



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Development Coach

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DEVELOPMENT COACH ROLE

Start in Post

Starting as development coach on the 19th of August 2024, I have spent the past 2 months familiarising myself with the role, visiting the different Scottish Sites, and getting my university project off the ground.

Handover

My meeting with Ali Brotherton, the previous Development Coach offered great insight into ongoing projects and areas to look into for the future, particularly regarding the Wake Series and the Wakeboard development squad.

Site Visits

I have had the pleasure of visiting several Waterski and Wakeboard sites within Scotland to familiarise myself with the facilities and meet with the wonderful people who keep these sites running. So far, I have been along to Loch Lomond Wake School, Loch Earn Wake School, Glasgow Wake Park, Town Loch National Training Site, Aboyne Waterski Cub, and Kyle Waterski Club. This has been a great exercise to better understand these sites and how we can best support them. Through this, we have started to facilitate a working group for the Wake Sites as to help share resources and further open communications.

Rankings event

Town Loch National Training Site hosted its first rankings-level event in over 10 years on September 22nd. I was proud to be a part of this by supporting the background work within the run-up to the event and being a judge, scorer, and competitor on the day. The Town Loch Scottish Slalom Cup was an overwhelming success with lots of positive feedback. This has undoubtedly pushed the Scottish Waterski scene forward and opened the door to bigger events in the coming years.

Looking Ahead

Continuing with the previous regime, I will be taking on the Wake side of the sport as Chris Heron focuses on the Waterski side. By looking at athlete support through the continuation of the wake Development squads, increasing participation in wake sports through community outreach programmes, and offering further support for the wake competition scene, I hope to nurture the growth and success of wake sports throughout Scotland.

UNIVERSITY PROJECT

Participation

After reaching out to several Scottish Universities to increase student engagement within towed water sports, we have seen a huge increase in 18-30 skiers and riders within Scotland. This includes:

- 2 taster sessions at Town Loch National Training site introducing 45 students across 3 different universities to waterskiing and wakeboarding
- Over 50 slots of taster sessions followed by ongoing weekly training sessions at Glasgow Wake Park
- 2 weekend visits with over 30 students to Loch Lomond Wake School from both Glasgow and Edinburgh student sports clubs
- A mixed inter-university social with over 20 students from various Universities in attendance hosted at Loch Earn Wake School.

University Sports Clubs

I am working closely with the two previously established Waterski and Wakeboard Student Sports Clubs within Scotland, based in Edinburgh and Glasgow. Both clubs have already seen an increase in membership compared to previous years and have visited more sites than ever before. Members have visited Glasgow Wake Park, Town Loch NTS, Loch Earn Wake School, and Loch Lomond Wake School. Receiving feedback from these groups has shown there is a desire to continue with these sports year-round and a scope to develop a competitive team to represent Scottish students in both waterski and wake events.



Outlook

There is a huge scope for the progression of the involvement of Scottish Universities becoming more involved in towed water sports activities. This includes further support for interuniversity competitions within Scotland, building from the current cable competition of King of the Canal held at Glasgow Wake Park and the Irish and Scottish University competition 'Celtwake', as well as increasing student participation in the yearly WWS slalom and wake series.

By creating a Waterski and Wakeboard Scotland Student Society managed by the Governing Body we hope to better retain and support the students across Scotland who

wish to participate in the sports year-round. Benefits such as insurance cover, reduced cost of sets, access to student training evenings and social events, discounts on kit, and access to advanced coaching materials could be offered.

Several students have already shown great progress and potential to compete at National and International competitions. Focusing on coaching these athletes and supporting them to go and compete at these high-profile competitions will boost the Scottish Athlete profile across the wider sport, particularly in the open categories.

Overall, by continuing to push awareness and opportunities within the sport to different Universities this will grow the sport and bring through the missing generation of 18-30 participants and athletes.

WAKE SPORTS SUCCESS 2024

Scottish Competitions

- Loch Lomond 'Loch Stock' - 6th/7th July
- Glasgow Wake Park Competition - 1st September
- Loch Earn Wakeschool 'Summer Showdown' - 14th September
- Foxlake Adventures 'Big Air' Competition - 14th September
- Glasgow Wake Park 'King of the Canal' - 26th October

Boat Wake Recognition

- Raymond Colquhoun defended his title as European Wakesurf Champion at the Nautique European Wakesurf Championships hosted in London. Morgan Williams brought home gold at the Midlands Nautique Wake Open intermediate mens, then went on to represent Loch Lomond and Scotland Nautique at the UK Wake Nationals. Chris Batham came first place in Loch Earns Summer Showdown with Fletcher White coming 2nd with some incredible 180 airs after only starting the sport in the last year! Finally, a huge shoutout to Andrew Cruikshank for his continued participation in the Scottish Wake scene year after year!

Cable Wake recognition

- Scottish riders Orla Winn, Kai Kinney Smith, and Mia Kinney Smith represented Scotland at the UK cable nationals, bringing home 2 gold medals and a silver in their categories. Within Scotland, Debi McKay won both the Glasgow Wake Park open woman and the Foxlake Big Air competition, as well as being recognised as an incredible inspiration and role model to all.

WAKE SPORTS OUTLOOK

Competition

After a successful range of Wake competitions across Scotland this year, we are looking to facilitate a 3-part Wake Series for both Boat and Cable for the 2025 season. This would encourage participants to travel between sites and foster the growing community of riders.

Athlete Focus

Building upon the current Development Squad, we will look to select both cable and boat riders who are interested in beginning or continuing their journey into competitive riding. We will look to aid these riders through training sessions and support at competitions. As well as this we would like to have a larger focus on our current competitive riders and organise coaching days to continue to push and progress their skills.

Participation

By working closely with the different wake sites within Scotland in the off-season we aim to put plans in place to engage with the communities around the sites in various outreach programs, such as those that were launched at Town Loch. As well as this, further promotion of the sport in Scotland via social media platforms and an integrated marketing campaign, alongside the push for student participation over the summer, will increase overall participation of Wake Sports in Scotland.