

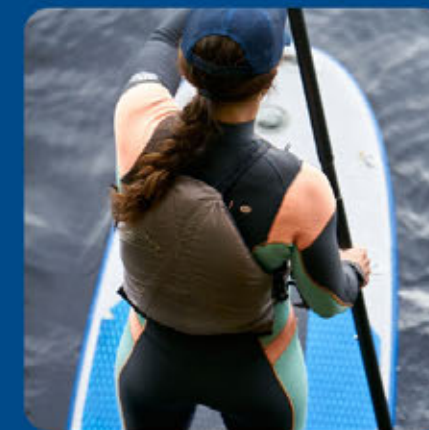


Scottish Canoe Association
Comann Curach na h-Alba

ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023





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FOREWORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

ADVANCEMENTS AND INCLUSIVITY IN PADDLESORTS: A YEAR OF GROWTH AND RESPONSIBILITY

The past year has witnessed a remarkable surge in the popularity of paddlesports, with water-based activities experiencing increased demand across all levels. Despite enduring one of the coldest winters in recent memory, people have eagerly embraced the opportunity to take to the water. As the industry has adapted to accommodate this growing interest, various improvements have been made in areas such as responsible tourism, sustainable environmental practices, minority group services, and coaching awards. Furthermore, there has been a significant emphasis on enhancing safety awareness for stand-up paddleboarding (SUP) activities. Notably, paddlesports have emerged as a cost-effective means for individuals to enjoy their holidays, particularly in Scotland, where tourism has seen a substantial boost. I want to celebrate the concerted efforts that have gone into establishing a safe, sustainable, and inclusive structure, enabling more individuals to actively participate in water-based pursuits.

Promoting Inclusivity and Accessibility: Efforts to foster inclusivity and accessibility have been at the forefront of the SCA's agenda. An essential objective has been the development and accessibility of coaching awards for individuals from diverse backgrounds. Notably, Roger Holmes and Maddy Jennings have spearheaded this initiative, making paddlesports accessible to individuals of all ability levels. Their endeavours include organising events like "Wheels to Water," which has facilitated the participation of people with disabilities. Sharing the knowledge gained from such initiatives with service providers will pave the way for a future where paddlesports are widely recognised as an inclusive activity that offers opportunities for everyone.

Embracing Diversity and Celebrating Achievements: The fundamental principle of inclusivity has been wonderfully showcased through the emergence of events specifically tailored to provide a safe and inclusive space for minority groups. The resounding success of the "Paddling with Pride Par-TAY" event, where LGBTQIA+ members came together to network and socialise, exemplifies the positive impact of fostering a relaxed and supportive environment. Recognising that everyone's journey in paddlesports is unique, it is particularly gratifying to witness the development of events that welcome a more diverse range of participants.



Empowering Women through Specialised Courses: Acknowledging the underrepresentation of women in certain areas of paddlesports, significant strides have been made in adapting existing awards and courses to meet the needs of minority groups. One noteworthy achievement is the increased participation in the Women's Safety and Navigation courses, which provide a supportive environment for female members seeking to improve their skills alongside like-minded women. These initiatives have proven highly effective in encouraging more female participants to engage with the sport and pursue their goals.

Preserving and Protecting Waterways: With the surge in tourism, the SCA and its members have taken a proactive stance in river clean-up initiatives. A growing collective responsibility has inspired hundreds of volunteers to unite in litter-picking and restoring areas that have experienced an unprecedented level of activity. The dedication and effort exhibited by members in maintaining the cleanliness of our rivers are truly commendable.

The achievements witnessed in the paddlesports industry over the past year highlight the remarkable growth and dedication of service providers, members, and clubs. The emphasis on responsibility, inclusivity, and sustainability has been instrumental in making paddling clean, safe, and accessible to individuals from all walks of life. As the industry continues to evolve, it is crucial to recognise and appreciate the countless initiatives that have contributed to its ongoing success. With a solid foundation of inclusivity, the future of paddlesports holds tremendous promise, providing opportunities for all to enjoy the beauty of water-based activities while preserving our precious waterways.

AMBER MASLEN
SCA PRESIDENT

CEO'S REPORT



The delivery of Paddlesport For All continued at a pace and, thanks to the SCA Equality Groups, many different activities have been planned and delivered, making the sport that we love more accessible to many more people. In addition, the SCA Paracanoe pathway has continued to be developed, with several opportunities provided for people to get involved in paddlesport.

The SCA staff continued to work as a distributed staff team and within several sub-teams and groupings. During the year there were several staffing changes and we thank all those who have helped us out over that period. We continue to seek to improve

and refine how we work, through effective team building, online collaboration and effective cloud-based IT and systems.

Good governance is key within the SCA and we continue to review and refine how we work across the organisation including our committee operations. As we go to press, a review of our committee workings across the organisation is underway with the intention of supporting volunteers in the most effective way possible in order to help grow and develop paddlesport in Scotland.

