



# Midsummer **Miracle**

## BRANCHLINES



*Nigel Spike*



*Solstice divers*

THE SUMMER solstice – long twilight hours, early sunrise, blue sky and sunshine all day – in your dreams! The weather forecasts had been depressing all week; the inshore report at 06.00hrs on Sunday morning was wind force 6-7 perhaps Gale 8! Feelings of dread. How do you go about cancelling a national event? The only ray of hope at that point was the sea state reported as mostly moderate.

Like everyone else who came along, we drove through torrential rain and floods, hoping for the best but silently thinking it could be a wasted journey. As we turned into Quarry View Tearoom, with the rain easing slightly, a hasty scan of the bay and the loch showed only the slightest ripple on the water. Relief beyond belief!

Don Lees was already on site and as we tied out the ScotSAC banner

we debated how many others would brave the weather. It's great to report that we had 42 divers during the day.

The tearoom staff told us that a basking shark had been seen from the bay the day before, so every bit of disturbed water was hopefully scanned, particularly closely, after shoals of mackerel had the surface dancing as they darted around the bay. They kept those of us onshore well entertained for a few hours. I hope the photographs turned out as there was lots of clicking going on.

For some of the divers it was a memorable experience as they swam through or under the shoals. It's all too rare to see so many fish on a dive around shore sites. Others swam under them but didn't look up.

Food vouchers were redeemed as members dodged the showers and had a snack and met up with friends from other branches. The tearoom

staff worked flat out to serve everyone and we enjoyed the chat with the good food. The home baking was a bonus to take home for later.

The divers' boot sale also had a steady stream of bargain hunters who went away with very pleased expressions.

In the afternoon we had some warm drier weather and midges. They certainly speed up dekitting and changing time. By 4.30pm all divers were ashore. The dive flag was lowered and the banner folded by which time the car parks were deserted.

Charity donations amounted to £93 which has been sent to the RNLI.

Hope to see you all again next year, amid blue skies!

**Marion Brown**  
**Solstice Dive Organiser**

### CONGRATS

CONGRATULATIONS TO Peter Petrie and Ian Burke of Forth Valley Branch who have both completed their Sport Diver award in recent months.

AND A big well done to Martin MacDonald who has qualified as a Sport Diver from all at Midlothian Branch

### EASTWOOD PLAN BIRTHDAY CEILIDH

EASTWOOD SUB Aqua club will be holding a ceilidh and buffet to celebrate our 30th anniversary on November 8 at Glasgow Hutchison Aloysius Club (formerly the Rugby Club) Braidholm Road Giffnock at 8pm.

Tickets will cost £12.50 to include the buffet. Enquiries and tickets from Sandie Gray at alexgray33@tiscali.co.uk or 01416377497.

We hope as many former members and friends will come along. Our 25th party was a night to remember.

### SCOTTISH DIVER - BRANCH NEWS WANTED

THE NEXT edition of **SCOTTISH DIVER** (November-December) will be published on Thursday, October 16. If you would like to include news from your branch please submit details by Friday, September 19 to [freetime@tfti.demon.co.uk](mailto:freetime@tfti.demon.co.uk) We would be delighted to hear about dive trips, awards to branch members, social news and anything else you would like to tell the Scottish diving community about.



# Protecting Vulnerable Groups

KEY ASPECTS of the Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) scheme, which will replace the current disclosure system, continue to be developed following the recent response from public consultation.

Briefly, the PVG scheme will; ensure that those who have regular contact with vulnerable groups, through the workplace or in a voluntary capacity, do not have a history of abusive behaviour; deliver a fair and consistent system that will be quick and easy for people to use.

It builds on what has been learned from the current disclosure system to create a robust, strengthened, streamlined service for people who work with vulnerable groups. Protection for adults will be improved as, for the first time in Scotland, the list will cover those barred from working with protected adults.

The Act defines a protected adult as an individual, aged 16 or over, who receives one or more type of care or welfare service. It recognises that some adults may always

require protection while others may do so for only short periods.

