

GET NOMINATIONS IN NOW!!!



ABERDEENSHIRE SPORTS AWARDS 2007



MAIN EVENT SPONSOR MCINTOSH PLANT HIRE

This years awards will be held at,
 The Exchange, Thainstone Mart, Inverurie,
 on Friday 28th March 2008.

Thanks to the generosity of our main event sponsor
 McIntosh Plant Hire we are able to offer coaching
 scholarships worth £500 to the winners of the Young
 Male and the Young Female Sports Personality
 categories.

If you have not already received a nomination form
 you will find a copy on page 11 of this newsletter,
 please complete and return as soon as possible!!



OPEN MEETING THE MEADOWS, ELLON

On Sunday 27th January, Aberdeenshire Sports Council held an open meeting at the Meadows, Ellon to discuss the provision of coaching by volunteer clubs in curricular time and at after school clubs.

The meeting was well attended and attracted 40 delegates from 25 clubs demonstrating strong commitment to the development of grass root initiatives with children.

Although there were many examples of good practice discussed it was obvious that a range of problems are being encountered by clubs offering this type of coaching. The meeting was attended by Tim Stephen, Aberdeenshire Sport and Leisure Manager who undertook to try and resolve many of the issues raised.

One delegate from a club which provides coaching to many primary school children stated that he had never heard of Active School Coordinators and many delegates had no point of contact with the Coordinators. To this end, there follows a current list of the Active School Team in Aberdeenshire. (see page 3)

Clubs are also reminded that grant aid of up to £1000 annually is available for projects involving schoolchildren

Thank you to the 61 clubs who completed our consultation questionnaire, they give excellent guidance to the needs of member clubs. Fraserburgh Running Club were drawn as the winners of the £75 prize offered for completing questionnaire.

CONTENTS

Aberdeenshire Sports Awards Evening	1
Open Meeting, Ellon	1
Aberdeenshire clubCAP	2
Active School Co-Ordinators Contacts	3
Traverse Climbing Wall Project.....	4
Club News	5
Reports from Grant Recipients	6-9
Aberdeenshire Sports Awards	10
Awards Evening Nomination Form	11-12



CHILDREN 1ST

Aberdeenshire clubCAP

AWARENESS

Standard Accreditation should be readily achieved by large and small clubs whatever their sport

Provides a user friendly approach to club accreditation

Dovetails with National Programmes

Awareness of the need for continuous improvement

EFFECTIVE

TEAMWORK

- The Better the Club
- The Better the Athletes
- The Better the Performance

Promotes:

- Safety and Child Protection
- Good Management
- Good Coaching
- Equal Opportunities

IMPROVEMENT

Provides helpful templates on a range of club documents

DEVELOP

Enhanced Accreditation is awarded to clubs that can demonstrate exceptional management standards

Supported by **sportscotland** and **CHILDREN 1ST**

clubCAP - is a very supportive and flexible programme - Mar Orienteering Club - the 1st club to achieve enhanced accreditation



Excellence in Grampian Sports Clubs



sport



GRAMPIAN COACHING



ACTIVE SCHOOL CO-ORDINATORS ABERDEENSHIRE (PRIMARY)

