

# Scottish Canoe Association

## Annual Report 2019 - 2020



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## Our Mission

To enable and inspire involvement in paddlesport; for enjoyment, health, community, challenge and achievement.

## Our Vision

Working collaboratively at the heart of paddlesport communities in Scotland to create more paddlers, more members and more national and international success.

## Our Values

- Leadership
- Engagement
- Openness
- Inclusiveness
- Responsibility
- Collaboration



## Foreword from the President

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I write this introduction having read all of the reports below. It reminds me yet again of how diverse a sport we are- from top level international elite activity, to introductory leisure/family/ recreational activities. Right across that spectrum there is a lot to be proud of, and you can read that for yourselves - I would quietly suggest that together we are punching well above our collective weight.

In the pages that follow- and they are worth having a look at-there are some common themes showing the integrity of Scottish Paddlers - a commitment to encouraging participation of the young and widening the reach and diversity of participants, a strong identification with the sport as a whole and of taking care of the environment we pursue it in. There's a sense of crossover, you get the impression that anyone who starts

paddling in one discipline, would quickly encounter opportunities across this sport because people talk to each other, share opportunities and have an innate commitment to bringing people on.

It's good to see new areas developing in SUP paddling, likewise the Ocean Racing communities. Following many other areas, both these disciplines are reaching new paddlers by combining



## Foreword from the President

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both competitive and recreational approaches. I firmly believe that these are complementary aspects, not competing claims for the same turf!

New areas of growth are always going to attract attention but I am particularly heartened by the resurgence of strong wild water racing. This does not happen by accident and I commend the work of Fraser Gormal and Paul Anderson here which also shows an aspect of succession planning that is a feature of Scottish paddling across many disciplines and clubs - former elite athletes/top paddlers giving their time back to the sport at club and international level. You can see that in many areas - particularly delighted to see the surfers competing out in Peru, but also the slalom committee

continuing to attract newcomers whilst achieving at the highest levels. It is good to see that Jon Schofield is forging strong links with clubs and employing new and well established talent - it continues the theme of us all being in this together.

COVID has really challenged many sports, and I know many in paddling have had their prospects curtailed this year, drastically and at times cruelly. There are some real challenges facing the country and this organisation but I truly believe we are in a strong position to meet these. I am humbled by the attitude and engagement of you all to continuing to work together, often online, to maintain training, support, giving advice, and interpreting the various guidelines from our Government.

Again the online activity of you all has demonstrated that we as a whole are a great deal more than the sum of our parts. In purely numerical terms, our online networks were more actively engaged with than entire English network - with 10 times the membership base - and they are doing well - but you are doing something remarkable.

*David Simpson, President*



## From the Chair

Writing an annual report is always an exercise in drawing an artificial line in the sand which becomes more irrelevant as time passes until the report is published. Never has this been more true than this year. The world up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 was a very different place from the one we have lived in since then.

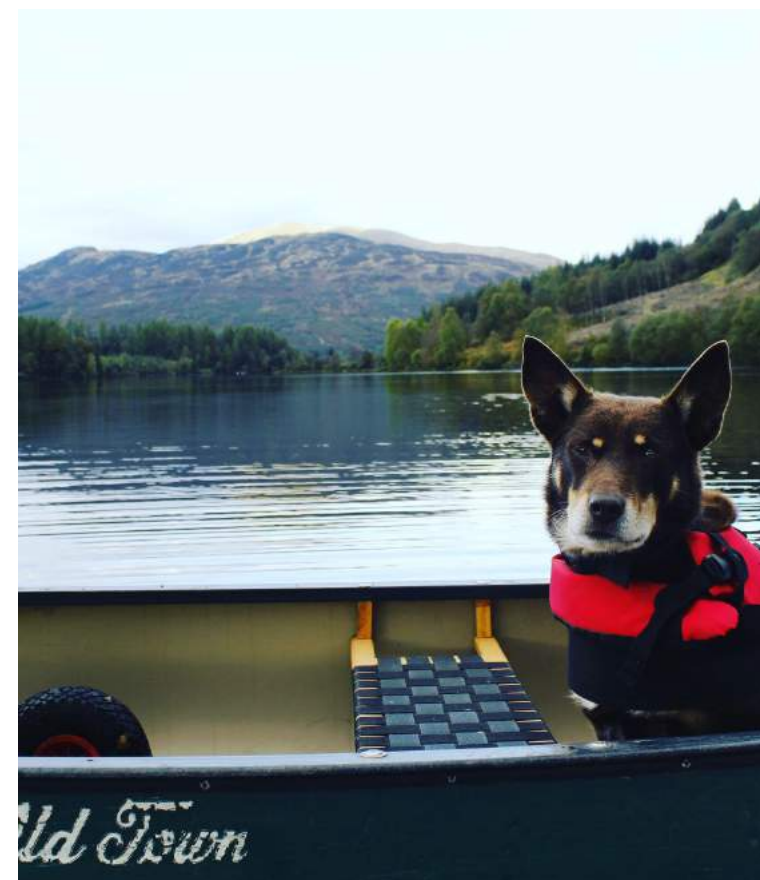
However, it is worth reflecting on 2019-20 as another year of steady progress against our objectives as an organisation, supported as always by our very dedicated staff team and the large number of volunteers without whom much of what we do would not be possible. The various sections of this report highlight their many achievements. My thanks, as always, go

to all of these people for the contributions that they have made.

The mix of experience and new perspectives which now characterise the board have provided for effective and proportionate oversight of the operations as well as offering new insights into how we can plan for the future. It looks likely that there will be no further changes in this regard at the 2020 AGM but the process of refreshing the board membership will resume so that it is completed over the next 3 year cycle. In the meantime I would like to thank all of the directors for their ongoing commitment to the best interests of the SCA.

The ongoing investment and support from **sportscotland** is also appreciated

as without it much of what we do would not be possible. This is particularly true for the period following the current year end where additional flexibility and support has been offered to help us adapt to deal with the ongoing situation.





## From the Chair

In March 2020, the environment in which the SCA operates changed almost beyond recognition as it did for our members and much of society. Since long before the SCA was incorporated in May 2000, we have had a policy of maintaining a strong financial reserve to ensure the organisation will be in a position to continue operating in challenging times. This policy has not

always been popular amongst some sections of our membership when various projects were mooted which would have benefitted from investment of some, or all of those reserves. We now have ample evidence that this policy has always been the right one.

We reached the end of the 2019-20 year in a sound condition both financially and

organisationally and whilst it is clear that we will face financial and organisational challenges we can go forward with confidence that we will emerge ready and able to continue our journey.

*Brian Chapman, Chair*



## From the CEO

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This Annual Report highlights further progress and achievement within the four year Strategic Plan 2017-2021. Together we have continued to make good progress against all the seven key areas of the plan and paddlesport activity in Scotland has continued to grow.

Just before the end of this financial year the latest committee and board joint networking and planning weekend took


place - with good discussion and debate about the priority areas for the future. This was a really positive time where we were able to listen to other people's perspectives about our sport and to share our views and experiences. The relationships and understanding that events like this have helped us to build have put us in a strong position as we have transitioned to remote working and online meetings through the COVID lockdown and beyond.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in organising our sport and running the activities and events that are appreciated by so many. Your contribution is more important than ever as we work together to resume our activities, post COVID, in a safe and responsible way.

*Stuart Smith, CEO*







**“Personal Performance Awards  
represent a significant  
opportunity for further growth  
and a flexible framework for  
coaches, leaders and other  
paddlesport providers to utilise  
and offer progression  
recognition to paddlers”**



# Coaching & Education

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This was another year of positive developments in the world of coaching and leadership with the new Personal Performance Awards and Paddlesport Instructor going live, followed by new Stand Up Paddleboard Coach awards. We now have over 2000 qualified coaches and leaders in SCA membership, collectively delivering an incredible volume of safe, fun and progressive activity to paddlers.

As the reporting year drew to a close the Coronavirus pandemic halted the plans

for many including coaching, courses, activities, trips and expeditions preparations by clubs, centres and providers. SCA moved into a focus on supporting members through the period of lockdown including delivering many activities online. The appetite for online learning, engagement and sharing was incredible and it really shows the strength of the community.

The new Personal Performance Awards (PPAs) are now being embedded in paddlesport activity in many areas. PPAs represent a significant opportunity for

further growth and a flexible framework for coaches, leaders and other paddlesport providers to utilise and offer progression recognition to paddlers.

The appetite for Continuous Personal Development (CPD) by coaches and leaders remains strong; through face to face practical and online activity. This year had the highest number of distinct coaches and leaders engaging in CPD for many years.

