

Town Loch National Training Site – Management Report 2025

Foreword from the NTS Management Committee

2025 has been a year of exceptional activity and progress at the National Training Site (NTS), Town Loch. From first-time participants and family sessions to national-level competitions, the site has continued to thrive as Scotland's home of waterskiing and wakeboarding – a place that is welcoming, vibrant, and full of life.

This season has seen the benefits of our strengthened staffing structure, a busy and varied programme of activity, and continued engagement across all ages and abilities. The atmosphere around the site has been outstanding. Energetic, inclusive, and positive – reflecting the hard work, professionalism, and passion of everyone involved.

We are incredibly proud of what has been achieved this year. The collective efforts of our staff, volunteers, and the Management Committee, supported by Waterski & Wakeboard Scotland, have allowed the site to build real momentum. Together, we've not only delivered a successful season but also laid strong foundations for the future of the facility and the community it serves.

On behalf of the Management Committee, we would like to thank all those who have contributed to the success of 2025 – from coaches, drivers, and volunteers to the many participants, members, and families who continue to make Town Loch such a special and welcoming place.

Site Operations and Staffing

The 2025 season marked the first full year of operations under the new staffing structure introduced in April, which significantly increased the site's delivery capacity and strengthened day-to-day operations.

Two full-time, fixed-term seasonal positions were created and filled by **Michael Limonci** and **Kirsty Williams**, providing continuity, reliability, and essential support throughout the busiest months of the year. Their professionalism and commitment have had a transformative effect on the running of the site. Helping to ensure that visitors receive a consistently high-quality and welcoming experience.

They were joined by additional season staff – **Oliver Quigley**, **Katrina Paley**, and **Alexa Forbes** – who each made valuable contributions to the smooth delivery of sessions, events, and overall site operations throughout the summer.

Alongside the staff team, the site benefited from the dedication of many volunteers, whose ongoing support remains central to the success of the NTS. Thanks go to **Aaron Johnston**, **Alisdair Roger**, **Matthew Mills**, and **Gordon Christie** along with the many others who generously contributed their time and expertise across the season.

This expanded workforce was complemented by the ongoing involvement of the WWS Development Team, including **Tegan Brady** and **Celine Grech**, who delivered a range of development programmes based at the NTS. Together, the combined efforts of staff and volunteers allowed the site to deliver around 2,100 sessions – making 2025 the busiest and most productive year in recent memory.

This year also saw an increased focus on peer-to-peer coaching, with experienced skiers sharing their knowledge to help others develop their skills. The Management Committee would like to give particular thanks to **Kevin Lochhead** for the time and expertise he gave to support this, as well as his broader contribution to coaching development across Scotland.

The benefits of this increased capacity have been seen most clearly in the visitor experience – with improved communication and a more structured approach to session delivery ensuring that every participant is welcomed, supported, and able to enjoy their time on the water.

The Management Committee extends its sincere thanks to all those involved – staff, volunteers, and development officers – whose combined efforts have ensured that the National Training Site continues to operate to a professional standard while maintaining its warm, community-focused atmosphere.

Participation and Programmes

The 2025 season saw a wide range of activity delivered at the National Training Site, with strong levels of engagement across recreational participation, development opportunities, and inclusive programmes. Over the season, the team delivered around 2,100 sessions, welcoming participants from across Scotland (and further) and providing a diverse programme that catered for all ages and abilities.

Several key initiatives played an important role in that success:

- **Little Ripples** – Launched this year, this new family-friendly programme introduced children aged 1–10 and their families to the water in a fun, supportive, and safe environment.
- **Women & Girls Project** – funded by **BWSW**, this inclusive initiative created a supportive space for participants aged 9–72 to build confidence and skills on the water. Delivered at the NTS, the project has been one of the most successful in recent years and is now being considered for wider rollout through the WWS Development Team.
- **Ski Development Squad** – the National Training Site once again served as the main base for the Scottish Development Squad, providing tailored sessions and coaching support for developing skiers. The programme was supported by volunteer coaches and the WWS Development Team, helping to strengthen the pathway between club-level participation and national development.
- **Coaching Clinics** – the site was delighted to host visiting coaches **Glen Campbell** and **Arron Davies** this season, who brought their expertise to Scotland and shared valuable insights with developing skiers. These sessions were extremely well received and demonstrated the value of providing access to high-quality coaching opportunities within Scotland.
- **Fairway Fife Partnership** – the site's ongoing collaboration with **Fairway Fife** has continued to provide meaningful opportunities for participants with additional support needs. Several members of this group even took part in the Wee Board Bash competition at the end of the season – a great example of inclusion in action.
- **Schools & Group Sessions** – the site also hosted a successful introductory day for **Fettes College**, which provided valuable insight into how school and large group sessions could form part of the future programming.

Collectively, these programmes highlight the range and inclusivity of activity now taking place at the National Training Site. The site continues to provide a welcoming, accessible, and family-friendly environment where people of all ages and abilities can get on the water, build confidence, and be part of a supportive sporting community.

The Management Committee would like to extend its thanks to the **staff, development officers, coaches, drivers, and volunteers** who made these programmes possible and helped create such positive experience for every participant.

Events and Competitions

2025 was a standout year for events at the National Training Site, which successfully hosted a range of competitions and gatherings that celebrated participation, performance, and community spirit. These events showcased the versatility of the site and its ability to deliver everything from grassroots activity to nationally ranked competition.

