

Protecting Future Divers

IN JUNE ScotSAC held a child protection workshop at HQ in Glasgow. Guest tutor was Donna Martin, Child Protection in Sport Project manager for **sports**scotland. The workshop was attended by representatives from 11 branches plus NDO Kevin Miller, Secretary Andrew Murray and Treasurer Jim Anderson. I feel this was a good representation of how committed ScotSAC and the branches are to promoting, and the need to keep up to date with current legislation on, child protection.

Donna proved very knowledgeable and very approachable and provided an interesting day for our eager participants. The course lasted three hours and started with Donna breaking us up into groups to look at different roles and situations you might encounter running for example a club trip, or what you would do if faced with a complaint about one of your branch members.

Fortunately this did not entail role playing where someone says it's your turn and you just stand there like a rabbit caught in a cars headlight. We have all planned trips before so understand what it means to have to allow for every eventuality and how safety is the essential consideration. We all agreed that sticking to principals is important but also to keep the fun element at the top of our priorities.

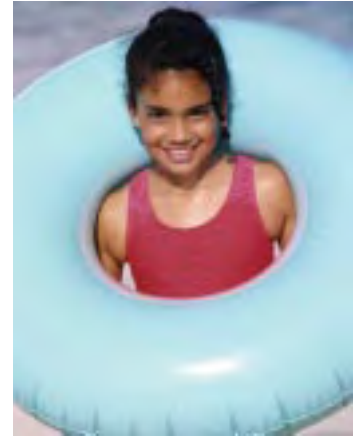
There was a lot of audience participation with interesting scenarios that could be discussed in small groups. I received a lot of positive feedback about the day and it certainly helped make the booklet we received much clearer. You might

think that child protection policy doesn't apply to your branch because you don't have children and don't plan to have any in future. You would be wrong, local councils will increasingly demand that people, all people, using their facilities will have to go through checks as routine whether you deal with children or not.

Any branch that needs help in understanding what is expected in regards to child protection can rest assured you will have the full support of ScotSAC. If your branch has a child protection officer that's wonderful, if you are interested in becoming one and have any questions about the guidelines please don't hesitate to contact me through the website or HQ.

What qualities do you need? First and foremost you need to want to do the job. It's a valuable and responsible position and not one you should consider just because no one else will do it. It requires a genuine interest in children and vulnerable adults; you need tact, patience, diplomacy and the ability to see both sides of a problem without being judgemental.

Again if you have any concerns I will be very happy to hear from you. I know some might feel that combining the titles of child and vulnerable adult might seem unrelated. However for the foreseeable future we shall include vulnerable adults. I have from time to time felt vulnerable, especially during my training, and was glad of the support and understanding of my fellow members who were able to give me the wisdom of their experience. Without



thinking it can be easy to unwittingly make others feel vulnerable. Having an understanding of the problem can help avoid this happening.

The other side of child protection is you must feel that you are being protected and again having a clear understanding of how others may feel vulnerable can give you confidence and in turn give them confidence in you.

Children, perhaps your own children, are the future of our sport and I'd like us to continue seeing the wisdom of our more experienced members passed on to an enthusiastic youth. That would give us all something to be proud of and having proper guidelines for the protection of everyone, including instructors, will enable us to see the sport enjoyed by people of all ages, shapes and sizes.

At the end of the course I felt reassured by Donna who praised ScotSAC for our thoroughness and regard to safety, something she has to remind other organisations of and something we seem to do with ease. I look forward to another year of safe and happy diving and holding many more workshops where branches can learn more about child and vulnerable adult protection.

Jan Crawford

SCOTSAC DIVE CONFERENCE
 Saturday, November 03
 Oban High School, Soroba Road, Oban

Sub-40

Main Speakers
 Mark Lawrence from ADUS, Claire Gledhill from GUE,
 Lawson Wood - TBC & Innes McCartney

Other Speakers
 Seasearch/MCS, Historic Scotland,
 Scottish Hyperbaric Association, KISS Rebreathers
 & Jim Anderson talking about Scottish Nudibranches

Open: 9am - 5.30pm
 Cost: £6 (includes lunch)
 tickets on sale from SSAC Head Office



ScotSAC Dive Conference Is Back

AFTER A LONG absence ScotSAC has decided the time is right to re-introduce a dive conference to the Scottish diving calendar. Sam Paske and Gordon Young have been tasked to organise it and have come up with an exciting programme that will appeal to divers whatever their interests. The main speakers include Innes McCartney who will be talking, not unsurprisingly, about Scottish submarines. Innes has published numerous books about submarine wrecks around the UK and can truly be said to be 'the' expert in his field. In the last edition of **SCOTTISH DIVER** he reported on two submarine wrecks he identified off Eyemouth and during his talk I'm sure he'll be saying something about them.

Also on the bill are Mark Lawrence from ADUS (who specialise in 3D surveys of wrecks in particular the wrecks

of Scapa some examples of which you can see in this magazine) and Clare Gledhill from GUE (Global Underwater Explorers). Clare teaches DIR and cave dives and we're expecting a top presentation; there is always something we can learn from the way other divers do things and I'm sure Clare's cave diving experiences will be very entertaining.

At the time of going to press we await confirmation of one more main speaker. There will also be presentations by Calum Duncan about Seasearch and the Marine Conservation Society, Phil Robertson on the underwater work of Historic Scotland and the Scottish Hyperbaric Association will do a presentation on DCS.

Jim Anderson is keen to tell you everything you wanted to know about nudibranchs but were afraid to ask. Andy Parks on KISS rebreathers, and Gordon MacSkimming on underwater

photography. All this for just £6.00 including lunch. There will be a raffle with lots of valuable prizes including the entire collection of Jacques Cousteau DVD's worth £150.

Having whetted your appetite I better give you details of where and when and how to book your ticket.

Where? Oban High School Soroba Road, Oban. When? Saturday, November 3, 2007 from 9am-5.30pm. Tea and coffee are available from 8.45am.

Ticket numbers are limited and will be available from The Scottish Sub Aqua Club, the Cockburn Centre, 40 Bogmoor Place, Glasgow, G51 4TQ, T: 0141 425 1021 www.scotsac.com.

Keep an eye on the website for further details. This conference is open for anyone to attend and we look forward to seeing lots of members from lots of branches.

CONGRATS

Congratulations to Lotsac's John Barr on achieving his Sport Diver Qualification. Well done John!



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44 Ft Aquastar ^ 25 Knots

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- Have on board bathroom and catering facilities
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