*Andy Murray, Head of Coaching & Development*





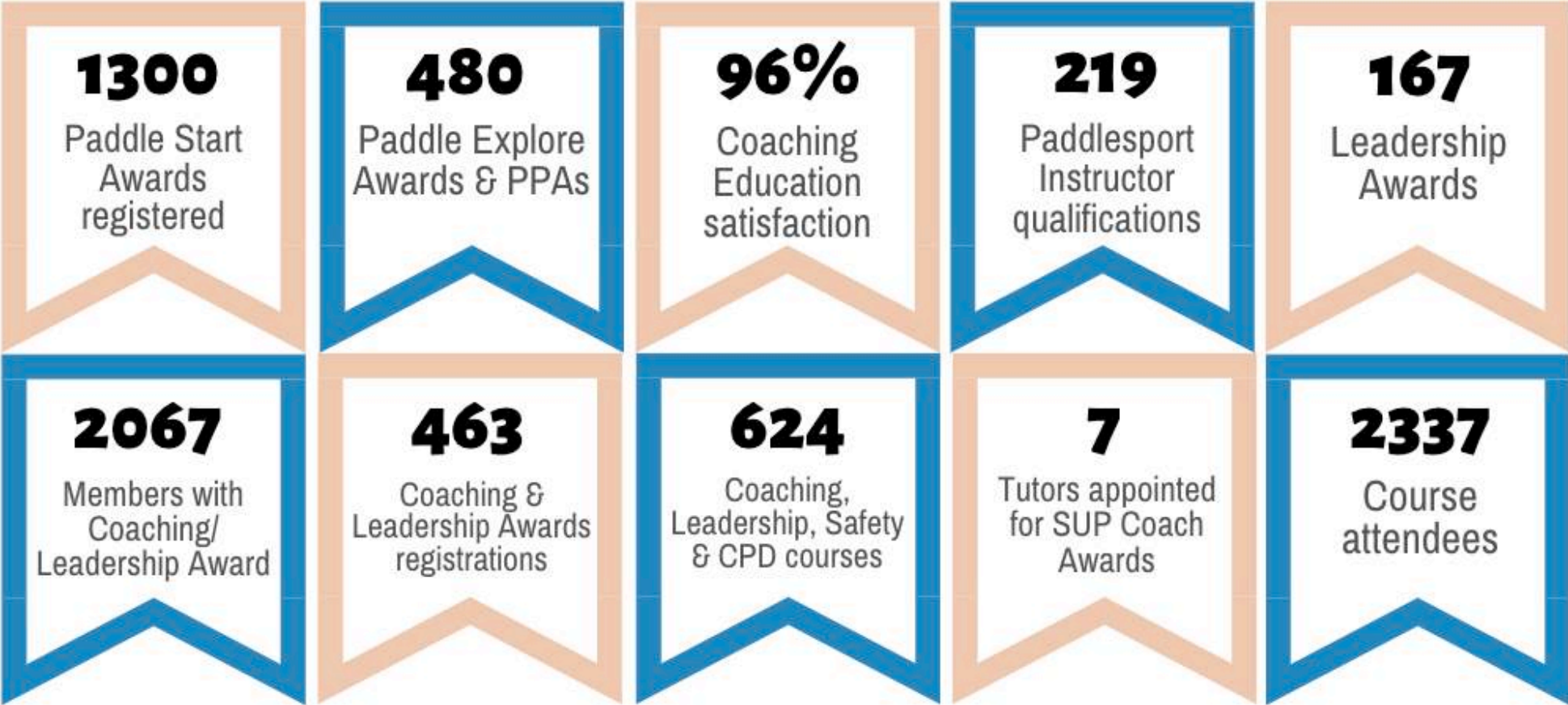
# Coaching & Education





# Coaching & Education in Numbers





**Partnership Impact Programme** combines our resources to achieve success through paddlesport

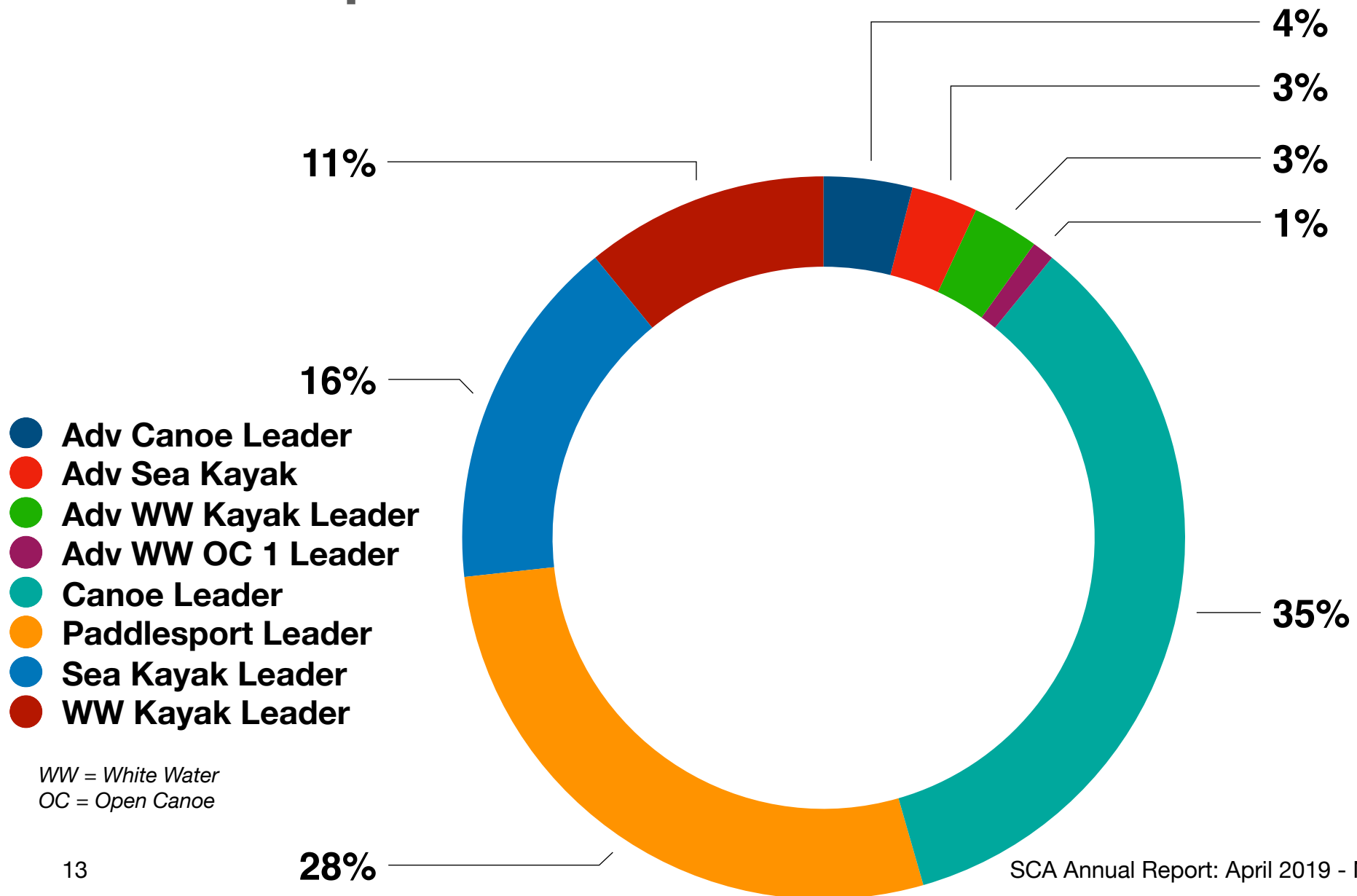


**Inclusive Paddlesport Project** coordinated sessions for new paddlers with a range of disabilities

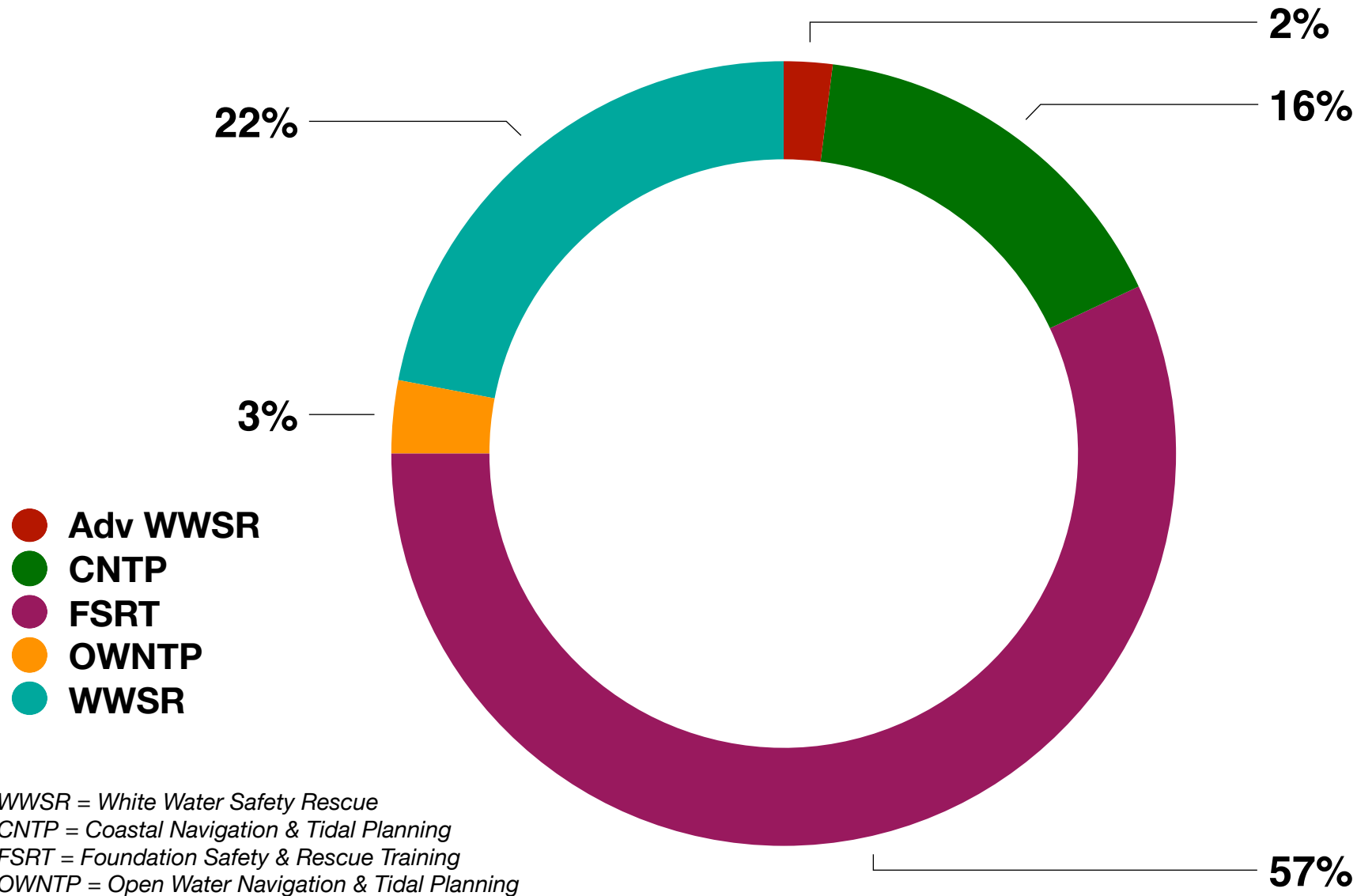




## Leadership Courses Breakdown

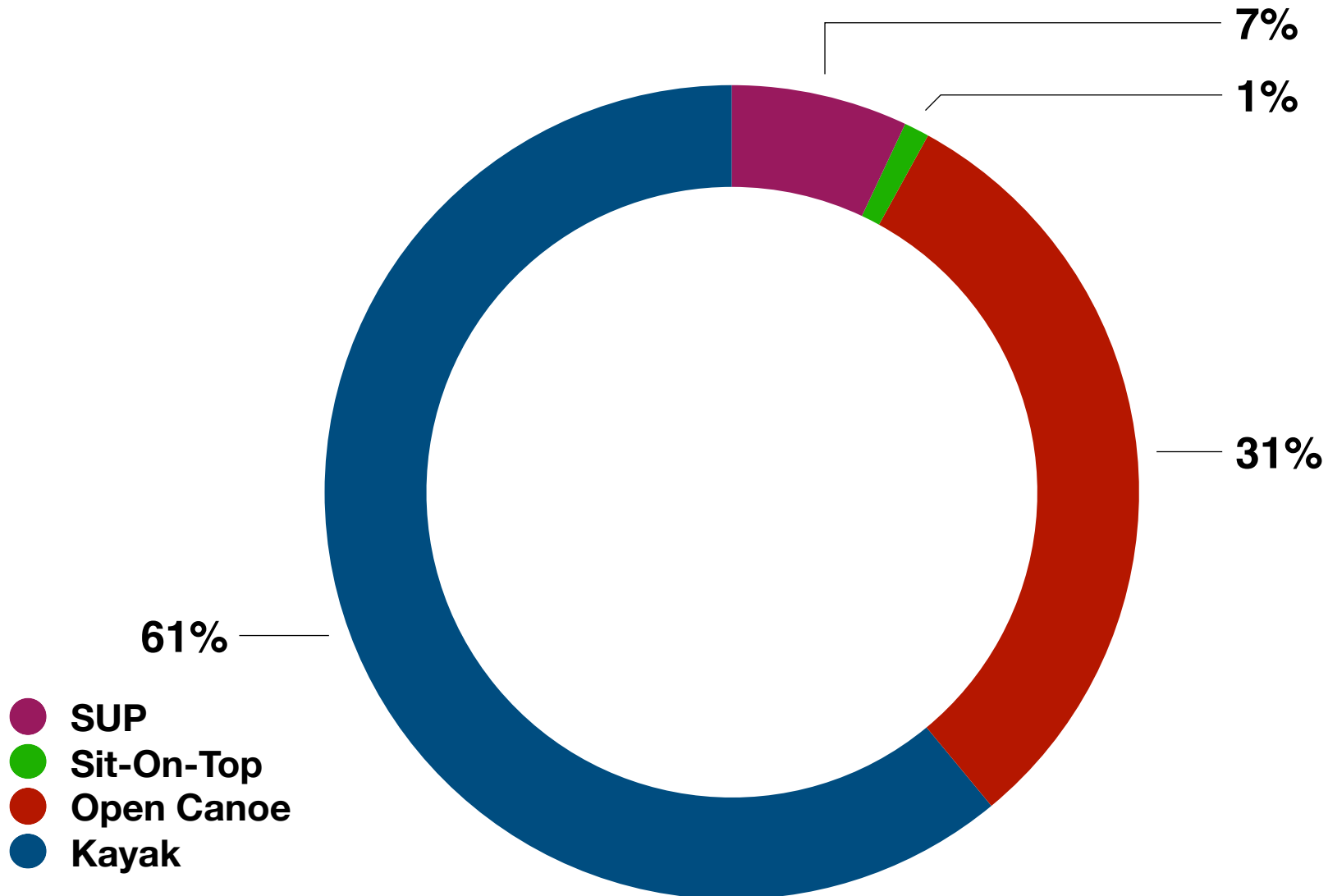


# Safety Training Breakdown





# Paddlesport Instructor Qualifications Breakdown



**The SCA Performance  
programme continues  
to progress in the  
Olympic & Paralympic  
disciplines**





## Pathways & Achievement - Olympic & Paralympic

2019-2020 saw some fantastic performances by Scottish Performance Squad athletes as well as the consolidation of the coaching & performance team through the addition of several new coaches and new Head of Performance & Pathways, Jon Schofield.

As always, an extensive programme of training, racing and training camps abroad was undertaken. With the Slalom

Squad spending a huge amount of time on the Lee Valley Whitewater course and the Sprint Squad enjoying productive training camps in Oslo, Ponte de Lima and Porto Antigo.

In the Slalom programme, following on from great work done over the previous winter with the whole coaching squad we had two junior athletes representing GB at the European and World

Championships. Lois Leaver in K1W and Ailsa Gourlay in C1W came through a tough selection series and performed well at the following Championships, Lois narrowly missing out on a World Championships A-Final. Duncan Edwards also represented GB at the U23 European Championships.

In sprint, the season began with Ben Gallacher enjoying his first senior representation with a last minute call up to the U23 K4 500m for World Cup 1 and a strong contingent of Scottish Paddlers representing GB at the Brandenburg International Regatta. This was followed on by representation at the Junior World & European Championships by Alexandra Armstrong & Skye Cadell, making 50% of the GB K4 crew Scottish. The season ended on a high with Scotland sending a large contingent of athletes to the Olympic Hopes Regatta, the test ground for the aspiring stars of the future. There

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## Pathways & Achievement, Olympic & Paralympic

were too many excellent performances to focus on any single one, however it was well noted how professional and high performing the Scottish contingent was.

At the end of the year with the Slalom National Rankings and the Sprint National Championships, many squad paddlers finished the season as National Champions or National Medallists. This was a fitting end to a strong season and the start of a winter of training with the usual dedication.

