

# SCOTTISH DIVER

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**Scottish DIVER** is produced by the Freetime Initiative Ltd under contract to the Scottish Sub-Aqua Club.

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The Scottish Sub Aqua Club is a Company Limited by Guarantee Registered Office: 40 Bogmoor Place, Glasgow, G51 4TQ Reg. in Scotland No. SC313935 VAT No. 596708289

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### COVER PHOTO

All set for action at Loch Fyne

Image courtesy of Jack Morrison

TIME I THINK for an update on what the committee and the National Diving Council has been doing since the AGM. The National Diving Officer has held three training weekends at the Loch Fyne tearooms at Quarry Point. These have been very successful the first was aimed at university branches that don't have many BIs. The second was for anyone looking for Sport Diver training and the third was intended for those who wanted Master Diver training. This one proved the least successful and when we run the next set at the end of the season will probably be for BI assessments.

You can read about these days later on in this magazine. There have also been three O2/heartstart courses and one BI and one Nitrox. The General Committee has not been slow either and Douglas Forman and Graeme Clark have been busy looking at marketing and have produced a document which raises some very pertinent points and asks important questions about the future of ScotSAC.

All this comes from the fact that we are now half way through our three year plan and our partnership manager at **sportscotland** Sharon Macdonald came along to our last meeting to discuss where we are in relation to the plan and what we want to do about it. We have achieved most of what we set out to do in our first two years and since most of the board are committed to two or three years on the committee we decided the time was right to rewrite the plan to cover the next three years.

The first part of this process will be an afternoon session facilitated by **sportscotland** where we can discuss what we want to achieve over the next three years, how we are going to do it and who will lead each part of the process. Once the details are worked out we will publish the new plan on the website and ask for comments as it is important that the whole membership agrees and backs it. However don't wait till then to make any comments or suggestions, if there is some aspect of ScotSAC you feel could be improved by all means let us know and we will consider it.

Here are a couple of things we are thinking



## going overboard

about, the GC has asked the NDC to review the entire training schedule asking the question 'is this exercise/assessment relevant to modern diving practices and equipment?', and if not then why are we still doing it.

Another sacred cow that is overdue a visit to the abattoir is the age we allow aqua-lung training. How many members have taken their kids to a PADI school for training because we can't train them in their own branch? I know we have always followed our medical advisors but our current advisor sees no reason why we shouldn't drop the age limit and let's face it other organisations have already lowered it. What do you think?

Of course it would be up to each individual branch to decide whether they are able to implement this and what restrictions they might apply, for instance there could be a depth limit and branches could insist that younger members must be accompanied by their parents at pool sessions and at dive sites. We look forward to your comments and suggestions flooding in.

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