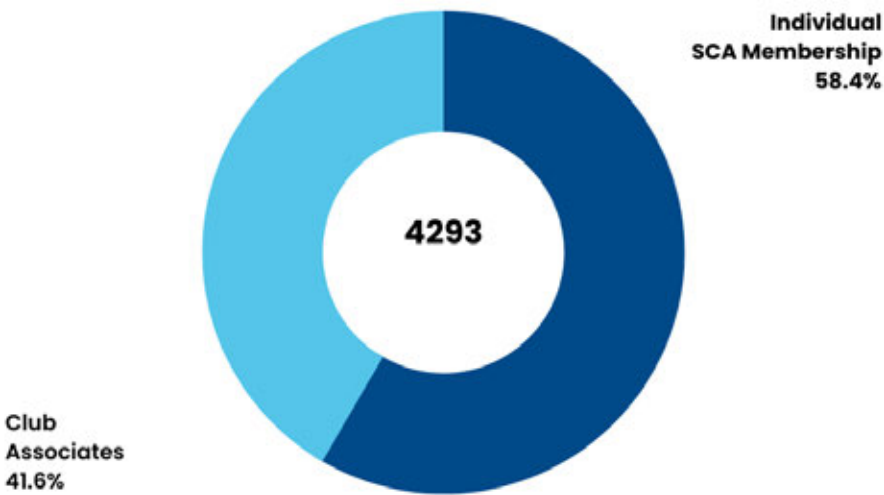
STUART SMITH
SCA CEO

MEMBERSHIP

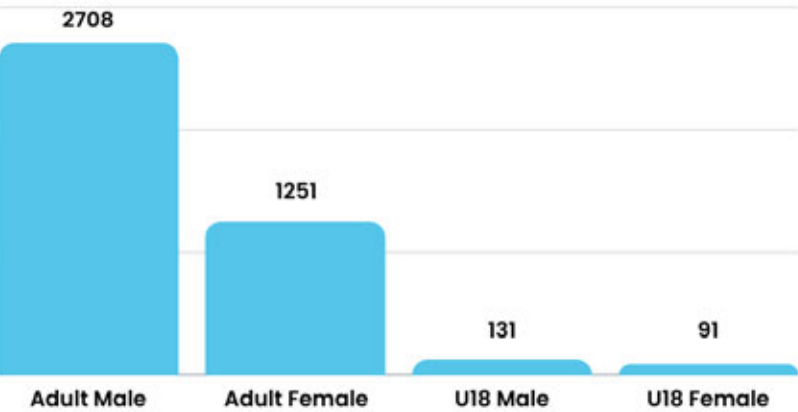


MEMBERSHIP AS OF 23/03/2023

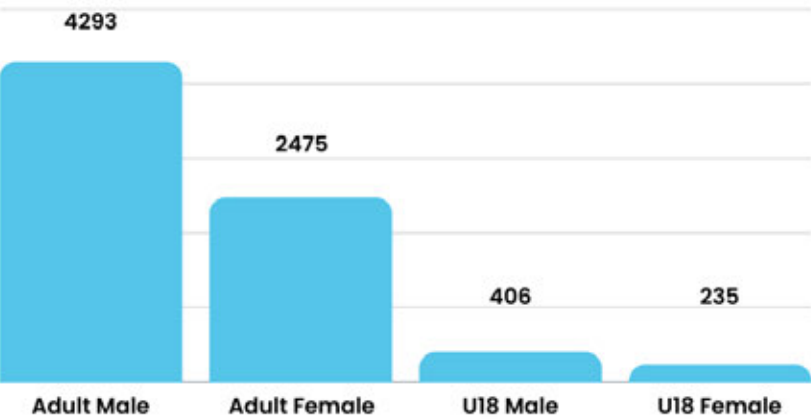
Total Proportion of Members and Club Associates



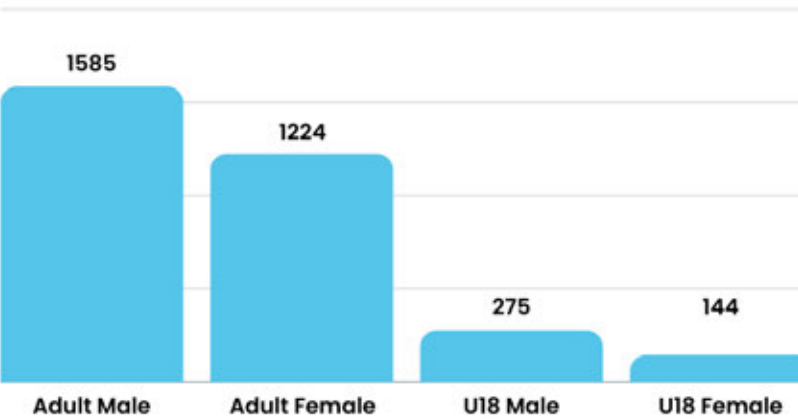
Individual SCA Members



Overall



Club Associates



EVENTS

EVENTS & ONLINE ACTIVITIES

890	PARTICIPANTS AT 71 ONLINE EVENTS OVER THE AUTUMN/WINTER PERIOD
2342	PARTICIPANTS ON COACHING, LEADERSHIP, SAFETY AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSES
2771	PARTICIPANTS AT RECREATIONAL AND COMPETITION EVENTS, A 39% INCREASE ON THE PREVIOUS YEAR
4	ISSUES OF THE SCOTTISH PADDLECAST WERE PUBLISHED RESULTING IN 474 PODCAST LISTENS



COACHING & DEVELOPMENT



Participation in coaching, leadership and safety training remained strong following the post-pandemic boost we have previously seen. The number of qualified coaches and leaders in SCA membership has grown to another record high of 2,342, an increase of 10% since the previous year.

We continue to work closely with the British Canoeing Awarding Body and our National Association partners in England, Wales and Northern Ireland to provide better support and services to the coaching and leadership community.

Engagement with the suite of elearning modules continues to be strong and the online webinar programme continued to have high levels of engagement from across the whole community.

Following extensive review, the beginning of a series of improvements, updates and new courses for safety and navigation began during the year. This included a new Paddlesport Safety and Rescue course.

The latest participation data show over 532,000 adults in Scotland paddled in 2022 with over 207,000 paddling at least 3 times during the year. This once again shows the strength of the paddlesport community and the need for facilitated support to this sizable audience to create and maintain opportunities for participation, competition, coaching, events, safety and more.

A significant milestone during the year was the SCA being awarded the Advanced Level of the Equality Standard for Sport. This is the culmination of many years of effort by staff and volunteers across the SCA community. It is recognition of the journey we have been on together and continue to pursue to make Paddlesport for All.

ANDY MURRAY
HEAD OF COACHING
& DEVELOPMENT



LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

2,342	OF OUR MEMBERS HOLD A COACHING OR LEADERSHIP QUALIFICATION, AN INCREASE OF 10% ON THE PREVIOUS YEAR
97%	SATISFACTION FEEDBACK FOR COACH EDUCATION PROGRAMMES
397	PADDLESport INSTRUCTOR QUALIFICATIONS
95	CANDIDATES ACHIEVED A COACH AWARD QUALIFICATION, AN INCREASE OF 38% ON THE PREVIOUS YEAR
254	CANDIDATES ACHIEVED A LEADERSHIP QUALIFICATION
38	CANDIDATES ACHIEVED A RAFT GUIDE AWARD
116	CANDIDATES WERE TRAINED ACROSS THE RANGE OF LEADERSHIP COURSES AND DISCIPLINES
438	CANDIDATES COMPLETED A PERSONAL PERFORMANCE AWARD
17	COMPLETED THE EVENT SAFETY TRAINING MODULE
17%	INCREASE IN REGISTRATIONS FOR COACHING OR LEADERSHIP AWARDS



SAFEGUARDING

The SCA continued to meet the Standards for Child Wellbeing and Protection in Sport. The SCA acted as a safeguarding advice service for many affiliated clubs, providing support, training and specific case support to volunteer safeguarding officers in clubs. We also processed PVG applications on behalf of those clubs.

