



## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP UPDATE 2023

The Board of Scottish Pentathlon Limited is grateful to our key partners **sportscotland** and Pentathlon GB for their continued support. Thanks are also due to our regional partners supporting the network of Regional Community Hubs in local engagement and helping to increase participation and capacity with access to facilities and growing the volunteer base.

This update serves to provide the membership with a flavour of the work that Scottish Pentathlon has been engaged in over the year and highlight some of the ongoing activities currently either underway or planned for the future.

### STRATEGIES AND PLANNING

Having engaged with representatives from all our Hubs through workshops in 2019 in determining plans and objectives for 2019 – 2023, the strategy was approved by **sportscotland** for investment through the 4-year planning cycle.

The Covid 19 pandemic then hit and, like many SGBs our plans were on hold, however we were able to, with continued support and investment from **sportscotland**, work through the difficulties, maintain contracts and contacts through holding regular Zoom calls with our Hub reps to keep them advised on “Return To Play” and “Return To Competition” guidelines and timetables.

Obviously, any refresh of our strategy was on hold and like many SGBs, planning cycles have been extended, therefore our current plan is now to 2025 and as such we will be engaging again over the next 12 months with Hubs and members to determine what the period from 2025 will hope to deliver.

### OPERATIONAL DELIVERY

Since emerging from the pandemic in 2021 and through the last 12 months, our focus has been on maintaining a pragmatic approach to delivery, however:

- despite the pandemic which caused falls in membership across all sports, we closed the year to March 2023 with 205 members (65 senior members, ie: 16 and over)
- 7 Hubs and
- trained 16 new Level One coaches, bring us to a total of 34 coaches who have been through the training programme.

Our aim in 2023 is to further train more level one coaches while also upskilling more tutors to support Hubs to train more of their own coaches at reduced costs.

Once the coaching programme for OCR is finalised (Spring 2024) we will also link into that opportunity.

We hosted a Hub planning day in August 2022 to plan the calendar of events through the Autumn of 2022 and look ahead into 2022 – 2023 which helped in reigniting activity through the year.

We were able to therefore maintain support to the existing Hubs and further established new Hubs in the year in the Borders, in Edinburgh and on Mull and, with 7 now operational are ahead of target.

New sites are under discussion as we aim to achieve increased growth over the next few years.

**CASE STUDY ONE:  
HUB ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH**

**Having provided equipment to the Angus Hub, the Parent Teacher Association at Lathallan School sourced funding for additional equipment to be purchased to extend the programme of Laser Run activity within the school and the wider community through taster sessions with Pony Club and Multi Sport Camps.**

**This outreach work has been replicated with the Fife Hub holding taster sessions with local cubs and guides groups, as well as assisting the Edinburgh Hub with regular Laser Run training session. This has now resulted in a new partnership with Merchant Company Schools taking up the offer of taster sessions at Watsons College and Mary Erskine's School, which have been very favourably received.**

**COMPETITIONS AND EVENTS**

Aware as we are of the need to stage events to encourage participation, as we always have done, we work with the Hubs to host our events as they can, through their delivery of these events train up new volunteers and also increase income and membership.

In addition to local events in the year, we co-hosted with Pentathlon GB the first ever British Championships to be held in Scotland, the Laser Run championships at Oriam in Edinburgh in April 2022.

We also delivered a first and very successful regional Discover Laser Run event in July 2022, with several athletes going on to success at the British Championships.

At national level Scots athletes were successful at the Youth School Games at Loughborough in September, where we had 4 teams of boys and girls competing against teams from the English Regions.

Following publication of the PGB calendar for 2024, we are currently planning the following events to align with their programme and selection dates:

- a schools biathlon in November 2023 in Aberdeen
- a LR championship in April 2024
- a Biathle in late June 2024 and
- a joint "festival" with PGB North West around 6/7 April, possibly around the Manchester / Liverpool area to include LR, fencing and swimming

**PATHWAY**

From our planning sessions with the Hubs in 2019 it was agreed that it was for the Hubs to develop their athletes locally along the through the pathway and from the solid participation base we have now established it is gratifying to see Scots athletes selected to various pathway and age group teams and to be able to compete successfully against their peers achieving medal success at, for instance, World and European Laser Run Championships.

Looking ahead and from the recent review of the national pathway structure, it is hoped that more Scots may gravitate into PGB teams and squads.

We would hope to be able to more directly input into the support required for these athletes without them always having to travel south (eg: host PGB Pathway camps in Scotland for those on the squads supported by the PGB Coaching team).

## COMMUNICATIONS

A review and overhaul of the SP web site was completed during 2022 – 2023. Unfortunately, due to a range of circumstances further development was delayed, however it is hoped that the necessary next steps of the process will be completed and training arranged with the web site hosts for Hubs to be able to post their own information directly going forward.

Regular updates on development in Modern Pentathlon and the wider sporting landscape continue to be communicated to our Hubs for their internal dissemination to members and from the Board to stakeholders. Our main conduit to the general membership has been through the PGB newsletters where we have had the opportunity to provide news items for circulation through the national membership.

## PARTNERSHIPS

Our relationship with **sportscotland** remain strong as we strive to reach and exceed the annual targets we have set through our planning and reporting procedures.

The relationship between Pentathlon GB and Scottish Pentathlon is equally open and robust, with regular attendance at Pentathlon GB Board and Development Group meetings and regular communication with all the staff in Bath.

During the year we committed to a new partnership with Pentathlon GB in appointing a new safeguarding lead for the sport, agreeing the role description and being involved with the recruitment process which now has Di Murray in this important new role.

Scottish Pentathlon also actively explored joint partnerships with component sports, Scottish Target Shooting and Scottish Fencing to raise the profile of, in particular, Laser Run.

We also retain important relationships with a number of agencies including Children 1<sup>st</sup> and UK Anti-Doping and attend regular update sessions relating to the emerging new frameworks for Equality and Diversity, Safeguarding Case Management and Governance.

### CASE STUDY TWO

#### PARTNERSHIPS

**An important new partnership for Scottish Pentathlon has been established through Interface <https://interface-online.org.uk/> and now with Dundee University, which has resulted in Scottish Pentathlon being awarded support from the University to develop through “design thinking” an interactive to solution to:**

- **Provide a way to get more people interested in Modern Pentathlon**
- **Develop local communities of athletes/trainers that can offer each other support**

**Having developed the initial scope for the project, an initial workshop was facilitated by University staff with parents and young athletes in the spring of 2023. The University will shortly feedback on progress and seek to re-engage with the group to test out possible solutions including those outside of mobile applications**