SURF CLUB 2016/2017

The Surf Club has had a standout year, establishing its place as a competitive university sports club while maintaining its fantastic social and charitable activity. The Club has experienced two new ventures into competition this year. Firstly, sending a team on the long journey down to Cornwall, on Raisin weekend no less, to compete in BUCS for the first time in the Club’s short history. This proved to be a great opportunity to network with other surfing clubs and gain experience in large-scale club competition, laying the foundations for a return to BUCS next year.

Secondly, following newly gained affiliation with the Scottish Surfing Federation (SSF), the Surfing Club hosted the 2017 SSF Scottish Universities Surfing Championships here in St Andrews. In addition to the successful hosting of this national competition, St Andrews’ Surf Club finished with an impressive 5 finalists and 3 podium positions, achieving 2nd, 3rd, and 4th place in the Men’s finals alongside 3rd and 4th in the Women’s finals for an overall finish in 2nd place.

The Surf Club has endeavoured to provide opportunities to improve surfing ability, supplementing guided surfing sessions in St Andrews with an increased number of domestic trips to breaks around Scotland. This has included a pre-season trip to Thurso, a trip to Cullen in spring vacation and day trips to local beach and reef break, Kingsbarns. This has also given opportunities for experimentation with the Club’s use of media for promotion and engagement, through the sharing of exciting footage obtained using drones and action cameras.
This year Surf has further expanded the range of equipment it offers to members, allowing access to more diverse ability levels and surfing conditions. This included expanding the Club’s selection of hardboards and softboards, as well as investing in a greater range of wetsuit sizes and more cold weather gear such as wetsuit boots, hoods and gloves.

2017 was kicked off with another successful and rapidly sold-out international trip, adventuring to Tamraght, Morocco. The abundance of good swell and weather allowed rapid improvement in the club’s beginner members and gave those more experienced a chance to develop their skills on a diverse range of high quality waves – as well as providing some much needed January sun.

Surf Club has continued support for chosen charity The Wave Project, a great cause helping young people affected by mental health issues to increase their confidence and wellbeing through surfing. This year’s fundraising events have raised a total of £573, with activities ranging from social events to hot yoga sessions and henna body art workshops.