151	PARTICIPANTS COMPLETED THE CHILD WELLBEING AND PROTECTION IN SPORT VIRTUAL COURSE
23	CLUB SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS COMPLETED THE CHILD WELLBEING AND PROTECTION OFFICER TRAINING COURSE

CLUBS AND DELIVERY PARTNERS

The Delivery Partner scheme continued to grow, welcoming 12 paddlesport organisations as new Delivery Partners during the year. There were 34 organisations signed up on 31/03/23 (24 on 31/03/22), an increase of 42%.

PERFORMANCE & PATHWAYS

THE 2022 SEASON KICKED OFF WITH A BANG AS USUAL WITH THE SLALOM ATHLETES COMPETING AT LEE VALLEY FOR JUNIOR, U23 AND SENIOR GB TEAM POSITIONS.

In a gruelling 6 race selection series, Scottish athletes came to the fore across the age groups. Sam Leaver dominated the Junior selection series whilst Oscar Wyllie secured his place on the team at the last possible moment, showing strong nerves to achieve his first Junior international team representation.

Bradley Forbes-Cryans once again secured selection in the senior team whilst Sophie Ogilvie and Peter Linksted secured selection in the U23 and Senior team. Lois Leaver rounded out the Scottish participation with a strong performance to gain selection in the U23 K1 team.

**JON SCHOFIELD
HEAD OF PERFORMANCE
AND PATHWAYS**

Next up were the Sprint selections where athletes were competing for places at the World Cups, European Senior, Junior and U23 Championships as well as the Brandenburg international Regatta. Kristina Armstrong continued her impressive progression in the sport, qualifying in the K1 200m for the European Championships. She would be joined by Ben Gallacher, Finn Cadell and Ieuan James racing in the U23 Category. Lewis Fletcher and Deborah Kerr continued their progress in the senior ranks with selection for the Sprint World Cups across a variety of events. Finally Alex Marasa and Iona Patrick won selection for the Brandenburg international Regatta.

After this initial blast of selections, athletes and staff regrouped, focusing on continued selection races or the season's initial international competitions. First up on the international circuit was the U23 and Junior

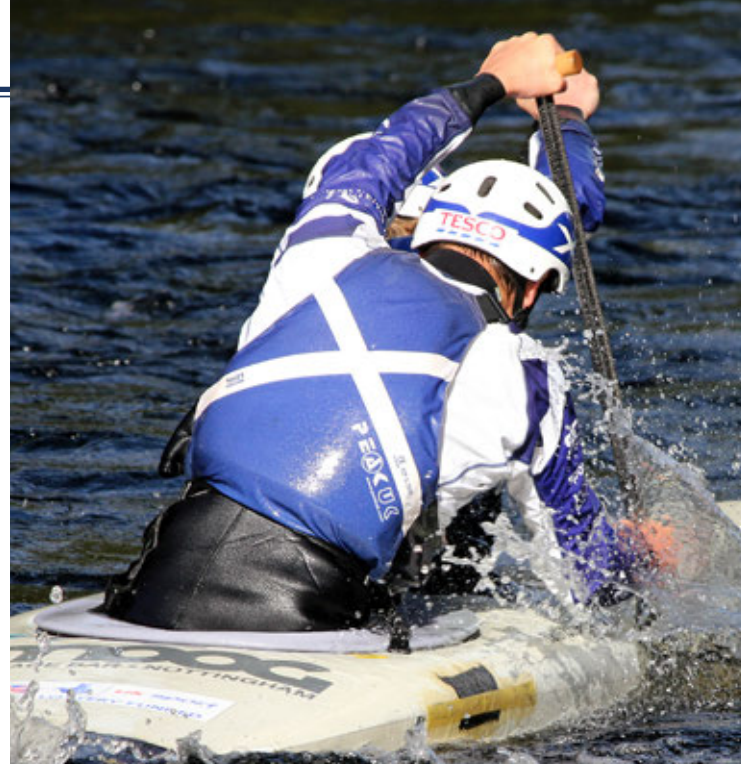


Slalom World Championships, held in Ivrea, Italy. Sam Leaver and Oscar Wyllie got things off to a great start winning a medal in the K1M team race, a great start to Oscar's international career. Sam then went on to top this off to take the bronze medal in the K1M individual race. There were further strong performances across the board with 6th place finishes from Sophie Ogilvie and Peter Linksted in the C1 individual races.

Ben Gallacher, Finn Cadell and Kristina Armstrong all had strong performances at the European Junior and U23 Championships in Belgrade, finishing 11th, 10th and 9th respectively in their events.

The National season continued with the Sprint British Championships for Junior and U23 athletes. There were many excellent performances from Scottish athletes with 18 medals won across the squad. These races served as World Championships and Olympic Hopes selections. Findlay Lewis and Aidan Leiper raced well, qualifying in a strong Junior K4 500m crew with a clear win. Iona also achieved selection in the Junior WK2 500m whilst Finn Cadell qualified in the U23 K2 1000m and Ieuan James was selected in the U23 K4 500m. Kristina Armstrong was not able to race due to contracting COVID-19 ahead of the event but was fortunately still selected for the K1 200m at the World Championships based on her past performances.

