



The University of St Andrews
Windsurfing Club

Presidents Report 2018

University of St Andrews Windsurfing Club

Presidents Report 2017/18

The University of St Andrews Windsurfing Club started the year on a bit of a back footing. During the AGM in March 2017, concerns were raised over the future of the club. These problems primarily stemmed from a decrease in membership numbers and suffering years without access to a bank account.

Over the summer, the club underwent some changes to reflect the current circumstances of the club. Changes to the governance structure included the elimination of equipment officer, whose roles were adopted by the Vice-President. The constitution also underwent some updates which allow for a greater understanding of the club's operations, roles and responsibilities of members. The updated constitution has been made readily available for everyone to read on our new website, alongside a range of other documents. One of which is was our 'Yearly Agenda'. In it, we listed in detail the aims we had hoped to achieve by the end of the year and longer term goals in an effort to reverse the fortunes of the club. The three major priorities that were set out for this year were; to increase membership of the club, hold more training sessions and to gain access to our bank account.

Having clear aims for the club we started the academic year full of enthusiasm. The Sport's Fayre was a brilliant opportunity to attract new members to the club. Here we talked to lots of students, both new and returning, about what windsurfing had to offer. Here, we also tried using our new marketing platform for the first time, which included digital sign ups and subscriptions. Being a lesser tried sport, many were keen to learn more and as a result we attracted 70 new sign ups to our mailing list. The new marketing platform made the sign-up process much more efficient for members and the secretary.

The enthusiasm at the Sports Fayre translated well into paid memberships. The paid memberships had peaked in 2012 at 21 persons and since then been decreasing. We ended with only 12 members in 2016 and started 2017\18 with only 4 existing members. We had originally set out the goal in our yearly agenda of returning membership into the 20's in the next few years, but, I am very pleased to announce memberships numbers have not only changed direction but are now at a record high!

This was a wonderful start to the year, and alongside this, we have seen many other positive indicators for success coming forth. Facebooks likes surpassed the 200 mark for the first time, our email audience reaches over a staggering 500 people, and our website, despite being new, had over 1000 visitors to its pages! These numbers are very welcoming for a club of our size and we hope the continue well into next year and beyond.

We continued to hold training sessions at Monikie Country Park whereby members of all abilities can go out, have a splash, and perfect their windsurfing. The start of these weekly sessions was slightly problematic as the club was without an AU qualified driver, and sadly, were unable to get someone tested until after sessions were planned to stop for winter. However, we windsurfers are not known for backing down easily and we did not let this stop us! With some creative thinking, making use of e-cars, and communication with other clubs we were able to overcome this hurdle. In fact, this year we have held more training sessions than before and more people than ever have managed to get out and experience windsurfing, with every training session being fully booked and with waiting lists for every session. We mainly attribute this to the successful elimination of the costs of training sessions on our members. No longer do they need to afford the £10 per session, on top of membership fees. As a club, we would like to thank the AU here for enabling this to happen through external facility hire. The EFH has shown to be hugely beneficial to the club, its membership and essential to its future.

The typical Scottish weather did not deter us and all who attended these sessions thoroughly enjoyed themselves. There was a new range of windsurfing skills on show this year, with some members being advanced and some only beginning their windsurfing journeys. The two committee members who currently have windsurfing instructor qualifications were able to put these to good use in teaching the beginners.

Despite it being possible to windsurf off the coast of St Andrews, the fact that we do not currently have suitable equipment

University Sports Centre, St Leonards Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DY

T: +44 (0)1334 462190

E: sport@st-andrews.ac.uk

W: www.saints-sport.com

T: @SaintsSport

in St Andrews. We had hoped to mend some of our existing kit from the Boat Shed and put this to use. However, inspections throughout the year showed the kit was beyond the scope of repair. Any kit that was deemed broken/damaged/unsafe was cleared out of the shed and donated to Transition: St Andrews to be recycled and put to new life.

The difficulty of accessing the bank account, which has plagued the club for several years now has also thankfully been rectified. For the first time the club has regained full control of its bank and finances (big thank you to our Treasurer!). We look forward to the new committee and put them to good use next year.

In terms of development it would be great to see the improvements of this year continue into next year ensuring our club is better than ever and around for many years to come. Getting beginners interested in windsurfing remains of high priority, but we also look to better provide those already able to windsurf. With access to the bank, the club can now look towards purchasing some equipment for more advanced members or simply put it towards instructor courses (which will come in use when they in turn lead the windsurfing club in the years to come). The club has great potential with some very skilled windsurfers present in it. The governing body for students windsurf (SWA) has been in contact recently with the club, trying to better build connections with us and maybe one day this could lead to some of our best members competing with other students from around the UK.

With all current members of the committee graduating this summer, we welcome Jasper Geddes, Jamie Kennedy, Stéphanie Brochet and Sophie Olliver Tyler as the new committee and wish them the best for next year. There has been challenges this year, but the club has risen to them and surpassed them all. We ended the year in the best position we ever have making it the most successful year for the club ever. Of course, none of this would be possible without our members, the hard work of the committee and the help from the AU.

Club contact details

Website: www.saintswindsurfing.co.uk

Email: windsurfing@saints-sport.com

Facebook: @UStAWindsurfing



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