disciplinary. Further details available from www.scotsac.com.

Instructor Development Event

An Instructor Development Event will take place on 21st and 22nd February 09 at the Crarae Quarry (Tearooms), Loch Fyne. The aim is to facilitate the Open Water Assessments of any aspiring Branch Instructors, Regional Instructors and Examiners who have completed all their pool assessments and lectures. This is NOT a Sport Diver or Master Diver training event.

All candidates must register at SSAC HQ by Friday 6th February 2009 - see the factsheet, available from www.scotsac.com for full details.

Branch Instructor Course

The next Branch Instructor training day takes place on Saturday 31st January at ScotSAC headquarters in Glasgow. BI Courses are now free to members. To book your place, contact headquarters.

Kenmore Point, Loch Fyne

You may be aware of recent access issues, preventing vehicular access to dive sites near Furnace, Loch Fyne. ScotSAC continues to work closely with Argyll and Bute Council and seeks to negotiate a solution with landowners and local residents.

In the meantime, we advise members to refrain from visiting the area. Further details and a statement will be posted on our website in the near future.



Master Diver Lecture Materials – coming soon!

In the near future we plan to launch our new Master Diver training materials comprising 8 PowerPoint lectures and 100 page lecture notes booklet. The materials are currently being reviewed by members of the NDC before being finalised and issued to Branches.

New Website - now live

The new ScotSAC website (www.scotsac.com) was launched in November to coincide with our dive conference. New content on training, events, and branches has been added.

Members might like to contribute to a new feature of the web site by providing us with some short clips of movie from diving trips. Many underwater cameras now have the feature of taking moving pictures and while the quality varies it might enable us to put together a collection of interesting, educational and amusing clips for the enjoyment of web browsing visitors to our site. Send in your clips and we'll see what we can do with them! The format isn't important as we can edit, clip, join, resize and convert to make something we can use. Your offerings should be sent to HQ on a CD, DVD or memory stick – or if it's not too huge, by email to webmaster@scotsac.com. There will be some spot prizes for good offerings.

An example is already on the web — <http://www.scotsac.com/html/videotest/flashtest1.html> - taken with an Olympus compact camera.

Photos for the online gallery are always welcome – simply email your pictures to webmaster@scotsac.com.

Funded Course Spaces

As part of our commitment to supporting volunteers, ensuring they have the appropriate training and skills to fulfil their roles we are pleased to announce that Branch Instructor, Regional Instructor, Heartstart, Oxygen Administration, and Diver First Aid courses will now be available free to SSAC members with immediate effect. Candidates will still be required to complete the relevant course booking form and pre-requisites. Providing appropriate training forms part of our new volunteer policy – available from www.scotsac.com.

Child Protection Legislation Delayed

The new legislation to protect children and protected adults has now been delayed by Scottish Ministers. The Protecting Vulnerable Groups Act (PVG) is now expected to go live in early 2010.

ScotSAC will monitor the progress of this implementation and review its procedures to comply with the legislation.

What's On

Visit our website for further information or to book your place. Dates for further Branch Instructor, Regional Instructor, Nitrox, Diver First Aid, Heartstart and Oxygen Administration courses will soon be on the website.

Date	Event / Course	Location
Sat 31 st January	Branch Instructor Course	SSAC HQ – Glasgow
Sat 21 st March (3pm)	AGM	Stirling University
Sun 21 st June	Summer Solstice	Tearooms, Loch Fyne