FINANCE

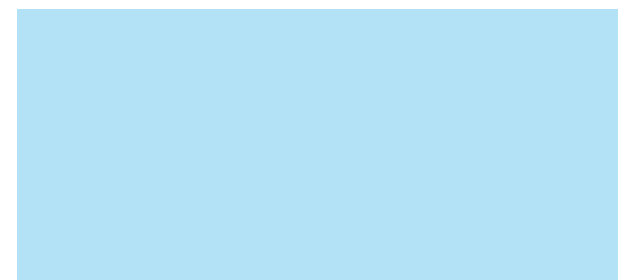


The annual report is published ahead of the finalisation of the Statutory Accounts for the year FY 2022-2023 therefore for more specific details in individual areas please refer to the Statutory Annual Accounts.

After the generation of a surplus in the previous financial year, in FY 2022-2023 income and expenditure were much more finely balanced. The number of members reached its maximum ever level, contributing to membership income increasing during the year. There was also strong attendance at events including the Scottish Women's Paddle Symposium and the Coach and Volunteer Conference although entries in some more traditional competitions saw a slight decrease over the year.

Grandtully Station Campsite continued to generate bookings and income at a similar level to the previous year, despite concerns that the popularity of camping would decrease post-covid.

The SCA is extremely grateful to investors and funders including sportscotland which invests in SCA staffing and programmes, contributing to the outcomes in governance, development and performance.



PADDLESport FOR ALL - ONE YEAR ON

'Paddlesport for All' is the Scottish Canoe Association's long term strategic vision for paddlesport in Scotland, focusing on the years 2022-2025.

Since its launch we are pleased to see evidence of positive trends. Membership has grown 28% since 2021 to its highest ever level, surpassing 4,000 individual members for the first time.

Of particular note is the 48% increase in the number of female SCA members since 2021. In terms of younger paddlers, there has been a 59% increase in the number of Junior (Under 18) members in the same time frame.

Our Equality Groups are stronger than ever, with the addition of 11 new members across the seven equality groups in the past year. We've also overseen the appointment of 16 SCA Young Ambassadors plus 3 #ShePaddles Ambassadors.

We are particularly proud of the achievement of the Advanced Level of the Equality Standard for Sport, awarded in December 2022. This is the highest level awarded by the Sports Council Equality Group and granted following an extensive reflective process and detailed report, plus an in-depth assessment through two panel presentations and in-the-field assessment.

Event-wise, the past year has seen the SCA attend an increased number of parasport festivals, giving nearly 300 people living with a disability the opportunity to try paddlesport in early 2023. The SCA also launched a Paracanoe Pathway with broad plans to develop this underway.

Our clubs are also doing some fantastic work; in a recent survey 70% of club members said that they were satisfied or very satisfied with the culture in the club, describing them as being friendly, welcoming, supportive, and inclusive.

The Scottish Women's Paddle Symposium 2022 was a huge success and the second edition of Paddling with Pride took place in August 2022.

There is much work still to be done, but we are proud of and grateful for the achievements already seen in the work across the paddlesport sector to make paddlesport more accessible.



EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

The SCA is delighted to announce that in late 2022 we were recognised for our commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion, and achieved the Advanced Level of the Equality Standard for Sport. This is the highest level awarded by the Sports Council Equality Group, consisting of the five Sports Councils in the UK.

The award was granted following an extensive reflective process and detailed report, followed with an in-depth assessment through two panel presentations and in-the-field assessment through conversations with the paddlesport community from the independent panel of assessment.

The Advanced Level of the Equality Standard for Sport is given to those organisations that have made significant progress towards diversity within board, staff, coaches, officials, members and participants, have mainstreamed equality through their functions, policies and procedures, and have developed further initiatives to address under represented groups.

We were particularly commended for the clear commitment and the approaches we are taking to develop an inclusive and accessible sport at all levels.

LARA COOPER & ROGER HOLMES
SCA DEVELOPMENT MANAGERS



INDIVIDUAL EQUALITY GROUP REPORTS

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING EQUALITY GROUP

The SCA MHWB Equality group was established in 2020 and in 2022-2023 has focused on concept discussions around coaching for wellbeing as the prime purpose, with discussions on support for coaches and leaders delivering this style of session. In addition the group is exploring club cultures and how we can celebrate/ share excellent practice and support clubs in this area.

YOUNG PERSONS EQUALITY GROUP

The group was established during 2021 and has created a clear action plan for 2022 - 2025. This action plan is focused on delivering the SCA Young Ambassador Programme, currently well underway with 16 Young Ambassadors. Work has expanded to support more young people getting qualified with an 18 and under Core Coach Training delivered in partnership with Glenmore Lodge and an ongoing socials campaign to raise the profile of 14/15 year old Paddlesport Instructors.

FEMALE EQUALITY GROUP

The Female Equality Group was established in 2020. They have supported the design and development of a Women's Coach and Leader development programme, where 29 aspirant coaches or leaders were supported with mentoring and training days to help them work towards qualifications. This was made possible by a £6000 grant from the National Lottery. The group continues to support the Scottish Women's Paddle Symposium organising committee and coaching team, with 2023 being the largest event to date with over 160 people involved.



LIFELONG EQUALITY GROUP

The Lifelong Equality group was formed towards the end of 2021 focused on increasing media content that champions older people's stories and encouraging clubs to support participation for older members.



LGBTQ+ EQUALITY GROUP

The Group ran a very successful event Paddling with Pride ParTay based at the Grandtully Station Park Campsite for members of the LGBTQ+ community and their Allies. This year was open to those new to paddling and it is planned to continue to run this annually. The Paddling with Pride Facebook page continues to grow with over 100 members.

The group again supported Stonewall's Rainbow Laces Campaign with an ever larger number of photos being submitted by SCA members showing off their laces. The group also continues to increase opportunities with the other groups forming such as the Cairngorms Pride Paddlers.

ACCESSIBLE PADDLING EQUALITY GROUP

The Accessible Paddling Equality Group continues to work towards the aims of their Action Plan that they completed in late April 2022. This plan includes enabling individuals with a disability to access paddlesport, and is being achieved by supporting events such as Wheels to Water and the Scottish Disability Sport parasport festivals amongst others. These events are often supported by local club members helping increase their confidence and knowledge which is also another aim of the equality group.