NETWORK	NAME	FACILITY BASE	CONTACT
Active School Manager	Brian Mitchell	Stonehaven	Tel: 01569 768349 Mobile: 07713512328 brian.mitchell@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Aboyne	Sarah Fettes	Tarland School	Tel: 013398 81204 sarah.fettes@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Alford	Abigail Hay		Tel: 01975 563280 Mobile: 07823536277 abigail.hay@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Banchory	Kathryn Robertson	Banchory Primary	Tel: 01330 823351 kathryn.robertson@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Banff	Susan Mackintosh	Macduff	Tel: 01261 813391 Mobile: 07739256481 susan.mackintosh@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Ellon	Gary MacBeath	Ellon Academy	Tel: 01358 727956 Mobile: 07823536237 gary.macbeath@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Fraserburgh	Paul Robinson	Westfield School	Tel: 01346 511239 Mobile: 07823536215 paul.robinson@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Huntly	Mark Borzoni	Bennachie Leisure Centre	Tel: 01467 681470 mark.borzoni@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Kemnay	Kerry Massie	Kintore Primary	Tel: 01467 634380 kerry.massie@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Mearns	Derek Atkinson	Fettercairn Primary	Tel: 01561 340250 derek.atkinson@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Meldrum	Gary Cameron	Meldrum Academy	Tel: 016510 871300 gary.cameron@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Mintlaw	Patricia Brown	Central Buchan Cabin	Tel: 01771 622254 Mobile: 07767272807 patricia.brown@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Oldmeldrum	Kathy Yates	The Bothy	Tel: 01467 622086 Mobile: 07810056051 kathy.yates@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Peterhead	Tracy Macleod	Buchan Braes	Tel: 01779 483807 Mobile: 07733001894 tracy.macleod@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Portlethen	Claire Perras	Fishermoss School	Tel: 01224 782978 Mobile: 07823536203 claire.perras@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Portlethorn	Rachel Lightbird (Maternity Cover)	Fishermoss School	Tel: 01224 782978 rachel.lightbird@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Stonehaven	John Rothery (start 1/3/08)	Mackie Academy	Tel: 01569 762071 john.rothery@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Turriff	Kevin Davies	Monquhitter School	Tel: 01888 544238 kevin.davies@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Westhill	Stuart Glennie		Tel: 01467 634384 Mobile: 07823536188 stuart.glennie@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Banff Active Schools - Traverse Climbing Wall Project

Over the last eight months the Active School Coordinator in the Banff Network has been working closely with Scott Muir (Managing Director) Extreme Dream Ltd, which, is a company who supplies and installs outdoor and indoor climbing walls. This company is not just a climbing wall manufacturer they are a group of enthusiastic professionals and qualified climbers who are deeply passionate about their sport. The company strives to see development especially at grass roots level. With one of the best climbers as a director of the company, Extreme Dream is focussed on providing a new national coaching structure (Scott is being commissioned by Governing Body to draft proposals), across Scotland.

We were born to climb – we just forget how to after childhood. Climbing is so quickly picked up by kids who see instant personal progress and success. It's a sport that fosters co-operation and co-learning, where learning from your own and others mistakes is normal to progress. Climbing is one of the most complicated motor and neuro-muscular activities we can take part in. Mentally kids are challenged with sequences and problems that require determination and drive. Physically they grasp subtle body moves, gain in body coordination, flexibility, learn about their centre of gravity, the application of forces and gain all over body strength, especially in core stabilising muscle groups of stomach and back. All this undoubtedly has a knock on effect to all other Physical Development and Sporting participation.



(Macduff Free – standing wall January 2008)



(Example /Argyll and Bute Council /
Innelan Wall – direct fix)

The Active School Coordinator – Susan Mackintosh has been supporting funding applications to Awards For All for 5 schools in her Network. Four schools to date have been awarded funding to install a traverse wall in their school with 1 school application pending. Macduff primary school's application was applied to Awards For All through their Parent Support Group and their wall is almost complete (see picture above on progress to date). The walls can be either free – standing or panels can be directly fixed to the school wall and an example of a direct fixed wall from Argyll and Bute is shown above.

Once all walls are installed in the Banff Network Susan will organise interschool climbing competitions. Other Active School Coordinators in other areas in Aberdeenshire are in the process of applying for funding to install walls in various schools. The sport of climbing will begin to grow and develop with the support of Active School Coordinators. In the next newsletter Susan will provide photographs of the completed walls in the Banff Network. For further information, support and advice on how to progress this initiative you can contact:

Susan Mackintosh
Active School Coordinator
01261 813391
susan.mackintosh@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Or contact directly

Scott Muir Bed PE(hons)
Managing Director Extreme Dream, Aviemore
01479 812466
www.schoolclimbingwalls.co.uk

CLUB NEWS

Tarlair Golf Club

Forthcoming events for February and March 2008

Saturday 9th February Valentines Disco
Saturday 1st March Horse Night
Saturday 29th March Opening Night with Cruise

All members and visitors welcome.