Following kick-off camps in Lee Valley for Slalom and Dunbar for the Sprint Squad, both squads kicked into winter training, supported by coaches Stuart Gerrie, Mark Delaney, Adam Johnstone & Anton Vazquez Camino. They were also joined at various points in the winter by new additions to the coaching team. Tomas Duarte joined in a permanent role,

following previous supporting work and Rachel Schofield joined the team for the first time. Both supporting sprint athletes in weekly training and on camps. Sam Miles moved to Scotland to join the Scottish paddling community, coaching primarily for Breadalbane Canoe Club but also supporting the SCA performance Squad at identified camps and planned competitions.

### Winning Students

The SCA continues to support athletes in their applications to the Winning Student programme with a range of disciplines being represented and benefiting from the huge support available to maximise both training and study.

Moving into the 2020 racing season, the Slalom squad were in the midst of

preparing for the planned selection series when the COVID-19 lockdown kicked in and racing was cancelled. An unfortunate end to a fantastic winter of preparation. Similarly affected, the sprint squad was looking forward to starting the process of topping the 2019 racing season. However it was not to be.

*Jon Schofield, Head of Performance & Pathways*

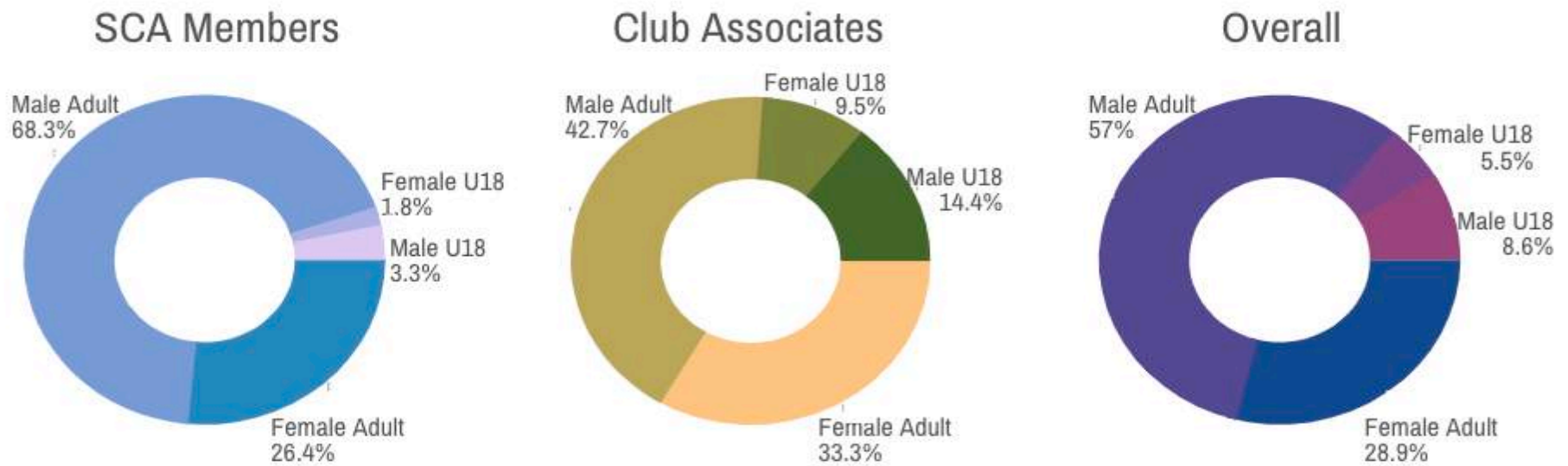




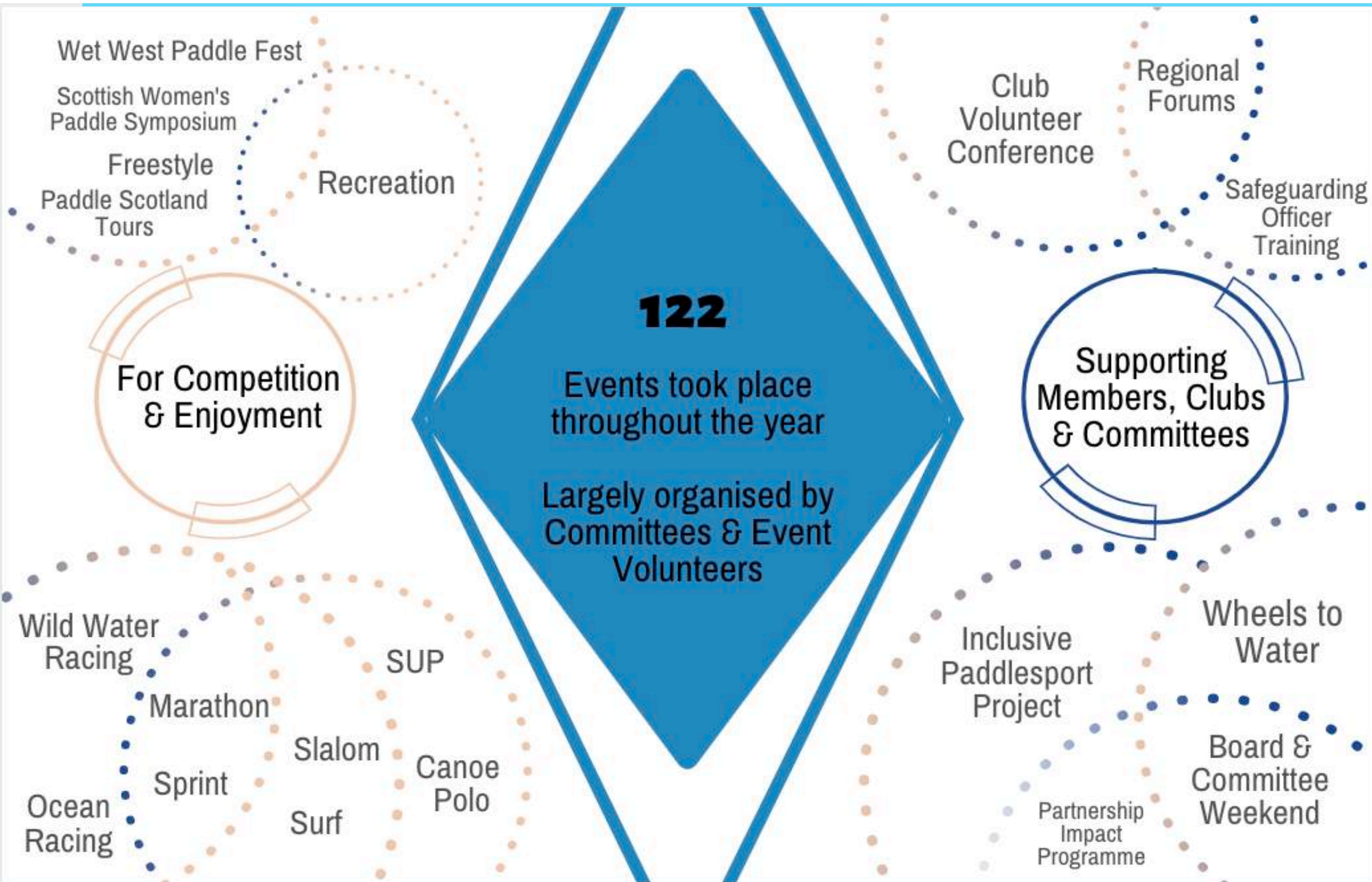
# Membership



## Membership & Gender Breakdown



# Participation & Events





# Financials

The following shows a summary of the SCA Finances for the year 2019-2020. The official SCA Accounts for the year show more details and, in addition, the Finance Director has produced a financial commentary which is also published on the SCA website.

This year, the SCA made a surplus of £21,427 after tax. This was largely due

to the cancellation of some events in March 2020 and the postponement of planned expenditure due to the outbreak of COVID-19.