The group has also looked to increase awareness of what is possible through articles in Paddler, podcasts and social media resulting in an ever increasing number



IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

One of the Delivery Areas within 'Paddlesport for All' is the plan to develop additional and improved facilities at Grandtully Station Park. The need for this project has been noted in the Reserves section of the SCA Annual Accounts each year since 2015, with a stated intention to significantly invest in facilities within 5-10 years.

The current project commenced in September 2020 with the initial phase involving consulting with members, committees, equality groups, clubs, the local community and external partners/specialists. 124 people completed the online survey and 3 consultation meetings were held. Work continued to define the project scope prior to applying for planning permission. A number of grants were secured towards the project and the work to gain more external funding continued and was not complete at the date of this Annual Report. Building warrant and all necessary permissions were in place at the end of March 2023, allowing a competitive tendering process to be carried out with responses due to be received in May 2023. Depending on the outcome of the tendering process and the result of further grant applications and subject to SCA Board approval, some or all of the project might be able to be delivered in FY2023-2024 in order that time-limited grants can be utilised before their expiry date.

The additional and improved facilities are designed to provide individual changing cubicles, recognising that the site had never had proper changing rooms, just spaces beside sinks and a urinal, in which people could change. The need for changing cubicles was a strong theme from the consultation work as well as for inclusive and accessible facilities with provision for baby changing. Another need that the design sought to meet was to have good facilities for people paddling at Grandtully and for these to be separate and additional to facilities for people staying overnight at the site.

The project also contributes towards other aspects of 'Paddlesport for All' including caring for the environment and operating in a sustainable way. The new facilities will be much more energy efficient than the existing ones by meeting the latest standards on building insulation, as well as taking advantage of more sustainable heating options including Air Source Heat Pumps, Mechanical Ventilation and Heat Recovery and solar PV panels. In addition to this we have also included 6 x 22kW EV chargers and a bike shelter and maintenance point to encourage more sustainable travel including shuttles for paddling down the Tay.

ROGER HOLMES
SCA DEVELOPMENT MANAGER



ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

THE COMMITTEE HAVE CONTINUED TO WORK ON OUR PRINCIPAL AIMS:

- Raise awareness with paddlers of environmental issues and the responsibility for all to protect and enhance our natural environment whilst pursuing our sport
- Communicate and work with our partners including the Scottish Government, NatureScot, SEPA, National Park Authorities, Keep Scotland Beautiful, Scottish Canals and local authorities to benefit our environment.
- Lead proactive engagement projects and campaigns for paddlers to improve and sustain the environment, including sharing best practice

SCOTTISH PADDLER

We have regularly input articles on Invasive Non-Native Species, Biosecurity, Blue-Green Algae, Litter Picking and more recently Wild Camping. We have also compiled information on reporting environmental concerns by providing a table for the magazine containing contact details. In addition, we have input a calendar of events and have been encouraging clubs to contact us with their ideas for protecting the environment that others may like to adopt.

BIG PADDLE CLEAN UP

There has been a drive to encourage participation in this initiative from British Canoeing which has been expanded to Scotland. Many clubs now include at least one event annually for recovering litter from beaches, rivers and river banks and there have been some very interesting discoveries along the way.

PROMOTING THE WORK OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE:

A PowerPoint presentation was produced by the committee and delivered at both the Club Coach and Volunteer Conference and the Scottish Women's Paddling Symposium; highlighting its work and providing some detailed information as to how paddlers can prevent the spread of Invasive Non-Native Species by using good biosecurity practices.

VISITOR MANAGEMENT

We continue to work with partners and have recently been in consultation with the Cairngorms National Park Authority to look at the issue of visitor management including access points for the River Spey (preventing bank erosion) and how the environment may be protected by use of suitable parking areas and availability of toilets. This will be a long-term project working with those in the SCA whose remits are for access (such as the Access Committee and its river advisors), as well as partners from the wider outdoor sectors. As the CNPA area also covers the upper reaches of the Rivers Dee and Don, these may be due further consideration.

We are monitoring developments with interest in other areas too, such as Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park where there is a desire to find ways to reduce the number of vehicles accessing the lochs. Proposals may result in future years of shuttle services with car parking well away from Loch Lomond.

FUTURE PLANS

- With enthusiasm from some of the Young Ambassadors who attended the presentation at the CVC, we may endeavour to recruit Environmental Champions from clubs to take forward our aims, embedding the importance of protecting our environment to all SCA activities.
- There may be an opportunity to develop our PowerPoint presentation as a learning tool to the SCA website, making it accessible for clubs or individuals. We would like the SCA to consider awarding CPD points to those completing the study as this encourages members and coaches to use the resources provided. Ideally those training to deliver paddlesports as coaches or leaders should study Environmental information as a part of their preparation.
- Following some preliminary discussions with Managers for Tiso in both Inverness and Aberdeen, we would like to develop a poster with QR code for outdoor retailers/hirers to display behind the tills. This could link to the SCA website with particular emphasis on the Environment and Safety – therefore ensuring that any paddler purchasing equipment has access to information.
- We will continue to promote Environmental matters through inputting articles to Scottish Paddler and taking opportunities to engage with the paddling community
- We will continue to seek the views of those in the paddling community interested in the environment to inform our work.

RACHEL HANNAN
CHAIR



ACCESS COMMITTEE

REPORT

This year, the Access Committee and the paddling world suffered a tremendous loss with the passing of one of our founding members. I would like to open this report commemorating Jonathan Kitching and his work.

Jonathan held the committee's secretary position, but his work and commitment went above and beyond the bounds of any one role. In the two years of the committee – along with the two years prior as the combined Access and Environment Committee – Jonathan worked tirelessly to continue to support good access for members of the association, not only on the committee but also on the ground around his home in Aberdeenshire. His dedication to access extended beyond our organisation to the National Access Forum, where he had a seat as the Scottish Advisory Panel for Outdoor Education (SAPOE) representative.

Jonathan fulfilled his role, and much more, while battling Myeloma Cancer. Despite all this, he continued to support and guide the committee and access advisors nationwide. This shows the true spirit of this great man and should stand as an inspiration to all of us. Jonathan will be greatly missed as a paddler, an access advocate, and a person.