At the moment we are in the process of putting together a newsletter which will be available quarterly anyone interested in receiving one via email please contact Mr Bill Pitt c/o Tarlair Golf Club, Buchan Street, Macduff or email pitt548@btinternet.com

BANFF RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

MINI SECTION

Boys and Girls aged between 7 and 11

Training every Sunday
2.00pm – 3.30pm
At
Banff Rugby Club
Duff House Grounds
Banff

For further information contact
Ross Cassie
Tel No 01261 831810
Email – Rosscassie@aol.com

ATTENTION ALL CLUBS

We are in the process of compiling a new sports directory, many clubs have still not returned to us their update forms, if you do not return these then your details may well be out of date in the new directory, please ensure you get them back to us asap. Your club will only be included in the the new sports directory if you have affiliated 2007/2008 see list below for those who have not yet paid affiliation fees:

Anna Ritchie School
Arduthie School Badminton Club
Balmoor Gymnastics Club
Banff & Buchan College of Further Education
Blue Toon Anglers
Bon Accord RC
Deveronvale FC
Ellon Hockey Club
Fraserburgh Academy
Garioch Judo Club
Grampian Junior Bowling Association
Kincardine O Neil Bowling Club
Maud Bowling Club
Millbank and Tillyfourie Playing Field
Mintlaw Academy
Rothie Rovers AFC
Scottish Sub Aqua Club (Grampian Branch)
Skip 2 The Beat
Turriff Tennis Club

If you have mislaid your form please contact Christine or Tracie on 01261 813383 or download one from our website.

COMPETITION TIME!!!!

Your chance to win a £20.00 sports equipment voucher for yourself or your club/organisation. Hidden within this newsletter there are six images of people taking part in sport - can you find them?

Sport	Page No
1 _____	_____
2 _____	_____
3 _____	_____
4 _____	_____
5 _____	_____
6 _____	_____

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Tel No _____

Club/Organisation _____

Return to: Aberdeenshire Sports Council, 1 Church Street, Macduff, AB44 1UR no later than Friday 28th March 2008.

Reports From A Number Of Previous Grant Recipients

SALSC JUNIOR BOWLS 2007

by Craig Burnett
Age 16

On Wednesday, 1st August 2007, the Scottish Association of Local Sports Councils, National Junior Inter District Bowls Tournament was held at Dunoon and Argyll Bowling Club. The event was hosted by Cowal Sports Council.

Aberdeenshire Sports Council was represented by Connor Milne of Tarves Bowling Club, Andrew Thomson of Inverurie Bowling Club, Calum Walker, Ewan Beattie and myself Craig Burnett, all of Westhill Bowling Club. We are also members of Grampian Junior Bowling Association.

This was the fourth consecutive year that we had represented Aberdeenshire Sports Council in this event. From our experience, we were aware that the standard of Under 16 competition on a national level was exceptionally high.

We arrived at Dunoon feeling well prepared and ready to face the challenge ahead. Sports Councils from Moray in the North of Scotland to the borders were again represented. The event was very well organised with excellent hospitality provided by Dunoon and Argyll Bowling Club.

Dunoon and Argyll bowling green was quite short, and due to the rain, rather heavy therefore we knew that we would have to adapt accordingly. It also became evident, from the beginning of the competition, that if we were to have a successful tournament then we would also have to match our opponents' desire and will to win.

We played seven matches in a round robin format against strong opposition and eventually finished fourth. With this system, it meant that the games were very short, hence there was no room for error.

At the end of the day, we were presented with a medal by Sports Council officials. A group photo was also taken which will allow us to look back on our trip to Dunoon for years to come.