SCA Discipline Committees spent less in March 2020 than normal as it became clear that our season of events and competitions was not going to proceed in the usual way. Some planned works

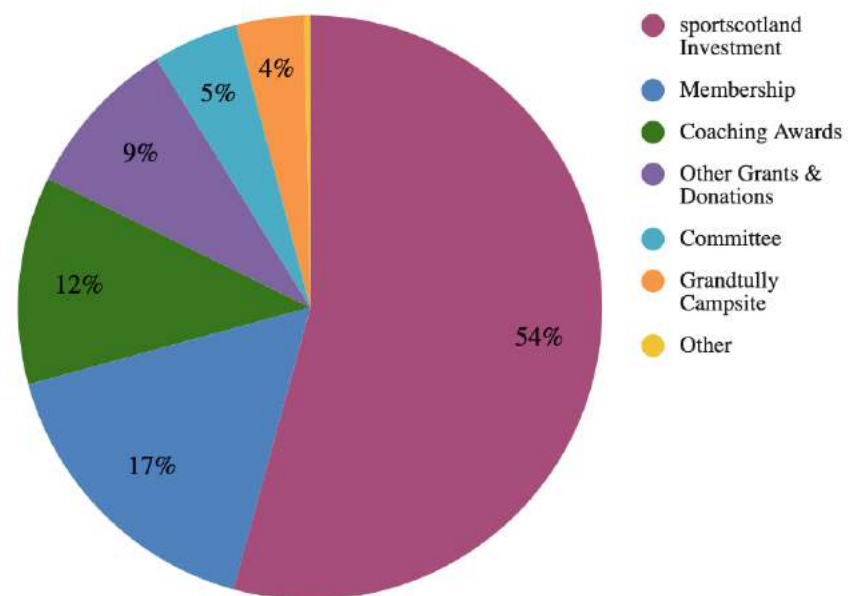
at the Grandtully campsite did not take place in order to conserve resources and to put the SCA in the best financial position to be able to handle the uncertainty and financial challenges ahead. Where possible we minimised all expenditure as we entered COVID lockdown.



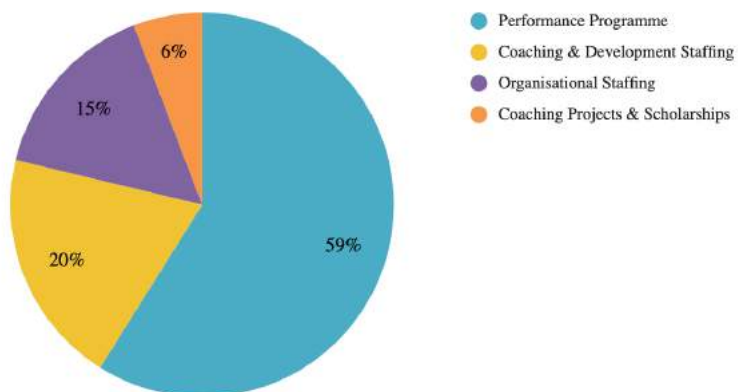
## Income

The SCA's total income for the 2019-2020 was £861,205, very similar to the previous year. 54% of the income is **sportscotland** investment into the SCA to achieve agreed targets in terms of growing the sport, increasing the size and quality of the coaching workforce, supporting clubs and running and developing performance pathways in the two Olympic disciplines of Sprint

and Slalom. Membership is the next biggest contributor to income at 17% which is made up of individual membership subscriptions, club affiliation fees and Quality Mark Provider fees. Coaching Awards generate 12% of SCA income. SCA Committee activities generate 5% and the Grandtully Campsite 4% of income respectively.



## sportscotland Investment



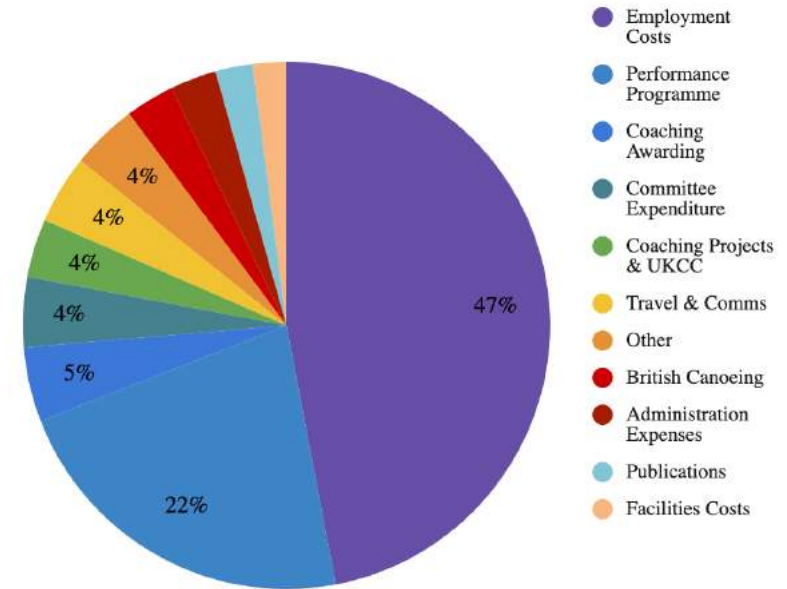
59% of the **sportscotland** income is to run the SCA Performance Programme. This is to operate and support the SCA squads for Olympic disciplines to help aspiring athletes to reach the standard to join British Canoeing programmes. The majority of the remaining **sportscotland** investment is to support

employed roles in order to achieve specific agreed outcomes. The remainder of the investment is to run specific coaching projects and to provide coaching scholarships to develop and support our coaching workforce.

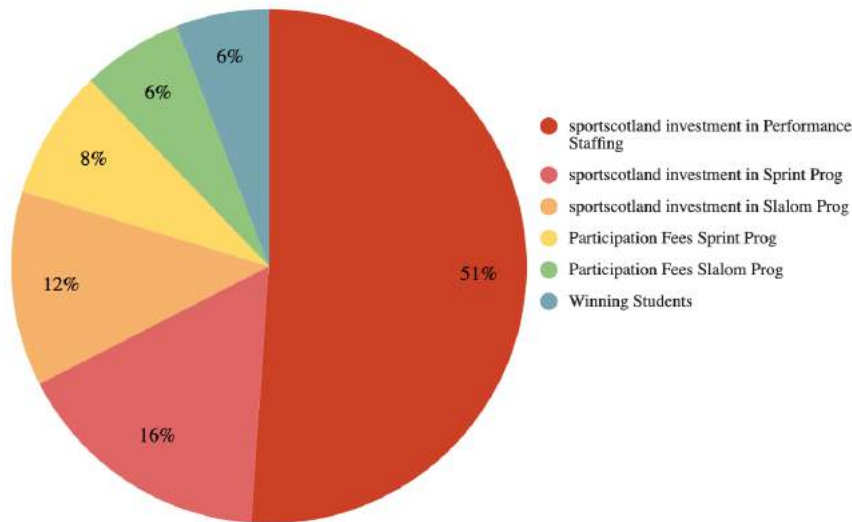


# Expenditure

47% of the annual SCA expenditure is to employ staff, much of which is supported by the **sportscotland** investment that the SCA receives. The SCA strives to carefully manage expenditure in order to provide cost effective services that members value. Increased use of online video conferencing rather than face-to-face meetings for committees and training sessions has reduced travel expenditure as well as being more environmentally friendly.



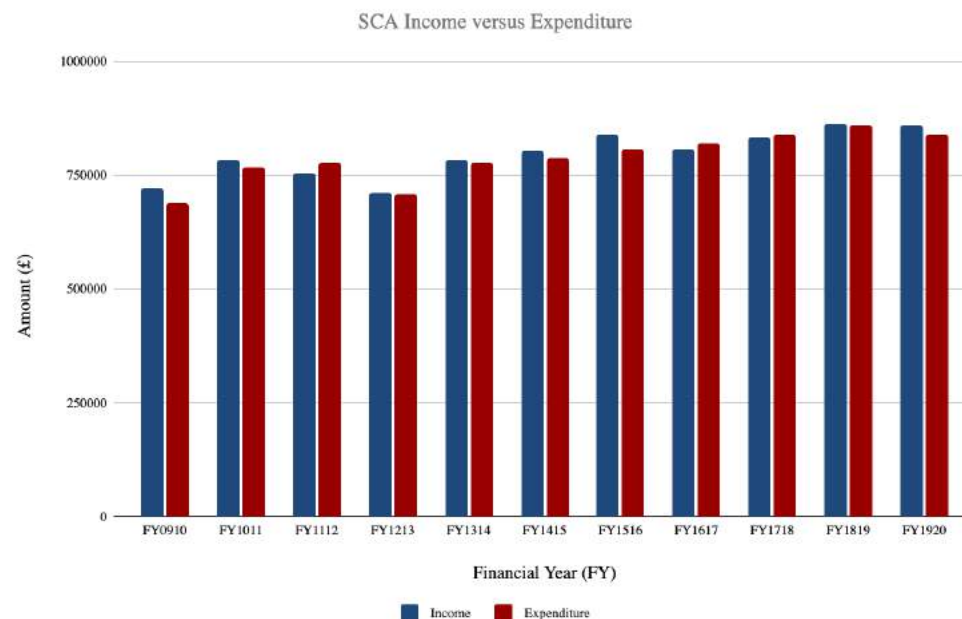
# Performance Programme



The cost of running the Performance Programme is met through a combination of **sportscotland** investment and parental/athlete contributions. 51% of the cost of Performance activities is to employ staff and the remainder of the programme is made up of travel, accommodation and facility and water fees, including overseas trips for training camps and competitions.

