

Rewarding Our Volunteers

IN THE January / February 2009 issue of **SCOTTISH DIVER** we heard about the six deserving recipients of the Suunto ScotSAC Diver award for volunteering. Suunto and ScotSAC have teamed up once again to offer this reward and recognition package to our volunteers.

The Suunto ScotSAC Diver Award 2009 is designed to reward an individual's exceptional contribution to our sport. This contribution could be effort that has encouraged new people to become divers, encouraged 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. It may also be an Instructor who has encouraged and developed new divers and delivered training.

In 2009, there will be 6 prizes of Suunto D6 watch size dive computers with PC interface, and an embroidered ScotSAC jacket. A prize package worth £600 each. Nominations will be judged by a panel consisting of the Chairman, National Diving Officer and General Manager of Suunto Diving UK.

If you know of any individual within ScotSAC who has made a significant contribution to the sport, in any way, then now is your chance to nominate them for recognition. All Nominees must hold current membership of the Scottish Sub Aqua Club and may

not be current members of the Board or National Diving Council. The closing date for nominations is August 31, 2009 with the winners being announced and prizes presented at the Dive Conference in November 2009. Nomination forms are available from www.scotsac.com



Suunto Winner

IAN KENNEDY received an unexpected but welcome present at the Clydebank Branch Christmas party. Ian was the sixth recipient of the Suunto Award for 2008. Unfortunately Ian was unable to attend the conference to receive his D6 from John Sinclair of Suunto UK. However he was delighted and pleased with his award although with typical modesty he said: "There are lots of others who

deserve this more than I do."

Well Ian the members of Clydebank Branch beg to differ and were keen to see you suitably rewarded for all you do to promote diving, ScotSAC and the branch. Like all the recipients it is well deserved and everyone at Clydebank wish you well and hope you enjoy your new Suunto D6.

Jack Morrison

AGM - NOTICE OF MEETING

56th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SCOTTISH SUB-AQUA CLUB

THE ANNUAL General Meeting of the Scottish Sub Aqua Club will be held at 1500hrs on Saturday March 21, 2008 in the Logie Lecture Theatre, University of Stirling, FK9 4LA. Doors will be open from 1445hrs.

All members are invited to attend. Please note that in accordance with

Company Law, only current members of the Company are entitled to participate in the meeting. Current Members are those with up to date subscription, or Honorary Members. Please bring your current certificate of membership or membership card with you for verification.

NITROX COURSE

A basic Nitrox course will be held in Scotsac HQ on Saturday, March 28. A booking form can be found on the website or from HQ. Places are limited so get your booking in early.

CONGRATS

SOLWAY BRANCH, Wigton send their congratulations to Robert Burns and Michael Coulthard on completing their Sport diver award. Happy and safe diving in 2009.

CONGRATULATIONS AND well done to Cumbernauld Sub Aqua members for their latest achievements, firstly to Billy Mills for acquiring his Master Diver award earlier this year - you are a star! Also biggin' it up in our club are the latest Sports Divers, Guy Anderson, Stevie Smith, Kenny Campbell, Chris Fargher, Thomas Patton, Stevie 'LB' Corcoran and Des 'Biscuits' McCrum. Also big thanks to all who helped to get these guys in the water, you know who you are.

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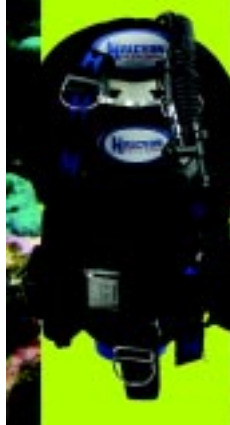
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Equity Your Questions Answered

EQUITY UPDATE



IN 2008, ScotSAC embarked on the Equity Standard: A Framework for Sport, demonstrating its commitment to equity. A draft equity policy was circulated last autumn, and an action plan subsequently produced. The next stage is to begin recording additional information to audit the profile of our members. So, from spring 2009, a new equity form will be included with membership renewal form, asking for data on ethnic origin, nationality and disability. We already record date of birth and gender information on all members, along with a medical declaration.

WHAT IS EQUITY?

