

# SCOTTISH DIVER

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## CONTENTS

Jan/Feb VOL 48 No.1

- 5 ..... Going Overboard
- 6 ..... Shotlines
- 10 ..... Diver Profile
- 12 ..... Stormin Javea
- 14 ..... Armchair Diver
- 16 ..... Menorcan Vision
- 20 ..... Clyde At Night
- 24 ... Raja Ampat in Colour
- 30 ..... Branchlines
- 34 ..... MCS Report
- 38 ..... Diveshop



### COVER PHOTO

Striking in red - Jim  
Anderson's Raja  
Ampat portfolio  
provides this  
month's cover  
image.

THE OBAN conference was a great success, to quote Mandy Rice-Davies 'well he would say that wouldn't he?' Ask your dad who she was. It's not just me though and here are some quotes from the feedback forms: 'three guest speakers excellent'; 'excellent all enthusiastic and informative not too advanced or elementary'; 'Good variety and choice'; 'first class, well informed speakers on a good variety of topics'; 'speakers very interesting, will prove hard to better'.

39 people left comment sheets and they were all positive and complimentary. As that last comment pointed out it will be hard to better but I'm sure Sam Paske is already thinking how to do just that. This is the first conference we have organised for a long time - you can read more about it elsewhere in this magazine - but the Board see it as an important stage in developing ScotSAC and diving in Scotland. In the coming years we hope to get all the agencies involved and turn the conference into a major event with a ceilidh at night.

Organising a conference was part of our last three year plan and we have included it in our next which you can see on our website. We welcome your comments and any ideas you may have for that plan.

One of the areas we must address is membership and how to increase it. We have projected a modest 5% rise which if every branch added just one member we would achieve comfortably. There are some very successful branches who seem to do little to attract members but do just that with ease, West Lothian, Hamilton and Irvine are examples. All have lively and up to date websites, all have enthusi-



## going overboard

astic committees, all have a good social side and they all offer diving all year round.

I know it is harder to motivate yourself to go diving in winter but here in Scotland conditions in winter are often better than in summer. The roads are quieter and the viz is usually good, everything you need to keep your skill levels up and your equipment from salting up.

Look at the back pages of this magazine and you will find a long list of charter boats that all take bookings all year round, so no excuses it's all about diving get out there and I'll see you on the shores of Loch Fyne or Loch Long.

*Jack Morrison*

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