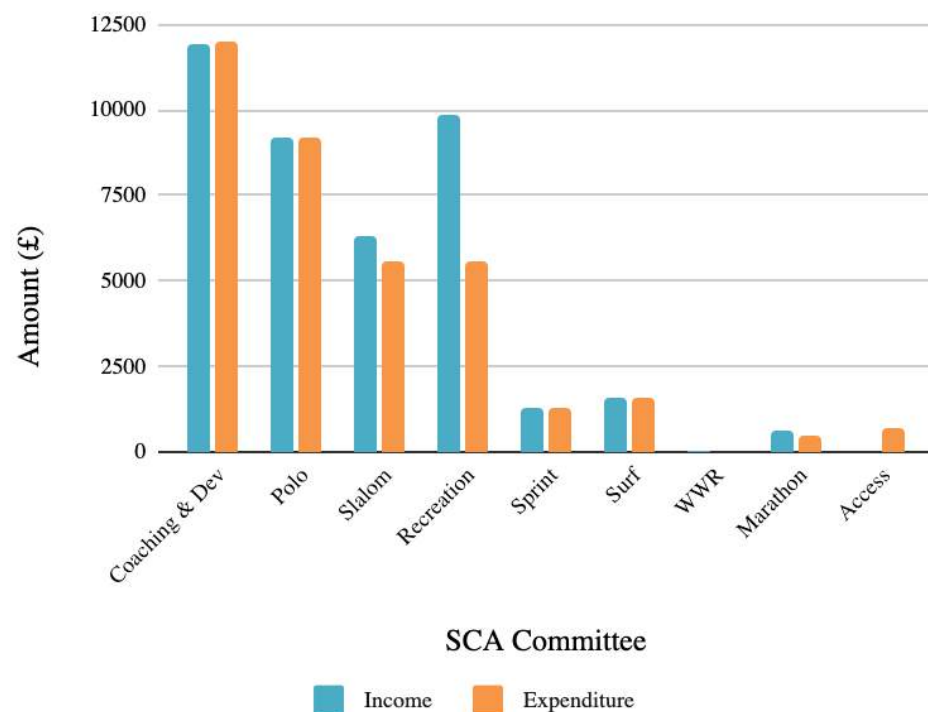
## Income vs Expenditure

The SCA's aim in a typical year is to break even or to make a small surplus. Largely through the curtailment of activities due to COVID and the consequent reduction in expenditure in March 2020, the SCA made a £21k surplus in the 2019-2020 financial year. This has added to the level of SCA reserves as the challenging 2020-2021 financial year commences.



## Committee Income vs Expenditure

### SCA Committee Income vs Expenditure



Committee income and expenditure varies according to whether events are run directly by the committee or by an Affiliated Club on behalf of a discipline committee. Committees aim to achieve a break-even situation except where exceptional items of expenditure have been agreed in advance.



## Access & Environment

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Access remains of interest to paddlers and one would hope to see a gradual decrease of problems over the years as issues are resolved, hopefully not to return. However, this would also rely on both our own members being very aware of the Scottish Outdoor Access Code, and also visitors to Scotland being aware of the Code. Alas, partly due to cuts in budgets by many authorities and organisations, ongoing publicity of the Code remains low.

As is the average for the last few years, c. 30 access problems were worked on by the SCA's Access and Environment Committee. Six of these related to the River Spey, and ten to vehicle parking issues. Only one incident, as reported to us during this last year, involved sea paddlers.

The River Spey stands out in Scotland as a river that is comparatively easy to paddle, and is an outstanding touring river,

offering several days of enjoyment in spectacular scenery. This attraction has the downside of also having over-used campsites and parking, which can cause annoyance to local residents. We are currently recruiting a new River Adviser for the Spey, thanking Nancy Chambers for her service in the post.

### **The Etive Hydro schemes**

Progress has been slow over the last year, as the developer seeks to meet the multitude of environmental conditions associated with the Development consent. The significant progress during the last year has been centred around agreement of the Heads of Terms document outlining the legal agreement between the SCA and the owner/operators of the hydro schemes. This is currently with the legal representatives of both parties for a final Agreement.

## **“30 Access Reports made to SCA during 2019/20”**

Location for level/flow monitoring points on all four tributaries were recently agreed with these due to be installed on site upon resumption of normal building work following the Covid 19 lockdown.

We will then need to engage with paddlers to begin logging a record of levels every time each of the tributaries are paddled, to help build a model for the mitigation flows.

# Equality Group

During 2020 the SCA Equality Group was formed with the aim of improving equality, diversity and inclusion in paddlesport in Scotland. In progressing towards this aim, the group will also be supporting the SCA in working toward the Advanced Equality Standard in Sport over the next few years. The Equality Group will deliver these outcomes by providing advice, seeking out opportunities and, by working with the SCA Board, Staff, Committees, Affiliated Clubs and paddlesport providers, support events and activities that make paddlesport more inclusive. Diverse media platforms will be employed to publicise these events and activities to the widest possible audience to maximise impact.

The Equality Group met via teleconference and in person in the early part of 2020 to develop a plan of action. The first step was to review the data sources that inform on our current understanding of

diversity within Scottish paddlesports and then identify ways to improve the accuracy and range of those data that will allow us to measure the impact of our actions. While it would be great for the Equality Group to be able to look at overcoming barriers either real or perceived for all 9 of the protected characteristics (as defined by the Equality Act), the group decided to focus on four characteristics in the first instance to ensure that meaningful progress could be made.

The first four characteristics we will focus on are **Age** (both young and old), **Disability, Sex and Sexual Orientation**. The Equality Group will develop focus groups to target each characteristic, namely: Gender, People with a disability, age, sexual orientation and gender identity.

The SCA Equality Group will continue to monitor and assess all aspects of equality and inclusion relating to paddlesport in order to improve the inclusivity of paddlesport in Scotland. We aspire for everyone to have the opportunity to develop a passion for paddlesport.





# Discipline Committee Reports





## **Canoe Polo**

*by Chris Carracher, Chair*

First can I say that I hope you are all safe and well at this very odd time we are living in.

It has been a year of ups and downs for the Canoe Polo Committee. There have been many positives; we hosted demonstration games and taster sessions at the Pinkston Party; we arranged for a demonstration game that was live on the Adventure Show on BBC Scotland, we've negotiated access to Stirling University Pool for training and competitions; we have a new outdoor venue for training and competitions at Willowgate in Perth; and we've seen more teams join Division 1. We have had some challenges of having to cancel our annual charity competition due to poor water quality and COVID-19 protection measures meaning we have had to postpone the remaining of the league tournaments, the relaunch of the Scottish Open and our first youth tournament.

As a Committee, we have been reflecting on our progress and along with the help of Roger Holmes from the SCA staff team we have made a VMOST (Vision and Mission, Objectives, Strategy, and Tactics) plan. This process has really helped us reevaluate where we are and what we want to achieve, but more importantly helps us achieve these goals. The VMOST is now available on our website and would welcome any input and help from clubs and individuals who feel they could. As part of this plan we applied and were successful in a grant from the SCA Board to invest in equipment to host the Scottish Open at Willowgate Activity Centre. We also now have 100 floating pontoon blocks to use which were donated by Cumbrae National Centre.



We have three teams competing in the National Leagues all in Division 2 North. Scotia, Titans and GKC are all sitting in the top half with one tournament remaining with Titans well placed to win the league. We have also seen Granite City venture south playing in regional leagues with a view to join the National setup.

## **Marathon**

*by Debi Ives, Chair*

We are primarily a competitive discipline with races across Scotland on flat water and rivers throughout the season. Some of these are stand alone races, some part of a series. With most of the races being split by ability though a divisional system paddlers of all ages and levels of experience can get involved and there is always great camaraderie on the start line. Marathon and sprint are very closely linked and the paddlers and their families make up a friendly, welcoming community.

We had good turnouts for most of our races this year with a wide range of

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ages and experience. All 3 of the mini, short and long course series were closely fought with the winners not being determined until the last race in some cases. We had a successful Racing Week in June with 2 races on the Tay from the Willowgate Centre giving us some interesting conditions. Once again there was a great representation from Scotland at the National Championships in Norwich where the 50+mph winds didn't stop several people bringing home medals in both K1 and K2. These races along with the Scottish K1 and K2 championships, the Highland Series, Hasler finals in Southampton and the Glasgow-Edinburgh relay made up a successful year for marathon paddling.