The Act introduces an electronic scheme membership for people who work (paid or voluntarily) with children and protected adults. If a person is considered unsuitable to work with children, protected adults, or both, they will be unable to become a scheme member in relation to either workforce or both. The Central Barring Unit will make decisions on barred status. It will be an offence for an organisation to permit someone who has been barred to undertake such work.

An individual will have to register to become a scheme member, but only once, ending the present requirement for multiple disclosures when involved with various organisations. Thereafter the electronic system will be updated automatically when member's circumstances change for example if they move job or are convicted of a crime.

This scheme will enable the employer to

do a simple check to verify that a person is a scheme member. They will also be automatically updated, as would any other employers / organisations that the person worked for, should that individual's record change.

Checks for volunteers working in the voluntary sector will continue to be paid for by the Scottish government.

This Scottish scheme dovetails with the system being developed in the rest of the UK, ensuring that someone who is barred from working in the relevant workforce in Scotland would also be barred throughout the rest of the UK and vice versa.

The present system will continue until the new vetting and barring scheme goes live.

**Marion Brown**  
**Child Protection Officer**

## Commitment To Equity



TO DEMONSTRATE the commitment of the Scottish Sub-Aqua Club (ScotSAC) to equity and fairness for all, ScotSAC has embarked on the first stages of the Equity Standard - A Framework for Sport; supported by **sportscotland's** equity advisors. Achievement of the standard is not only a requirement of our continued funding, but allows the opportunity to identify areas of potential growth. What is equity, why is it important and what will it mean for ScotSAC Members?

### *What is Equity?*

The **sportscotland** definition states 'equity means much more than equality. It is not about equal numbers, but is concerned more with fairness, justice, inclusion and respect, and about the upholding of social justice to ensure that all individuals are respected, have equal opportunities and have their rights protected. Equity is about making sure that everyone has an equal chance to take part if they choose to do so, and no one is discriminated against for reasons such as gender, race, disability, age, religious or political belief, sexual orientation or social background. Furthermore, it's about making sure that any barriers which stand in the way of under-represented groups are eliminated'.

### *Why is Equity Important?*

Everyone has a unique range of skills and knowledge that they bring to ScotSAC and the sport of diving. An effective organisation recognises this and values its diversity. It acknowledges the benefits of different cultures, abilities and lifestyles in helping to develop the sport and achieve organisational objectives. In terms of recruitment of employees and volunteers, an effective organisation recruits, selects and develops people according to the needs of the organisation and the capacity to undertake the work required. In terms of participation, an effective organisation or club promotes and welcomes the range of talent and knowledge of all individuals involved in diving and in the wider community.

### *What is the Equity Standard?*

The Equity Standard is a tool to guide national governing bodies of sport and other sports organisations towards achieving equity. The Standard assists sports organisations in developing structures and processes, assessing performance and ensuring continuous improvement in equity and is a funding requirement of many governing bodies of sport in Scotland.

Underpinning the Standard are the principles of continuous improvement and making tangible differences that have a positive impact on diving and its participants. Importantly, achieving the Standard demonstrates a commitment and willingness from ScotSAC to give everyone a fair chance and to make equity a mainstream issue – not an afterthought.

ScotSAC is fully committed to the principles of equity of opportunity and has approved a draft equity policy and action plan for equity. From early 2009 we will begin recording some additional information on our membership forms to better understand the needs of members and identifying any potential target groups for growth of membership. We welcome comments and input from members and branches on the implementation of equity.

Further information on the Equity standard is available from [www.equalitystandard.org](http://www.equalitystandard.org). A copy of the draft equity policy is available from [www.scotsac.com](http://www.scotsac.com). Please send any comments to : [equity@scotsac.com](mailto:equity@scotsac.com)

# Meet The Board

**SINCE INCORPORATION in 2006 ScotSAC has been aiming to develop a skills based board with the diverse range of skills required to lead and develop the organisation. The Board is responsible for developing and delivering the strategy of ScotSAC as well as a range of operational duties of managing staff, finances, communications and engaging with the NDC on training and diving matters. Here is a chance to find out a bit more about the volunteers.**

## Andy Murray Chairman

Andy joined ScotSAC in 1996 and has been an active instructor for many years and held positions on the Board/GC for 5 years. He was previously responsible for the ScotSAC branch



Instructor course and is a member of Strathclyde University branch. His diving interests are underwater photography and delivery of training.