The rest of the year has been very much business as usual for the access committee, working alongside our access advisors, Delivery Partners, and local and national access authorities to ensure that our members are represented at a decision-making stage and have continued our work ensuring that landowners and operators consider the rights of paddlers. We're always looking for more people to join the committee from around the country to have a more informed representation of the access challenges that paddlers face across the country.

GRANT DOLIER
CHAIR

DISCIPLINE COMMITTEES



CANOE POLO

This year has been about continued growth for polo in Scotland and although not back to pre-Covid levels yet we are well on the way. We have had issues with no pool available to run winter leagues meaning these had to be run in the spring. Although this keeps the cost down does present other issues. We continue to work together as a committee and remain committed to increasing participation in polo as well as looking to the next generation of players.

This year we ran the second Scottish Open moving the venue to Pinkston. This year it was attended by nine Scottish teams in two divisions. This was growth on the first tournament.

We have been able to run two Divisions for the SCA League which meant increased participation. We had 4 teams in Division 1 and 8 Teams in Division 2. This has been a fantastic achievement for the committee and shows the hard work paying off. These were run at Lochore meadows who have been great at helping us establish the leagues at the site as well as allowing tow pitches to be set up.

We have run a series of development days encouraging people of all abilities to attend. These have been popular and good for growing the sport. Titans Canoe Club ran a Women's polo day this year as well and this is great to see with lots attending.



There has also been increased participation in the national leagues from Scottish teams this year, with two teams from Titans, one in Division 1 and the other in Division 2 and two from Granite City both in Division 2. This is good to see more teams playing polo from Scotland in the national leagues.

We are continuing to grow and our next tournament is the Scottish Open which we are hoping will have increased participation for a third year in a row.

We continue to work on finding new venues as well as looking to get a pool for this year to allow the leagues to run during the winter months again, and will start planning now what we will be looking to run next year. We plan to build on the past few years post-Covid and continue to grow participation in Polo and the SCA Leagues in Scotland.

**JAMES MCNEISH
CHAIR**



FREESTYLE

The SCA Freestyle committee has unfortunately been reduced to one official member and some advisors over this year due to personal commitments and injury.

This year saw monthly Tuesday evening sessions at Pinkston Watersports continue. Over the course of the year there was a price increase for the sessions due to running costs for the event. As much as the numbers were retained this is deemed to be mostly for the support of demo boats from Radical Rider.

CAMERON FORRY
CHAIR



MARATHON

2022 saw a full calendar of racing in the marathon community. With the help and support of clubs we raced on the canal at Linlithgow, Bonnybridge and Auchinstarry. We also had river races on the Spey, the Tay and the Clyde. The K1 and K2 Championships were held on the Clyde at Glasgow Green in September; in the K1 race our winners were Alan Tordoff, Margaret Chapman, Rory Strachan (junior male) and Abigail Strachan (junior female). The K2 race was won by Rory Strachan and Szymon Sroka - an U16 crew who beat all of the adult crews racing.



We also had several Scottish paddlers competing and winning medals at the British Marathon Championships in Worcester, the Hasler finals at Runnymede, near Windsor, and international events in Europe.

The Glasgow-Edinburgh Challenge took place in October with almost 50 paddlers completing the challenge across 2 days - some paddling the whole distance themselves, some as part of relay teams.

The Linlithgow Winter Time Trials ran over the winter and we are grateful to LKRC for organising those.

Getting a full race calendar up and running and seeing lots of new paddlers, as well as all the familiar faces at the races, has been a highlight. The races wouldn't happen without our wonderful race organisers so thank you to everyone who has helped, and continues to help at our events. It's been especially good to see new adults taking up racing across all divisions.



At the time of writing we are halfway through the 2023 racing season and it's been great to see our numbers participating increase across all divisions. Our committee has grown slightly and we'd love to welcome more to the team as we start to think about the next season.

DEBI IVES
CHAIR

OCEAN RACING

The Ocean Racing Committee, composed of eight members, convened bi-monthly to drive the development of Ocean Racing. Our focus spans the breadth of the sport, inclusive of the participation of recreational craft, encouragement and support of canoe clubs to encourage and enable paddlers to take part, and development of stocks of equipment to enable paddlers new to the discipline to engage.

The committee formulated a draft strategy, and worked to maintain a racing calendar sympathetic to events planned by associated disciplines. Our focus remains on training and development opportunities, and attempts to hold demo days.

In addition, the committee has facilitated the SCA taking a place in a Home Nations forum selecting a GB team, including SLSGB. We published clarifications on event administration procedures including safety officer liability, and submitted an Ocean Racing article to each issue of Scottish Paddler. We worked to improve the online and social media presence of Ocean Racing, maintained reliable up-to-date information on Ocean Racing platforms, and continued to focus on navigating the variety of NGB involved and volume of IND paddlers.

The committee arranged a Scottish Championship event for the second year and continues to support the present committee members to remain involved. We are planning functional and operational improvement in the strategy of the committee, and a continued focus on supporting canoe clubs to participate. We continue to provide encouragement to establish Ocean Racing coaching practices, standards and qualifications, and hope to be involved in the paracanoe and paddleability pathways. Good numbers at the forthcoming ACM will lead to improved communication with paddlers.

**GILBERT SPEIRS
SECRETARY**



SLALOM

No report received.



SPRINT

In 2022 there was a full calendar of events run by the clubs and committee providing a range of opportunities and challenges for new and established competitors, enabling them to achieve personal goals and have a positive experience. The local club regattas provide a friendly atmosphere for introducing paddlers to competition and the more formal national regattas run by the committee at Strathclyde Park provide a good stepping stone to British level competition.

It was great to see paddlers returning to competition after the pandemic and encouraging to have new paddlers competing as well. Club and Performance Squad paddlers attended the British National regattas in Nottingham with both young and old winning British Championship medals. It was a good season for Scottish paddlers internationally with Scottish paddlers selected for British Representative teams in all age groups (Senior, U23, Junior and U17/ U16/U15).

In October the "Hooley 5K" was run very successfully at Strathclyde Park. This is a very busy day of racing hosting the British 5000m Championships in K1, K2 & K4. The event once again attracted top paddlers from across the UK and Ireland.