We would love to see more people- especially female paddlers - competing in our races throughout the year. You do not have to be an experienced paddler or from a competitive background, it would be great to see you at any of our races. Check out your local club and our Scottish Kayak Marathon Racing

Facebook page and come and join us at an event soon!



### **Ocean Racing** *by Lizelle Kemp, Chair*

Ocean racing is a growing discipline within the UK paddling scene, and worldwide. With roots in surf lifesaving in the "southern hemisphere races" are now happening throughout the world. Paddlers are attracted by the simplicity of the craft and gear, the ease of remounting sit-on-top boats, the fitness gains from regular paddling and the ability to surf both beach breaking and ocean swell. Though the sport attracts top elite paddlers, it remains friendly

and accessible for those with more limited experience, especially with the development of more stable surfskis in recent years. But stable doesn't mean slow, and the thrill of hitting over 20km/h with a following sea on the open ocean is terrifyingly addictive.

As a very newly established committee towards the end of 2019 our main areas of excitement were far removed from the adrenaline fuelled paddling we are so accustomed to.

These involved the excitement of allocating roles to those who have bravely volunteered to get the committee established.

The newly formed committee have been working on developing safety equipment requirement guidelines for paddling in Scotland. A guide to suitable clothing for paddling in our climate will also be made available shortly.

Lizelle Kemp led two blocks of core strength training circuit classes once a



week over the winter. The inevitable groans and grunts were soon masked by attendees getting together to provide music and on occasion fancy dress!

Although existing races in Scotland weren't run under the OCR committee it's very exciting to see the impressive increase in surfski paddlers particularly on the South East Coast with 50% of these being female. This isn't only a huge leap forward for surfski but also for paddlesport in general. The Surfski Scotland Winter Series often saw an equal ratio of male and female participation at events.



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On the North East coast, Nairn to be specific, there is a surfski training group that meet regularly and train all year round. They are seeing more and more recreational paddlers switching to skis as a great way to get out, keep fit, with lightweight boats.

On the West Coast the Royal West in Greenock hosts the 'Tail o' the Bank' sea race as an annual event. The course had to be altered in 2019 due to particularly challenging sea conditions but was still a successful event enjoyed by all.

Other exciting developments are the birth of two time trial (TT) courses on the east coast. The first is in North Berwick and is around 3km which loops the island of Craighleith. Details [here](#). The second TT is a 4km course at Portobello. Details can be found at this [link](#).

### **Slalom**

The committee oversaw the running of the usual, well attended slalom events in

Scotland. It is really encouraging to see so many new people taking up slalom as well as the continued engagement by many with a long time involvement with this discipline. Several training camps took place at Grandtully during the summer whilst other athletes went abroad to develop their skills on European white water.

Another successful '**Slalom Inspires**' event, led by Eilidh Gibson, was held at Grandtully in August 2019, which everyone enjoyed. "A truly inspiring event for all the girls which included team building, workshops, kayaking, an open canoe river trip and canyoning. Great to see so many young girls in this sport enjoying themselves and to see girls from Div 1 and Prem volunteering their time to support Eilidh with this event was great".

The committee would like to thank everyone who helped throughout the year to make the 2019-2020 season another successful one for all involved.

Best wishes to all for the next season as we start to return to Slalom and other disciplines after the COVID-19 situation.



## **Sprint**

*By Margaret Chapman, Chair*

Sprint Committee support the running of competitions at both club and national level to help provide a range of opportunities and challenges for new and established competitors enabling them to achieve personal goals and have a positive experience. The committee values coach and paddler education and development helping to facilitate opportunities for these on an ongoing basis.

During the 2019 season, it was encouraging to see higher numbers of paddlers competing in the U14 class and watch the significant progression they made over the season. In 2018 an Open U12 K1 class was introduced and in 2019 this class has increased in popularity with some of the young paddlers progressing into full sized boats.

Scottish regattas continue to be well attended and many races closely contested. Many paddlers attended the National regattas in Nottingham with both young and old winning British Championship medals.

Scottish paddlers have been selected for British Representative teams in all age groups (Senior, U23, Junior and U17/U16/U15). Particularly promising for the future was that the British Junior Ladies K4 for the European and World Championships had 2 Scots in the crew and Scottish athletes made up almost a third of the Olympic Hopes team.

In conjunction with the Performance Programme and Marathon Committee we will continue to work with clubs to assist the development of a coaching structure particularly for the development of U12 and U14 paddlers. The Sprint Committee will continue to work with the Marathon Committee to support the organisation and delivery of courses for the new Racing Coach Award.



## **Stand Up Paddleboarding (SUP)**

*by Sam Dean, Chair*

It is an exciting time for SUP in Scotland. The SUP Discipline Support Module has been in place for some time but the addition of the new Coach

Award has given a huge push within the SCA and BC.

This has been magnified by the lockdown - as people have seen plenty of SUP advertising and action shots which has raised the profile of this discipline. After lockdown, due to people buying more SUPs, there has been an explosion of interest around "SUPping" across Scotland.

Soon we will have a full set of SUP awards including Personal Performance Awards (PPA), Coach Awards and Leadership Awards. This will help increase awareness of SUP as the committee plans future events in various



disciplines (racing, white water, open water, touring, yoga, casual/social etc.).

As a small, newly formed committee we have recruited 2 new members to help us develop and increase participation through the various events and competitions. Planning ahead, we are in the early planning stages for events in 2021 which should hopefully include:

- SUP Polo events
- SUP Racing (marathon or sprint events including a race at Loch Inch (with Moray SUP Club)
- SUP Surf events

### Surf

*By Ian Sherrington, Chair*

Surf Kayaking is a dynamic sport in an ever-changing environment. It can be a spiritual or social day if we choose to go out on a smaller day or an adrenaline pumping speed fest on a big day. The best bit is that we get to choose the nature of our day and we also get to do it at some of the most stunning parts of the Scottish coastline. You can mix that bit up too. Visit a remote corner or have

a day at the beach with sand and ice-creams.



Here is a summary of our achievements:

- **Sandend 2019** - all competitors paddled against each other with a handicap system to allow novice paddlers to still be competitive. It was wonderful to see novice and experience, old and young and male and female all paddling in the same heats and all having to work hard to progress.
- **Scottish Women's Paddlesport Symposium May 2019** saw the successful return of a strong group of female leaders delivering surf sessions
- **ISA Judging Courses:** A group attended an ISA (board surfing)



Judging Course, The course developed personal understanding of scoring and helped ensure our ability to run competitions in the future.

- Scottish representation at the **Surf Kayak World Championships Huanchaco Peru 19th-26th July 2019:** paddlers Mac McConnochie, John Ross and John Inglis determinedly took part in individual and team events, by all accounts paddling in some big heavy waves. . The Scottish results were John Inglis 3rd in Grandmasters Long, 7th in Short; John Ross 5th in Master Long, 9th in Short. The Team result was 7th place.



### ● **The Scottish Championships**

**October 2019:** This year was the first year where the same classes were available to both male and female competitors. Our Scottish Champions are as follows:

- Meg Spittal, Women's Open Short and Women's Masters Long & Short
- Sophie Muller, Women's Open Long
- Ian Sherrington, Men's Open Long & Short and Grand Masters Short
- John Ross, Men's Masters Long
- Gavin Miller, Men's Masters Short
- David Russell, Open Waveski
- In February 2020, we had a weekend where the Committee came together to develop skills and support the key roles needed to facilitate the running of a successful surfing year.

Since the cessation of competition due to COVID-19 the Committee have had regular online meetings. Surf has taken the view that we will use this time of lockdown to review and update some of our processes such that when we can return to competition, we will be better organised and more competent.

We have also been talking to other Home Nation associations with a view to making the hosting and attending of International Competition easier and more attractive. We are still hopeful that we will send a Squad to the Home Internationals Team Competition and British Championships in England. This is due to happen in late autumn but may be postponed until early spring 2021.

We have a number of newly trained event organisers and judges such that as the current pandemic allows, we plan to have a bumper year of domestic activity. Staying at home on Scotland coastline has never looked more attractive.

### **Wild Water Racing**

*by Paul Anderson, Chair*

The Wild Water Racing Committee (WWC) are delighted to report another successful year in terms of continuing to re-establish and embed the sport for the longer term within Scotland. The committee has maintained its three region approach (North, East, West) with a lead point of contact/coach for

these areas. Paul Anderson has taken the Chair position from Fraser Gormal who now takes the position as Vice-Chair.

The National Scottish Series enjoyed its 2nd consecutive season. With the recent Covid situation the committee have taken the decision to cut short the 3rd season using the 4 races completed at the start of 2020 so there will be a Championship for this year (albeit short and sweet). The races contained within the Scottish Series are SCA events only and have not counted to the wider UK series and will continue to be a stand-alone series for local athletes.