In his day job, Andy is currently Coach Education and Development Manager with the Scottish Canoe Association, leading the development of coaches and implementing the new UK Coaching Certificate awards.

He has skills in sports development, coaching and project management.

## Nigel Spike National Diving Officer

Nigel joined the Club in 1979, training under the late, great John Arrowsmith. He is a Powerboat



instructor, First Class Diver and Examiner, with experience of running courses at all levels.

A teacher, he used to run a branch for the benefit of a succession of pupils at the school where he works. Now he dives for assessment and, especially, for pleasure, home and abroad, aiming to be in the water at least once a week.

Unfortunately, thanks to the influence of the likes of Jim Anderson, he has become addicted to photographing nudibranchs...

## Jim Anderson Treasurer

Jim joined ScotSAC in 1987 and has been a member of West Lothian SAC since then. Jim is an architect and runs his own practice in Glasgow and West Lothian. Previously he was ScotSAC Treasurer in 1991-94 and returned to the post in 2006. Jim is a RI, keen underwater photographer and nudibranch hunter.



## Jack Morrison Director

Jack has been a member of ScotSAC since 1961 and became a Third Class (Sport Diver) in 1963, Second Class (Master Diver) in 1966 and BI when the award was introduced.



He has held various posts at branch level and at General Committee level and was responsible for co-ordinating our first 5 year plan back in the 1970's. At that time he also helped organise various events such as conferences, dinner dances and as expedition officer the first ScotSAC training days.

For the last 10 years or so he has been editor of **SCOTTISH DIVER** and an active member of the GC and now the Board. His main interests in diving now are photographing marine life and conservation.

## Adrian Thomas Director

Adrian was co-opted to the Board in July 2008. Adrian is relatively new to diving having started his training in Cyprus 2005 under the PADI scheme.



Adrian works in the University of Limerick in Ireland where he is now a qualified Sport Diver and member of the thriving UL Sub Aqua Club (ScotSAC branch) and already he is actively engaged in helping with the finalisation of our new website, which will have a number of new features.

His experience with Scouting, hill walking and, more recently, caving should be beneficial as he has previously been both treasurer and chairman of the Speleological Union of Ireland (SUI) which is the national governing body of the sport of caving in Ireland. Adrian's primary diving interest is underwater photography.

## Douglas Forman Director

Douglas joined the Board in 2007 and has been a member of ScotSAC and diving now for some 15 years. Douglas



brings to the Board a considerable number of years' experience as the general manager of one of Scotland's leading sports and leisure management trusts. He has only recently stepped down as the Chair of the Active Leisure and Learning industry's Sector Skills Council and is therefore well versed in the role of company director and manager.

A keen underwater photographer he has dived in many places across the world but reckons that there are a few he still on his must "do" list.

## Archie Gillies Director

Archie joined ScotSAC Pollockshaws branch in 1993 and was proud to be known as a 3rd class diver. He soon became Equipment Officer and qualified as a 2nd class diver and branch instructor in 1999. He was elected as Branch Diving Officer in 1999 and still holds the post.



## Iain Graham Director

Iain learned to dive in 2003 while on honeymoon under the PADI scheme. He joined West Lothian ScotSAC branch in 2005 following a chance meeting in the Red Sea. Iain is a sport diver and tries to be an underwater photographer. He joined the Board in 2007 and now has responsibility for dealing with insurance matters.



Iain works as a GP in Ayrshire and is developing an interest in diving medicine.