We are all very grateful to Frank Philip, President of Grampian Junior Bowling Association, for organising the trip for us and for his dedication and support which he gives to promote junior bowling. Thanks must also go to all family and friends who made the long journey to Dunoon to give us their support.

Finally, I would like to express our appreciation to Aberdeenshire Sports Council for the funding which we were fortunate to receive.



Back Row L to R: Craig Burnett-Westhill BC, Ewan Beattie-Westhill BC, Andrew Thomson-Inverurie BC
Front Row L to R: Calum Walker-Westhill BC and Conner Milne-Tarves BC

GROUP INSURANCE COVER

We can offer clubs providing similar activities a set level of cover:

Public Liability £5,000,000

Operates only where the club has no alternative cover (eg via membership of a league or national association or sports body or personal insurance). Excludes Member to Member cover.

Personal Accident

Capital Benefits £10,000 Temporary Benefits £100

Operates only where the club/individual has no alternative cover (eg via membership of a league or national association or sports body or personal insurance).

Money

£1,000 cash in custody &/or transit and £500 in private residence.

Excess £50

All Risks

£5,000

Contents belonging to the club or association – excludes items belonging to individuals and sports equipment whilst in use.

Excess £100 per claim

Premiums based on risk of individual sport: ranging from £132.50 to £362.50 pa + IPT at 5%

Please Note that: -

Material Damage insurance (Buildings cover) can be added, but will need to be individually rated per risk.

Employers Liability – limit of Indemnity £10,000,000, may also be added where wages do not exceed £20,000 pa.

Sport Clubs that have Public Liability and Personal Accident insurance through their membership with their governing bodies (ie swimming or basketball clubs) may have 'All Risks' with 'Money' cover for a premium of £32.50 + IPT. (Level of cover and Excess as above)

'Public Liability' – there may be exclusions/exceptions as to what is able to be covered (ie equestrian – liability attaching to horses)

'Personal Accident' – anything involving racing other than on foot is specifically excluded. Football and Rugby clubs (excluding Youth Groups) will be charged a higher rate for this cover.

'All Risks' – is available at higher levels £10,000, £20,000 etc if required for an increased premium.

If you have any queries regarding the scheme, or wish a proposal form and further details sent via email, please contact Lynne Walster (a voluntary club representative on the Executive Committee) and she will be more than happy to answer your queries on 01467 632418 or email at lynnewalster@uwclub.net.

A short proposal form will need to be completed by each group, these can also be obtained from Alison Hodgson or Christine Edward, on 01261 813383.

Reports From A Number Of Previous Grant Recipients

Clay Pigeon Shooting

by Bruce Petrie

This year was spent qualifying for the Scottish Sporting Team to compete in



Northern Ireland in mid September. Sporting is just one of many of the clay shooting disciplines. All my practise for this is done at my local club, Inverurie Clay Target Club. My aim was to represent Scotland as an under 21 in which there are only 2 places.

Most weekends were spent travelling all over Scotland attending the Sporting Selection Shoots. One of the highlights of the year was on the 20th of May when I attended Auchterhouse Country Sports near Dundee. Here I shot a personal best score of 94/100 and finished in second place overall. I attended all of the 18 selection shoots of the year and was Junior High Gun at each of them.

On the 19th of August I attended the Scottish Championships where shooters from all over Britain competed. I did not shoot to the best of my ability but still managed to become the Scottish Junior Champion with a score of 83/100. I also qualified for the Scotland Junior team in first place.



I then travelled to Ballyduggan Clay Pigeon Club in Northern Ireland on the 14th of September. Here I represented Scotland in the Home International Tournament against all the Home Nations. It was a difficult shoot and with a score of 77/100 I was the Scottish Junior High Gun. I missed out on Overall Junior High Gun by one point to one of the English Juniors.

At the end of the season I attended the Scottish FITASC Championships. This is one of the other shooting disciplines that I do not often shoot. I won the Junior section and became Scottish Junior FITASC Champion. This was a very satisfying end to a successful year.