Further international success was seen this year with Laura Milne, Victoria Murray, Ellie Seed and Jacob Holmes all selected for International Competition. This has secured Scottish athletes as being a significant part of the GB team for the past 5 years and finalising the 4 year plan with all goals and objectives met which as a committee we are delighted.

As Chair I will look now towards the next 4 years in terms of ambitions and objectives, with a focus on fun competition, youth and development of elite participation.

In terms of UK wide development, I attended a British Canoeing workshop/event at Nottingham in late 2019 with a view to addressing a number of issues with the BC WWC. The event was a constructive investment with positive foundations put in place for a more joined up way of working and clear understanding in relation to Home Nations and delineation in terms of responsibilities. In early 2020, following the BC signing of the revised TOR, the

SCA WWC made the appointment of a short term SCA representative (Carl Foody) who has been excellent in representing the SCA and our position. Looking forwards I will now take up the position as SCA representative upon the BC WWC, albeit Carl retains close links with us maintaining our ranking system and as an active coach. The Committee have agreed in principle to include the Scottish Championships 2021 at Knockando (organiser Calum Urquhart) into the British Canoeing Calendar as a national race.

Reflecting back 6 years coming from almost no active WWR to the current position the committee are delighted with the results and now are looking to negotiate the Covid conditions of the current situation looking ahead to further local, national and international success.







# #WeAreTheSCA

SCA is a membership organisation that wouldn't exist without a wide range of volunteers; whether that's volunteers on the Board, on one the committees, or in clubs/organisations.

Members, Volunteers, Committees, Board & Staff; Together, **#WeAreTheSCA**.

## Board of Directors

David	Simpson	President
Brian	Chapman	Chair
Kelso	Riddell	Finance Director
Steve	Roebuck	General Secretary
Elizabeth	Cain	Recreation Director
Colin	Tannock*	Competition Director
Susie	Benson*	Director
Claire	Chapman	Director
Dean	Hollis	Director
Steve	Linksted	Director
Alex	Mitchell*	Director

## Staff Team

Stuart	Smith	Chief Executive
Jon	Schofield	Head of Performance & Pathways
Andy	Murray	Head of Coaching & Development
Claire	Fergusson	Operations Manager
Mikaela	West	Events & Communications Officer
Habibul	Liton*	Marketing & Engagement Officer (Maternity Cover)
Roger	Holmes	Development Manager
Margaret	Winter	Administrator
Doug	MacDonald	Coach & Pathway Developer
Lara	Cooper	AQ & IV Officer
Sam	Miles*	Performance Coach - Slalom
Stuart	Gerrie	Performance Coach - Slalom
Antón	Vázquez Camiño	Performance Coach - Sprint
Tomás	de Souza Duarte*	Performance Coach - Sprint
Rachel	Schofield*	Performance Coach - Sprint



SCA Annual Report: April 2019 - March 2020

\* Joined or left during the year

# With thanks to the 62 Volunteers on SCA Board & Core Committees

Committee Members as on 31/03/2020

## Coaching & Development Committee

Andy	Murray	CAG Representative
Andy	Pearson	RO Borders
Brian	Baillie	RO Tayside
Chris	Wilson	RO Highlands & Islands
Doug	Cooper	CSG Representative
Elizabeth	Cain	RO Central
Lyle	Smith	RO Grampian & Shetland and Committee Chair
Poppy	Croal Mckenzie	RO Lothians
Steve	Frampton	RO West
Tom	Westwater	RO Fife

## SUP Committee

Adam	Burns
Liam	Watson
Samuel	Dean

## Access & Environment Policy Committee

Eddie	Palmer
Gavin	Millar
Grant	Dollier
Jonathan	Kitching
Rachel	Hannan
Robin	Cole

## Marathon Committee

Brian	Chapman
Debi	Ives
Donald	Gardner
Margaret	Chapman
Rachel	Syme

## Sprint Committee

Irene	Stevely
Jim	Stevely
Margaret	Chapman
Patrick	Armstrong
Rachel	Syme

## Recreation Committee

Liz	Cain
Liam	Watson

## Slalom Committee

Fraser	Glasgow
Gary	Gibson
Madelaine	Jennings
Tony	Leaver
William	Fotheringham
William	Gerrie

## Wild Water Racing Committee

Calum	Urquhart
Cynthia	Berry
Ian	Hosie
Fraser	Gormal
Jacob	Holmes
Paul	Anderson
Rachel	Houston

## Canoe Polo Committee

Anil	Rach
Bob	Cain
Chris	Carracher
Gavin	MacLean
Graham	Swanson
James	McNeish
Maxime	Biret
Paul	Walker
Ross	Barron

## Surf Committee

Colin	Coupar
David	Russell
Dawn	Horsburgh
Ian	Sherrington
John	Inglis
John	Ross
Mac	McConnochie
Sophie	Tankere- Muller
Tracy	Sherrington

# Together

# #WeAreTheSCA

# SCA Recognition Awards Winners 2019



## **Volunteer Coach of the Year:** Chris Curry (Pinkston Panthers)

Perhaps Chris's single biggest achievement which the club are most proud of is his support of a student from Hungary who went from beginner to Division 1 to competing in a World Cup Race at Lee Valley - all in 3 years!

Not just a coach for Pinkston Panthers, Chris really goes above and beyond, offering help to paddlers from other clubs at training sessions, and competitions no matter how busy he is, and lends a supportive shoulder no matter the outcome of a race.

## **Professional Coach of the Year:** Fraser Porter (Pinkston Watersports)

Fraser has been instrumental in the delivery of the Pinkston Community Project; a grassroots project to develop progression options for young people in hard to reach areas of Glasgow and build a clear pathway for them to progress in the sport.

He has built what was an exploratory pilot paddlesport homework club into a core part of what is delivered at Pinkston and he is building a team of Paddlesports Activity Assistants to support this work. This is providing valuable opportunities to build skills and confidence, and to allow positions of responsibility for young people who have often found challenges in other areas of their lives.





## SCA Recognition Awards Winners 2019



### **Youth Coach of the Year:** Kirsten Petrie (Inverness CC)

Kirsten always goes beyond the call of duty when working with her club's young people. She is known to be a sympathetic ear for club youngsters and can bring a lot of common sense to potentially difficult situations. Kirsten has taken charge of developing young paddlers within Inverness Canoe Canoe and in the last year she has run sessions in the pool through the winter to introduce youngsters to paddling

### **Young Volunteer of the Year:** Michael Denvir

Kind and thoughtful are the first couple of words used to describe Michael the way he goes about his coaching of younger paddlers. In slalom peer coaching, he is always wanting to help his peers and younger paddlers get better. He sacrifices his own practice time to help less experienced paddlers grow in confidence. Michael stepped up his game this year and completed his Paddlesport Instructor and coached for 5 of 6 weeks of our summer classes - the kids had a great time and some have signed up for courses to continue on.



## SCA Recognition Awards Winners 2019



### Willing Hands Quaich: Robert Wands (Clyde Scouts)

Robert started the Clyde Scouts Paddlesports Club at Pinkston since when it first opened. With limited funds he found kit to start up the group and get young people on the water. There are now more than 30 different young people every Tuesday night enjoy paddlesports. He has also mentored and enabled adult volunteers to improve and develop their own paddling to help provide sessions with the club and beyond.

### Impact on Equality & Diversity: Roger Holmes

Over the last year, Roger has really enhanced the SCA's work in disability, by working in partnership with Scottish Disability Sport, the MS society and several clubs. He has been a driving force in this partnership working by sharing his experience and nurturing others to give them confidence to support paddlers with disabilities.





# SCA Recognition Awards Winners 2019



## Andy Jackson Award for Contribution to Access & Environment: Gavin Millar

Gavin has been a leading figure in access and the SCA's work on hydro schemes in recent time and most importantly in the negotiations on behalf of SCA in relation to the Glen Etive hydro schemes. He fielded information requests and consultation with membership, presented at SCA events, wrote articles for Scottish Paddler and held meetings with SEPA, and other organisations which led to the negotiations with the developer who have agreed to allowing paddlers to 'turn off' the hydro to enable paddling.

## Club of the Year: FORTH CANOE Club

FCC is the oldest and the biggest paddlesport club in Scotland and offers paddlesport across many disciplines both competition and recreation. Their extremely successful summer programme provides opportunities for many youngsters new to the sport, and they have a strong focus on developing coaches and leaders.

It was described in one of the nominations as "a quirky family of individuals where everyone is welcome." The local councillor said "I see what a great job the club does in introducing canoeing and kayaking to young people, treating high achievement and participation in equal measure; and also in caring for and animating our treasured 200 year old canal.





# Who We Work With



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