The committee values coach and paddler education and development, helping to facilitate opportunities for these on an ongoing basis. It is proposed to link with the Marathon Committee and Performance to create more opportunities for development. The Sprint Committee will also continue to work with the Marathon Committee to support the organisation and delivery of courses for the Racing Coach Award. We welcome the appointment of a Paracanoe Pathway coach and hope to be able to support Paracanoe initiatives.

MARGARET CHAPMAN
CHAIR



SURF

The focus of the Surf Committee is primarily to support the events, awards and development of surf kayaking and waveski. It has been a successful year in many ways with domestic and international competition taking place. Many thanks to all the Surf Committee members, event organisers and workers, competitors and supporters for the work done to make this happen.

Through the start of the year our domestic events were kept going by two people in particular. John Inglis organised events on the East and North Coast that rekindled Scotland's competitive scene and Chris Heaney from Perth UHI delivered well-attended, individualised coaching sessions.

This year saw a return to a delayed World Championships on UK waters hosted by England at Bude in September. John Ross led the squad in a fantastic, and carbon neutral, event. It was great to be part of our larger surfing community again. During the event there was a paddle out in remembrance of those who we had lost since our community last paddled together. This was a beautiful thing to do and a powerful experience to be part of.



In the Team Competition, Scotland competed strongly in the early heats and held a justifiable hope of a third placing. The top two places were pretty much sewn up with Basque Country and England taking Gold and Silver respectively. In the final there was a mixture of fortunes for Scottish paddlers that saw the Team finish in a valiant and boldly contested 5th Place.

The conditions in Bude were challenging and continued to require bold application. Scottish paddlers showed improvement throughout with paddlers gaining confidence. As always there were some highly competitive heats as the rounds progressed. Podium results were as follows:

Meg Spittal made it through to 4 individual finals. I believe that is the first time anyone has ever achieved this. Meg was unfortunate to be involved in a collision during the paddle out of her first final that resulted in her having broken ribs. She bravely continued to paddle but her performance was never going to match the amazing surfing that Meg had produced in the semi-finals. As a result, Meg achieved one 3rd Place and three 4th Places. Without injury we anticipated Gold and Silver placings. I think this was also recognised by the audience at the presentation with their warm support.



WILD WATER RACING

In the latter half of 2022, the Grandtully BUCS event proved to be a resounding success, with Scottish Strathclyde students making significant contributions across various Wild Water Racing disciplines. Their achievements not only showcased their individual talents but also earned valuable points for their university.



As we transitioned into the winter season, we saw a large attendance of Scottish paddlers at GB training camps. Their determination, and dedication to Wild Water Racing, paid off as Scotland made a substantial mark on the GB team in 2023, with representation in a majority of disciplines. This achievement opened up tremendous development opportunities for our junior paddlers, delivering an outstanding performance on the international stage. A standout moment was Laura Milne's remarkable feat, clinching a bronze medal in the Under 23 Worlds Team sprint event.

Closer to home, we witnessed strong participation in both the Grandtully Scottish Championships and the annual Forth Classic mass start race. We extend our gratitude to the Scottish Canoe Association and the dedicated volunteers whose efforts brought these events to life. Looking ahead: we are excited to announce the return of BUCS 2023 WWR event, which will take place at Grandtully, a testament to the success of previous years



Furthermore, we are witnessing the emergence of promising young paddlers, thanks to the efforts of committee members Fraser Gormal and Morna Campbell. Their dedication to training and mentoring new paddlers, along with their efforts to secure additional club boats for beginners, is instrumental in nurturing fresh talent within our community. We eagerly anticipate seeing these new faces grace our rivers in the coming year, further enriching the sport's vibrant future.

In other podiums Sophie Muller achieved 3rd place in Master Women Short Boat and Ian Sherrington achieved 3rd place in Grand Master Men Short Boat.

During the opening ceremony Team Scotland were proud to see Tracy Sherrington being introduced to the competitors as the first ever female Professional Judge. We are all very proud and wish her continued success.



John Inglis was named as recipient of the Willing Hands Quaich at the SCA Recognition Awards, an award that recognises outstanding service to our sport. It was a proud moment for many of us personally and we are very grateful for everything John has done for us and the sport over the years.

We look forward to building on this year's success as we gear up for both the Scottish and British championships in the Autumn.

**IAN SHERRINGTON
CHAIR**

WHITE WATER RAFTING

This is the first year that there has been a White Water Rafting committee for the SCA and it has consisted of six members who have all engaged in discussion and support to set up a couple of events for the community. We were all in agreement within the committee that rafting sits a little alone within the disciplines as rarely do guides get out on days off and go and raft. This is predominantly due to the fact very few people own their own rafts and utilise work ones instead. As such it was discussed within the committee and with support from the SCA to set up the first two rafting events.

These events took place on the River Garry and were predominantly based around supporting raft guides with their own development ranging from never having guided before through to individuals working towards their Trip Leader status and their provider status. Both days were a hit with the community of guides having four rafts filled on both days with individuals looking at progressing their skills.



Since the events, individuals who took part have been out rafting individually having borrowed rafts from one of the committee members which was a true pleasure to see, with more planned as well. Hopefully we as a committee can continue to support the community feel within the discipline.

The committee members who attended agreed that it was good to get the days up and running and would love to support guides further next year as well and hope to be able to do similar if not more to support people in 2024.

**JIM MILLER
CHAIR**



SCA RECOGNITION AWARDS 2022



SCA 
Scottish Canoe Association
Comann Curach na h-Alba



SCA RECOGNITION AWARDS 2022



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Celebrate individuals and / or clubs who have gone above and beyond in making a positive impact in the wider community.



COMMITTEE VOLUNTEER

Recognise a member of a committee who deserves to be recognised for their commitment to the 'job'.



WILLING HANDS QUAICH

Nominate someone, who acts in a voluntary capacity, and makes a significant contribution to the sport.



YOUNG VOLUNTEER

U19 on 1st January 2023 who commits time and effort to their club, centre or community in one or more unpaid roles.

A.J.

ANDY JACKSON ACCESS AND ENVIRONMENT

Open to those who have achieved great things working to improve / preserve access and / or conserve the paddling environment.



