

The Super SUUNTO Six



IN EARLY 2008, ScotSAC teamed up with Suunto to create the ScotSAC Suunto Diver Award for volunteering. The aim of the award is to recognise volunteers who contribute greatly to the sport. This could be by encouraging newcomers to diving, existing divers to complete further development training, the organisation of dive expeditions, or some other activity that has raised the profile of diving in a positive way.

The response from members was excellent. Fortunately, we didn't need to choose just one winner as we had six reward packages to offer, but narrowing it down to six was still a challenge.

The deserving volunteers were announced by John Sinclair, General Manager of Suunto and Andy Murray, ScotSAC Chairman at the Dive Conference in Oban. The winners were:

● **Jenny Young** (West Lothian), who "lives and breathes for diving", donating much of her time to branch training year round and develops the social side of the club by organising a wide range of social events

● **Ian Smith** (Musselburgh), an instructor and BDO who led in two successful lottery funding applications to purchase new equipment, promotes the club greatly and organises a wide range of general diving interest events such as slide shows.

● **David Fuller-Shapcott** (Kelsac) who set up Borders Underwater Search Team in 1997 and worked tirelessly to raise funds and establish the unit as an emergency resource. He is also a member of the British Divers Marine Life Rescue service, saving injured marine animals. Both roles create positive image of divers to the general public.

● **Steve Younger** (Napier), a BDO of a busy university branch, recruiting many new members each year and organising training trips, social events. His dedication to his branch is described as 'extraordinary'.

● **Phil Rodgers** (Perth), who has been involved in diving for 40 years, organising a wide range of promotional activities to bring newcomers to the sport and has been featured many times in local and national newspapers promoting the sport.

● **Iain Kennedy** (Clydebank) created a 'vision for the future' when he first joined the committee of Clydebank branch; a vision which resulted in successful grant applications to purchase equipment including a club RIB. Iain is also a member of the Marine Conservation Society, taking part in beach clean ups and promoted the work of divers in the local press.

All six winners receive a Suunto D6 dive computer, ScotSAC jacket and award certificate. Our thanks to Suunto for their contribution to this award.

At the time of the announcement, the winners came forward to be presented with their award; surprised and delighted. Ian Smith said:

"I am still trying to recover from the shock of it and feel very humbled. I enjoy what I do within the club and to have received recognition would have been more than enough but a Suunto dive computer as well is great! I am just carrying on what has been instilled in me whilst being trained by the likes of Don Lees, Kevin Watson, Tom Hares and Ian Whittaker to name but a few. I am only as good as the club members and club committee/instructors through the branch level and up through ScotSAC."

Congratulations to all our winners on their dedication to the club and sport. The great news to all our members is that we will be repeating the award again next year, so plenty time to keep an eye out for that deserving volunteer.

The picture above shows award winners (left to right) Ian Smith, David Fuller-Shapcott, Jenny Young, Andy Murray (ScotSAC chair), David Sinclair (Suunto) Phil Rodgers and Steve Younger

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