Equity is about fairness for all; where every person is given an equal opportunity to participate in our sport. Equity recognises that people in society are not equal, and that unequal distribution of resources, entitlements or effort may be required to reduce existing inequalities and ensure equality of access and opportunity. Equitable sporting organisations are able to access a broader range of members,

volunteers, coaches, instructors and participants. Overall equity is good for communities, good for organisations and good for sport overall.

WHY DO WE NEED TO RECORD THIS INFORMATION AND ACHIEVE THE EQUITY STANDARD?

- It's the right thing to do
- It can increase the number of participants in our sport by being open to new audiences
- It helps us understand the needs of our members
- We are required to do so to continue to be recognised as the governing body, and receive funding from **sports**scotland, and may eventually be obliged to by law. All 52 recognised governing bodies of sport in Scotland have now embarked on the Equity Standard.
- Ensuring sport is delivered fairly and equitably is no longer something that organisations can do as an 'optional extra'. There is a robust legal framework in place which ensures that individuals cannot be discriminated against for reasons such as their gender (including transgender status), disability, colour, racial background, sexual orientation, religion or belief, or age.
- Ensuring equity is mainstreamed throughout will offer significant business benefits to the organisation itself, such as a wider range of skills, knowledge and experience, a greater participation base, a more positive public image and potentially greater revenue.

AM I OBLIGED TO PROVIDE THE INFORMATION?

Providing your equity data is optional, but we believe most members will be happy to

do so, as this information is requested in many other aspects of life. If you would prefer not to provide some or all of the data, an option will be available on the form to note this.

WHAT WILL SCOTSAC RECORD?

We already record age and gender on our existing membership form. In addition to this, we will begin recording disability and ethnicity information.

WHAT WILL SCOTSAC DO WITH THE INFORMATION?

Once we have built up a profile of our membership using the above categories, we compare it to the national statistics such as census information. This helps us see how our membership compares with the national picture, and may, for example identify target groups for new members or illustrate a need to do more to support an existing group of members.

Being equitable does not mean we have to have the same representation within our membership as the national population, but it does mean we should seek to provide an equal opportunity.

WHO WILL SEE THE DATA AND WHERE WILL IT BE STORED?

The data will be recorded on a separate form and entered into an equity database. No identifying information on any member will be available when analysing the data. Data will be stored in a secure database at headquarters and managed in accordance with our data protection policy.

If you have any queries or require further information, please contact the ScotSAC Equity Officer equity@scotsac.com

Access Update

MEMBERS MAY be aware that access to the shore road between Argyll Caravan Park and Furnace Quarry has recently been blocked following the installation of locked gates. The road provides access to dive sites including Kenmore Point, Stallion Rock and others. We understand that the Landowner and estate has taken these steps for reasons which include quantities of rubbish being dumped on the estate land, illegal camping, threats against staff and other anti-social activity.

ScotSAC is liaising with the Access Manager for Argyll & Bute Council, who in turn is liaising with Argyll Estates and Kenmore Forestry who own the majority of the solum of the Shore Road between Furnace and Inveraray. Further details on the progress of the negotiations is available from our website.

In the meantime, we are trying to gather evidence to support the claimed Vehicular Public Right of Way, and are receiving

support from Argyll & Bute Council. If you have dived the area pre 1988, and have evidence such as a diving logbook then please assist by completing the questionnaire available from www.scotsac.com. Evidence may include photocopies of logbooks or dive books/guides. Please return completed questionnaires and evidence to ScotSAC Headquarters, The Cockburn Centre, 40 Bogmoor Place, Glasgow, G51 4TQ.

We advise divers not to travel to Furnace expecting to be able to access the dives at Kenmore until this situation has been resolved. ScotSAC is involved in trying to negotiate access on behalf of divers and any actions that may compromise these negotiations will not be appreciated nor in anyone's interest.

If you have any further queries on this matter please contact: access@scotsac.com

Membership Renewal

PLEASE TURN to Page 5 and take a close look at the benefits available to ScotSAC members and make sure that you renew your membership when its due.

ScotSAC members who have allowed their membership to lapse for less than 6 months will be required to pay the usual renewal fee and their membership will be backdated to the original renewal date. For example if the original renewal date is in January and payment is received in March, the next annual fee will become due in January of the following year.

If membership has lapsed for over 6 months the membership payment would be the same but the next date of renewal will be from when the payment is received. Members will no longer be required to pay another joining fee. However members should be aware their third party insurance cover only extends 28 days after the renewal date.