



going overboard

reward all our volunteers and has recently approved a volunteer policy. We would hope branches will follow our lead and look at ways to value and reward those members who give their time and expertise to keep their branches thriving.

In Branchlines this month you can read a report from Sam Paske on progress with the review of the training schedule. The Board and NDC are delighted that Sam has agreed to manage this important project.

ScotSAC is a very conservative organisation that has a natural resistance to change; I should know I was one of a few misguided souls who argued against any and every change to training from allowing single hose valves to the use of computers. However there are good reasons now why we should re-asses our training without compromising safety.

The current training schedule dates basically with a few modifications from the early 1970s, a lot has changed in equipment and training methods since then and we have to accept that some of what we do is now unnecessary and should be discarded. There are also new pieces of equipment in regular use such as DSMB's, pony

bottles and computers and our training needs to reflect these new safety additions.

Over the last few years branches have been reporting bottlenecks in training because until a trainee completes Sport Diver training they can only dive with a BI. Another anomaly in Sport Diver is the lack of dive leader training. There has also been criticism of the perception that there is too big a gap between grades with few going on to Master Diver level.

These are some of the reasons for undertaking a comprehensive review of the training. I have purposely refrained from adding schedule in the last sentence because as former NDO Ian Seath said on many occasions it is not a schedule, if it was it would say how long each exercise should take.

Whether you are a first class examiner or a trainee, please take time to read the proposal. The Board and the NDC are fully behind this but it can only happen if the membership accepts it; after all it is branches that will implement and benefit from it. Sam and her team will welcome all comments and suggestions; we have set up a dedicated email address at review@scotsac.com or in writing to HQ.

Jack Morrison, Editor

FOR SEVERAL years now the Scottish Sub Aqua Club (ScotSAC) has been producing three year development plans and you may have read our 2008-2010 plan which is available to download from the website. Forward planning is crucial for the success and survival of ScotSAC. It is essential nowadays for a governing body of sport to have the proper policies and structures needed to address the problems we face from legislation and competition.

There are many pressures on clubs these days making it increasingly difficult to recruit new members. The Board are currently looking at ways to encourage and

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