IMPACT ON EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

Nominate an individual or group who has made paddlesport more accessible to all, increasing opportunities for under represented groups.



COACH OF THE YEAR AWARD

This award is for a coach (whether that's a volunteer coach or professional coach of any age) that has gone above and beyond their usual role.



CLUB OF THE YEAR AWARD

This award acknowledges the fantastic work being carried out in clubs across Scotland. Club of the year is open to all SCA affiliated clubs and the winning club will receive £50 towards their next affiliation fee.

THE HEART OF PADDLING

It's the time of year to open nominations for our annual Recognition Awards, in which we recognise the members of the paddling community who have gone above and beyond.

NOMINATIONS EACH YEAR

- Visit our website
- Click 'Nominate a Person / Club'
- Enter details (Approx 5 minutes)
- Submit

www.canoescotland.org/sca-recognition-awards-2022

SCA RECOGNITION AWARDS 2022: YOUNG VOLUNTEER



QUINN PORTER

The Young Volunteer award celebrates the outstanding contributions of a young person under the age of 19 who has devoted their time and effort to their club, centre, or community in various unpaid roles. This recognition is extended to those who have worked diligently behind the scenes or who have taken significant steps on a coaching or leadership pathway.

We are delighted to announce Quinn Porter as this year's recipient of the Young Volunteer award. Quinn's commitment and enthusiastic involvement has helped inspire many young people with disabilities to paddle a variety of craft. His passion to help, and to teach serves as a testament to the bright future of our sport and the volunteerism within our

>> RECOGNITION VIDEO <<

**JOHN INGLIS**

The Willing Hands Quaich award is a testament to exceptional service to our beloved sport, a chance to honour those who, in a voluntary capacity, have made a profound and lasting impact on paddlesport. This recognition can be bestowed upon coaches, paddlers, or club members who have tirelessly dedicated themselves to the betterment of our community.

With immense pleasure, we announce this year's recipient of the Willing Hands Quaich award: John Inglis. His unwavering commitment and selfless contributions have left an incredible mark on our sport. Having organised and taught at many Surf events, John's dedication embodies the very essence of volunteerism, showcasing the profound impact that a single individual can make. His passion, and remarkable service has not only enriched the paddling community, but inspired people to push the sport further.

[>> RECOGNITION VIDEO <<](#)
**VIKI WILLIAMS**

The Community Engagement award is a tribute to individuals and clubs that have exhibited extraordinary dedication to making a positive impact in the wider community, irrespective of whether the contribution is directly related to paddlesport.

We are delighted to announce Viki Williams as the deserving recipient of this year's Community Engagement award. Viki's tireless efforts and boundless commitment have transcended the boundaries of paddlesport, enriching the lives of individuals who often don't have access to water-sports. Viki's impact is attributed to always being positive, using positivity to break down barriers between communities and sport, allowing for greater access to paddlesports. Her passion for making a positive difference serves as a beacon of inspiration, highlighting the profound impact that one person can have on the greater community. This recognition underscores the vital role that individuals like Viki play in fostering unity and goodwill, extending the influence of our sport far beyond the water's edge.

[>> RECOGNITION VIDEO <<](#)

**DONALD THOMSON**

The Committee Volunteer award pays tribute to the remarkable individuals who dedicate themselves to the vital work of committees, whether at the club or SCA level. Their unwavering commitment often goes unnoticed, but their contributions are the cornerstone of progress within our community.

We are delighted to announce that this year's recipient of the Committee Volunteer award is Donald Thomson. His tireless efforts and steadfast dedication have made an indelible mark on Sea Kayaking and the paddling community, serving as the driving force behind the development of Sea Racing. Donald's exceptional passion has inspired many paddlers to race, attend events, socialise and get fit whilst improving overall paddling technique through the use of his home-made paddle technique tutorials. Donald's selfless contributions, and his willingness to take on tasks at events are a testament to his extraordinary commitment. His knowledge, ability and passion to help exemplifies the true spirit of volunteerism within our community.

>> RECOGNITION VIDEO <<

**DOUGIE WILLIAMS**

The Andy Jackson Award for Contribution to Access and Environment celebrates individuals who have demonstrated outstanding dedication to enhancing access for paddlers and preserving the natural environments in which we paddle.

We are pleased to announce that this year's deserving recipient is Dougie Williams. His tireless efforts and commitment have made a significant impact on improving access to waterways and ensuring the conservation of paddling environments. Dougie's contributions exemplify the spirit of this award, promoting responsible and sustainable paddlesport practices for all to enjoy.

>> RECOGNITION VIDEO <<



C1W ACADEMY BY SLALOM INSPIRES

This award acknowledges the outstanding efforts of an individual or group that has played a pivotal role in enhancing inclusivity within the paddlesport community. They have actively worked towards expanding opportunities for underrepresented groups, making the sport accessible to all.

We are delighted to announce that the recipient of this year's award is the C1W Academy by Slalom Inspires. This pioneering initiative has significantly increased female participation in grassroots Slalom, raising the number of ranked participants from 11 to an impressive 28. Over 40 dedicated women now regularly paddle canoes, exemplifying the initiative's profound impact on diversity and inclusivity.

>> RECOGNITION VIDEO <<



NORTH EAST SEA KAYAKERS

The Club of the Year award is a testament to the remarkable work being undertaken by paddling clubs throughout Scotland. It celebrates not only the accomplishments of the past year but also the club's organisation, connections, promotion, and forward-looking plans. Special attention is given to how these clubs have maintained member connections during the challenging times brought on by the pandemic.

With great pleasure, we announce that this year's Club of the Year is North East Sea Kayakers. Their dedication, enthusiasm, and exceptional achievements have set a high standard for paddling clubs across the country. The North East Sea Kayakers have excelled not only in their on-water activities but also in fostering a strong sense of community and resilience, particularly during the trying times of the pandemic. Their commitment to keeping members connected and engaged serves as a shining example of how paddling clubs can adapt and thrive in challenging circumstances. This award recognises the outstanding contributions of the North East Sea Kayakers and underscores their pivotal role in shaping the future of paddlesport in Scotland.

>> RECOGNITION VIDEO <<