My Second Year with The Scottish Junior Orienteering Squad (SCOTJOS)

by Finlay Langan

This year in scotjos I have run in three important events; the junior inter regional's (JIRC's), the Scottish 6days and the junior home international (JHI's). I have also done a week of training at Lagganlia lodge the week before the 6day event. Lagganlia is a week of training for people running in second year 14's age class.

The JIRC's took place in Yorkshire, in June, the individual race was on Malham and Gordale. It was quite an open area and fast running. There was about a hundred to a hundred and fifty people taking part all belonging to twelve different teams. Each region had a team and Scotland counted as one region. The next day was the relays it was all very competitive. SCOTJOS came second over all and we were very close behind Yorkshire junior squad which was on home territory.

This year the Scottish 6day event was at Grantown on Spey, it was really good. We camped on the campsite just outside Grantown and the Event Centre was at the high school. By the end of the 6days I was very tired because I had already been orienteering the week before it at Lagganlia lodge. I was 8th overall and 5th Brit.

The JHI's this year was held in Northern Ireland. We stayed at Greenhill Y.M.C.A. There were 32 people for each team 16 boys and 16 girls. The first day we ran on a mapped part of the Mourne mountains, it was an open rocky area. It was a misty day so visibility was very bad. That evening we had a ceilidh and what is called the O-factor which is like the X-factor but we change the words of the song so it relates to orienteering. Ours was based on 500 miles by the Proclaimers. The next day was the relay which was held at Hillborough fort after which we went to a leisure centre and had a meal courtesy of Lisburn Council. Scotland came second overall to England.

This year has been amazing with the Scottish Squad and I hope I get selected again next year. In 2008 SCOTJOS will go on tour for two weeks in Scandinavia I hope I can go because it will be amazing!!

Garioch Gymnastics

By Janine Lloyd

On the 12th/13th and 14th of October this year 6 of our new coaches attended their first coaching course – Women's Artistic Assistant course. This was held at our own Gym – the Garioch Community Centre, Inverurie. Many of our candidates doing the course are still competitive gymnasts; it is nice to see their own personal enthusiasm for the sport being passed on to new, young gymnasts.

Laurence Campbell and Karen Erridge (both parents), Eilidh Farquhar (gymnast), Jamie Czop (gymnast), Lucy Bradbury (ex-gymnast) and Gemma Gove (gymnast) all attended the 3-day course and gained a lot. Although many of them are ex or current gymnasts they all stated that they had learnt something new on the course and it was worthwhile.

The exam for this course will be held at the Garioch Community Centre early next year. Successful completion of the exam will qualify all the candidates to work their own group of gymnasts under the guidance of a Club Coach, this will allow the club to increase the size of the recreational classes and again hopefully work at reducing the waiting list. As many of them live outside Inverurie it is hoped that we will be able to boost coaching numbers at satellite centres around Inverurie.

Fostering a love of sport at a young age is a very important part of any sport however; gymnastics has typically always been a youth sport. Encouragement of young people to get involved in coaching is important for the development of the sports and also for the adoption of a "sport for life" attitude. Many of these young people will be able to continue their coaching if they go away to University and hopefully for many years after that.

Garioch Gymnastics Club would like to thank the Sports Council for the Grants, which has allowed us to financially be in a position to permit all these coaches to participate in their relevant coaching course.

Reports From A Number Of Previous Grant Recipients

Halden

by Patrick Low

On the 23rd of July I set off from my house to Aberdeen airport to catch a flight to Stavanger and then a connection to Oslo. From Oslo I then needed to get the train from the airport to the central train station to catch a train down to Halden near the Swedish border. Finally once I had got to Halden it was only a short 5 minute drive to Venashytta which is the Gimle IF club hut and where I would be staying for the next two weeks.