Highlights of the season included:

- **Town Loch Triple Trophy** – the first ranked three-event competition to be held in Scotland since 2009, this event attracted top-level skiers and officials from across the UK. It was extremely well received and helped re-establish Scotland's position within the UK's elite waterski calendar. The competition also demonstrated the site's operational readiness to host future high-level events, with excellent feedback from competitors and officials alike.
- **Scottish Waterski Festival** – held in September, this inaugural event served as an inclusive celebration of the season, bridging the gap between grassroots participation and ranked competition. The festival brought together skiers, families, and supporters in a relaxed and welcoming environment, reinforcing the sense of community that defines the sport in Scotland.
- **WWS Scottish Student Open** – hosted at the NTS, this landmark event brought together students and alumni from universities across Scotland for the first competition of its kind. The success of the event reflected the energy and enthusiasm of the student community and established a strong foundation for what will become an annual fixture on the competition calendar.
- **Wee Board Bash** – a brand-new team kneeboarding and wakeboarding competition, featuring first-time, developing, elite riders in a single inclusive event. The day captured the fun, supportive, and community-driven nature of the site, with riders of all abilities sharing teams, the same dock and celebrating each other's progress. A particular highlight was the participation of several members of the Fairway Fife group, whose involvement exemplified the inclusive spirit that underpins the NTS.

The NTS also featured as one of the host sites in the nationwide Backyard Waterski Series, welcoming skiers from clubs across Scotland and contributing to the overall success of this fun, community-driven competition format.

Collectively, these events brought energy and visibility to the National Training Site, strengthening its role as both a performance venue and a community hub. The Management Committee extends its thanks to the **staff, volunteers, and officials** who supported event delivery, as well as to **Waterski and Wakeboard Scotland** for their coordination and leadership.

Facilities and Site Development

The National Training Site remains one of the UK's leading venues for waterskiing and wakeboarding, offering a unique, purpose-built environment that supports both grassroots participation and high-level performance.

The Management Committee continues to take an active approach to ensuring the site is well-maintained, safe, and welcoming for all users. Regular upkeep of the site, boats, and launch areas has been carried out throughout the season, with staff and volunteers working together to maintain high operational standards and presentation.

During the off-season, significant work was carried out to **renovate the jump**, which played a key role in facilitating competitions, clinics, and regular sessions throughout 2025. The project was a major undertaking, and the Management Committee would like to extend its sincere thanks to everyone who contributed, with recognition to **Matthew Mills** and **Alisdair Roger** for their time and expertise in making this possible.

Additional thanks also go to **Matt Mills, Alisdair Roger, Michael Limonci** and **Stuart Baillie** for their efforts in the **technical** and **AV preparation** ahead of the Town Loch Triple Trophy. Their combined work ensured that the event ran smoothly and was delivered to a high professional standard, further strengthening the site's reputation as a capable and well-managed competition venue.

This season also brought an operational challenge when the **water level was significantly reduced** as part of works undertaken by Fife Council. The team adapted quickly, implementing changes to operational processes to ensure that members could continue to ski safely while also protecting the boat and equipment from potential damage. The situation was managed effectively by staff and volunteers, allowing activity to continue with minimal impact and maintaining a positive experience for those using the site.

Looking ahead, focus will be on maintaining and improving the site's infrastructure and facilities wherever possible. Priorities include ongoing **maintenance of dock areas** and exploring enhancements to the **changing facilities** to include **inclusive cubicles** that better serve the needs of all users.

The committee remains committed to ensuring that the NTS continues to operate to a professional standard while providing a welcoming and accessible environment for everyone who visits.

Community and Partnerships

The National Training Site continues to thrive as a welcoming community space, thanks to the people, partners, and organisations who contribute to its success. Much of what makes the site special stems from the collective effort of those who give their time, expertise, and enthusiasm both on and off the water.

Partnerships with community-focused organisations such as **Fairway Fife** continue to demonstrate the inclusive and collaborative nature of the NTS, helping to ensure that the site remains open, accessible, and welcoming to all.

The **Townhill Community Council** has continued to play an important role in maintaining positive links between the site and the local residents. This year saw a collaborative project between the Community Council, **Townhill Loch Café** and the NTS to create a new **nature walk leaflet** for families and visitors to enjoy. These leaflets encourage people to explore the area around the loch and strengthen the connection between the site and the wider community.

The **Townhill Loch Café**, based on site, continues to be a fantastic addition to the loch environment. It not only provides a welcoming space for members and visitors but also enhances the friendly, community-driven atmosphere that makes the site so enjoyable.

The Management Committee would also like to acknowledge the contribution of the **clubs, site users, and volunteers** across Scotland who have engaged with the NTS throughout the season – whether through their time, expertise, or enthusiasm. Their input and collaboration continue to strengthen the wider waterski and wakeboard community and help Town Loch remain a leading example of what can be achieved through shared purpose and commitment.

Looking Ahead

As Town Loch National Training Site looks ahead to the 2026 season, the focus will be on sustaining momentum and continuing to deliver high-quality, welcoming experiences for everyone who visits.

The Management Committee will prioritise maintaining a strong operational model supported by a skilled and enthusiastic team, while continuing to invest in the site's facilities and

presentation. Plans are already in place to explore enhancements to the changing areas, including the introduction of inclusive cubicles, ensuring the site continues to meet the needs of all users.

The NTS will again play host to a vibrant programme of activity, with a mix of competitions, community initiatives, and development opportunities that showcase the depth of talent and enthusiasm within Scotland's waterski and wakeboard community.

Looking further ahead, the committee remains committed to ensuring the long-term sustainability of the site – strengthening its role as both a sporting venue of national significance and a welcoming community asset for all who enjoy the water.

Prepared by:

Town Loch Management Committee

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