



ScotSAC Annual Report '09



BRANCHLINES



Foreward

2008 was a successful year all round for ScotSAC - your Club delivering the needs of its members. The transformation from an unincorporated association to a company limited by guarantee is now well established, although more work remains to be done. This new format annual report aims to provide our members and other partners with our key achievements of the year. My thanks to all our volunteers who make it all happen, committing time and energy to the sport and ScotSAC.

Andy Murray, Chairman

Mission

It is our mission:

- To enable the safe enjoyment of our underwater world
- To offer the development of diver skills in a planned and progressive structure
- To make the sport more wide available

Membership

At December 31 we had a total of 1420 members, comprising:

- 934 Ordinary members
- 288 Joint members
- 99 Student members
- 34 Junior members
- 7 Junior snorkel members
- 9 Honorary life members

We had 74 Branches across Scotland, Northern England and Ireland, with one new branch being formed during 2008.

We recruited 281 new members during the year.

Board

During 2008, the following members served as Directors:

- Jack Morrison (Chair until March 2008)
- Andrew Murray (Secretary and also Chairman from March 2008)
- Kevin Miller - National Diving Officer, (resigned May 2008)
- Nigel Spike - National Diving Officer, (appointed July 2008)
- Douglas Forman (Director)
- Jim Anderson (Treasurer)
- Archie Gillies (Director)
- Adrian Thomas (Director)
- Iain Graham (Director)

National Diving Council

The elected members of the NDC were:

- Marion Brown
- Sam Paske

- Graeme Forsyth
- Kevin Watson
- Gordon Young

The NDC also includes active Examiners and Regional Coaches.

We are grateful to the Board and NDC for giving so much time to ScotSAC, and sharing their expertise with members.

Development

We continued to develop the organisation in many ways including:

- ▼ Marketing within national press supplements to raise the public profile of diving and generate new members for ScotSAC.
- ▼ In March we upgraded our membership database, allowing us to communicate with members, and Branch committees directly by email.
- ▼ We launched a new website in November
- ▼ The Board participated in a development day facilitated by sportscotland.
- ▼ Developing our training materials including new Master Diver lecture materials (due for launch in Summer 2009)
- ▼ Dealing with access issues including liaising with Argyll & Bute council about ongoing access issues in Loch Fyne.

Volunteers

A new volunteer policy was approved to recruit, recognise, reward and retain volunteers.

In October, we committed to making all instructor and safety courses free, demonstrating our commitment to supporting volunteers in their role.

The new ScotSAC Suunto Diver Award rewarded 6 deserving volunteers (Jenny Young, David Fuller-Shapcott, Ian Smith, Phil Rogers, Steve Younger, and Ian Kennedy) for their significant contribution to the sport.

Events & Courses

Our summer solstice event in June attracted almost 50 divers and our dive conference in November was headline success with over 120 delegates from around the country.

Training

We commenced a review of our training, established an outline structure and consulted with the membership.

Latest available data (February 2009) showed the following qualifications during 2008

- ▼ 78 x Sport Divers
- ▼ 20 x Master Divers
- ▼ 1 x Examiner
- ▼ 18 x Branch instructors with a total of 37 candidates attending BI training courses during the year.

We had 18 volunteer Regional Coaches supporting branches in training and assessments.

Child Protection

ScotSAC has signed up to the 2006 Accord for the protection of children in Scottish sport' and submitted an action plan for further implementation.

We processed disclosure checks for newly qualified instructors.

Equity

We demonstrated our commitment to equity by working towards the preliminary level of the 'Equity Standard: A Framework for Sport'.

Finance

We had an income of £88,598 and expenditure of £82,019. Of this income, £17,000 was investment from sportscotland to support our development plan.

The auditors were Scott Moncrieff Chartered Accountants.

Staffing

In April, we recruited Sharon McKenzie as Administrator at headquarters, to work alongside Hazel McBride our existing Administrator.

Partnerships and Links

During the year we engaged with a number of stakeholders in sport: sportscotland, Scottish Sports Association, Children 1st / Child Protection in Sport Service British Diving Safety Group Recreational Diving Industry Committee, British Sub Aqua Club

Consultations

We responded to seven consultations from Scottish Government on marine and sport related matters. (Glasgow 2014 legacy, Scottish Sustainable Marine Environment Initiative, Historic Scotland SHEP, Lamlash Bay "no take" Zone, Scottish Marine Bill, Dormant bank accounts, Pathways into Sport and Core Paths Planning)

New Venture For Stirling SAC

STIRLING SUB AQUA club is pleased to announce the launch of their new website - www.stirlingscuba.com. The club has been going strong for over 30 years and decided the time was right to launch a website giving people contact details and an introduction to the club.

Club member Alan Purcell said: "We're going to be adding a lot of information in the next few weeks on shore and boat dives based on club experiences over the last 30 years and will also be featuring the types of training required for both new

starts and cross overs from other associations. We've already had a fair amount of feedback from users in other countries, Finland, Ireland, France, Germany, Egypt and Australia and would be happy to get feedback, queries and suggestions from around the world."

If another club would like to link through from their website to Stirling's, they will return the favour.

You can contact the club at: info@stirlingscuba.com



Scotsac Suunto Award Reminder

THIS AWARD recognises volunteers for their contribution to diving and ScotSAC and there is only a short time remaining to nominate for this year's award. The closing date is August 31, 2009.

Full details of the award along with nomination forms are available on our

website. 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. Winners will receive a Suunto D6 watch size dive computers with PC interface, and an embroidered ScotSAC jacket.

CONGRATS



DUMBARTON BRANCH are pleased to announce that Allan Methven has qualified both as a Master Diver and as a Branch Instructor. We look forward to his help in training people for a most rewarding sport.



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