

# Scottish Sub Aqua Club Annual Report 2008



## 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 31<sup>st</sup> December 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 1<sup>st</sup> / 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

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