

BKSA Chairman's report

COVID has been a big part of the last year. The BKSA is now in one of its most robust and comfortable places it's been for a very, very long time. And that's because of you the member. When COVID first hit us, Andy, and the rest of the team realised very quickly they needed to work with Sport England, sport and recreation alliance, outdoor industries, the RNLI, RYA, and many other membership bodies in the UK and internationally on where kite sports was going to be, and when we could go back to kiting either participating or teaching? We had the livelihoods of so many individuals that were dependent on decisions that were being made in our hands. The response would need to be quick, inline with Government protocol and healthy. We needed to fight for those people and make sure that decisions were made in the best interest of **our** sport and in the best interest of the people that worked within this, **our** industry.

The BKSA has had to dig deep and step up to what a true membership organisation is about. I believe we have; we've seen a surge in new members and old members coming back. And hopefully that will continue. Because, sadly, it's not until a time where people need their membership bodies to fight for them, that they realise how important their membership body is. I'm pleased we've been able to do what we can. And I'm really pleased with the fact that we've been able to advise our members, kilters, recognised schools, affiliated clubs, coaches, instructors, on how to navigate through the pandemic. Luckily, we are a sport that is both socially distancing and also safe to do within most current restrictions. We thank people and everyone for rallying around and adhering to the rules that were put in place by us and other membership bodies. In order to keep us safe, keep the NHS safe and ensure our sports carry on.

With all of this going on, we still embarked on the biggest IT project whilst in lockdown. This was to automate and get live all of our instructors and schools and clubs and ensure that the process for membership and the process for continual membership is automated. Therefore enabling us to be able to speak to our members more and it frees us up cost efficiently to be able to help our members much more. We've taken on wingsurfing as a sport. We've managed to get our insurers to insure it for free. And we've written and delivered the world's first wingsurfing training syllabus.

We the BKSA, want to thank you the member for being a part of this organisation and I want to thank you; each and every single one of you, that helps drive and sustain this organisation. With all of us together being able to allow us to make decisions for the better of this sport; our membership has grown by almost 20%. When our schools and clubs open, we're expecting an incredibly buoyant year with lots of new kilters, lots of people going out kitesurfing and partaking in kite sports, on the whole. We're hoping to run an events tour and continue to our grow a membership through 2021. Please come back to me, or any of the team, if you've got any questions. If you want to be a part of what we're doing and what we're trying to achieve and how we're trying to help people please contact me. Hopefully, you've seen a theme through this report. It's because of you, the member that we exist. Therefore, with

your help with your aptitude, and with your guidance we can make kitesurfing and kite sports as a whole, safer and better sports. Thank you for being a member and allowing for this to happen.