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# SSAC DIVE CONFERENCE 2008

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Claire Peddie

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Photography  
Photoshop  
Kiss Rebreathers  
Seasearch  
Archaeology  
Club Development

Tickets and further details at [www.scotsac.com](http://www.scotsac.com) – all divers are welcome



*Photograph courtesy of Martyn Farr*

# ScotSAC Third Party Insurance

## Your Questions Answered

THIRD PARTY sometimes called 'Public Liability' Insurance is in place for up to £5,000,000 for civil liability compensation awards for personal injury to Third Parties or Members of the Public or damage to their property as a result of negligence by any ScotSAC Member. Additionally the cover includes up to £5,000,000 for civil liability pursued against Principals to the ScotSAC i.e. swimming pools, leisure centres, land owners and lake or pit owners that allow ScotSAC organised diving to take place on or in their property. The policy this year runs from 06/01/08 to 05/01/09 under Policy Number DMI/123582.

### Who is covered by this policy?

All ScotSAC members the Committee of the ScotSAC for the time being.

### When are they covered?

All ScotSAC members are covered when engaged on club activities and when they are diving anywhere in the world. Liability cover in the USA and Canada is restricted to being sued outside of the USA or Canadian legal jurisdiction.

### Does the insurance include the use of Nitrox, Rebreathers and Trimix?

Yes where they are being used in accordance with ScotSAC recommendations.

### What happens when I am abroad and diving on holiday with other organisations at either a dive centre at a hotel, or an independent dive school at a resort?

Your ScotSAC member liability insurance still covers you but if you are going to engage in speciality diving that is out side of the ScotSAC recommendations please check with ScotSAC headquarters and their insurance advisors that the activity can be included in the member liability cover.

### Can one ScotSAC member claim personal injury or damage to property caused by another ScotSAC member?

Yes if it's as a result of negligence and results in a legal claim, this is called 'Member to Member Liability' and is stated in the policy.

### If I feel that I am responsible for an injury or damage to someone else's property and I may be held responsible what should I do?

You must not admit any responsibility or liability at the time of the incident. Report the matter to ScotSAC headquarters and you will receive a response from HQ and /or their Legal Advisors telling you what the legal position is.

### Are guests and visitors to our club covered by this policy?

Yes guests and visitors who are in the process of joining the club and who are receiving training, or visiting certified divers diving with your branch are covered by this insurance for up to 7 visits in one 30 day period for this policy year (06/01/08 to 05/01/09). Once they have joined your branch and are members of the ScotSAC they are covered like any other Scot-SAC member.

### Does the 7 visit restriction for guests and visitors apply to friends, family or members of the public that we allow to swim in our pool during pools sessions?

No friends and family, or members of the public that you allow to swim in your pool during your pool sessions are covered by this insurance regardless of the number of visits they make. This insurance applies even if you charge them for the swimming sessions, so long as the proceeds are dispersed to your Branch funds.

### Are we covered for arranging 'Try Dives' for the public?

Yes you are covered for arranging this activity subject to ScotSAC's recommendations along with open nights at your branch and club social events.

### Does this insurance cover the Swimming Pool Management/ Owners if they are sued because of our negligence?

Yes this is called 'Indemnity to Principals' and is stated in the policy. The cover also extends to any 'Principal' who allows you to use their facilities, like lake or pit owners, school's and college's swimming pools.

### Will this insurance be acceptable to the Ministry of Defence if we use their facilities or are based inside a military establishment?

Yes, but should you encounter a problem with the MOD or MOD police ask them to contact ScotSAC HQ or the insurance advisor for verification.

### Will the ScotSAC Liability Insurance pay claims if I am injured or lose or damage my diving equipment if no one is to blame?

No the ScotSAC's annual liability insurance is not an 'accident' 'travel' or 'dive equipment' insurance. You should insure these risks yourself with an appropriate insurer.

If more information about this insurance is required please refer to ScotSAC Head Quarters or Dive Master Insurance Consultants Ltd. They can provide a more formal proof of insurance if necessary. This is only a brief description of the annual liability insurance that is stated more specifically in the ScotSAC's Master Insurance Policy, a copy of the Master Policy can be obtained from ScotSAC Headquarters upon request.

This Insurance has been placed with Certain Underwriters at Lloyds by Dive Master Insurance Consultants Ltd.

Ref: BA/Synopsis.doc/25/06/08.



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