The next day the training began and the first thing we did was a 3km time trial. Everyone was a bit nervous at first but we were told just do your best and you'll be fine. It turned out OK in the end and when we had all finished we went back to the hytta for lunch before the afternoon session which was to be a relocation exercise. We were taken to a forest not far from the hytta and then had to follow one of the coaches who had all the maps. After a while he would throw the maps into the air and we would have to get one, find where we were and then navigate to the control site. It was good fun as you tried to beat everyone else to the control and relocate quickly.

On the Wednesday we stayed in the forest around the hytta and practiced putting out controls for other people to find. It was quite hard as you had to be sure you were on the right feature so that the person collecting it in would find it. In the afternoon we did a control pick exercise that also made use of what we had done in the morning as we put out the controls.

Thursday we went to a new area to the East. It took us a while to get there but when we got there it was worth it as it was a very nice area. The area was very runnable apart from some of the new houses that had been built and that weren't on the map. But they only affected the route to number one and after that it was great fun. After the training we had time to have a dip in one of the lakes before lunch which we had made already so we didn't have to go back to the Hytta. In the afternoon we just did a basic control pick to get to put some of the techniques we had learned into practice.

On the Friday we started in the morning with a long legs exercise which was in an area a fair bit away from the hytta. It really helped improve my route choices and I found it really useful. After the exercise we went to a small lake to go swimming which was next to where we did the relocation exercise. There was a big rock that you could jump off into the lake and we had loads of fun. We then went back to the hytta to have lunch and change as that afternoon we were having a rest. For the rest we travelled over the border into Sweden to do a bit of shopping at a big shopping centre.

Saturday morning we had a practice classic race in an area near where we were going to have the classic for the tour champs. After the first few controls I really got use to the map and really enjoyed the last little technical bit of the course. I was really happy with my time as well but only wished that that was the real thing. In the afternoon we had a practice sprint race on the edge of Halden. I new sprint races weren't my strong point but I thought I did quite well.

On the Sunday morning we did some relay practice and in the afternoon we played marsh football. At the beginning everyone tries to stay clean but then after a minute you all realise there is no hope so you don't care anymore. Its a lot harder than you think when you have to lift your leg above the marsh to kick the ball when your knee deep in mud.

Throughout the rest of the week we relaxed a bit more and had the tour champs which consists of a classic race, a middle distance race, and a sprint race which was held at Halden Castle. The Castle had some great views as it was built on a hill overlooking Halden but we didn't have time to look as the race was very short and fast. The other races were held in areas similar to what we had been training in and really tested our skills.

The day before we were due to fly back we left Halden to drive into Sweden

where we were to take part in a 10 man night relay called the Junior Tiomila. It starts at 2.30am in the morning and finishes around 8.30 in the morning. It was really exciting as there were so many people there and we were the only people from Great Britain there as most of the other teams are from Scandinavian clubs. The atmosphere was amazing and it really got you hyped up for your race. We were doing really well until around half way through one our team mispunched and we were disqualified. Apart from that it was a great event and we all really enjoyed the atmosphere.

Later that day we flew back to the UK. I really enjoyed the tour and thought it really helped me improve my skills.

ASA Swimming, Teaching and Coaching Level 1

By Gillian Bowie

The course was held at Alford Swimming Pool and ran over one evening and two weekends in June and July of last year. Our first evening was registration and child protection it was great meeting Alison Low our course tutor and the other course members. It was also great to see the varied age and it was a relief to know that I wasn't the only 30-40 year old on the course.

Straight into theory, this was very interesting and we were learning through slideshow and group participation. This definitely wasn't a sit back and listen course, we were all encouraged to ask questions and answer. We were doing visual demonstrations in the classroom to help prepare for our practical work, writing lessons plans which was new to me.

On the first Saturday we had 2 practical sessions teaching, I started in Tank 1 the beginners tank. We worked on water confidence, games, bobbing, we used egg flips, floats and woggles, I was really nervous too before hand but once the session was over I just wanted to keep going.

Being able to put into practise what I had learnt in the classroom and seeing the smiles and hearing the laughter of the swimmers was well worth the hard work and effort you have to put in.

After the practical session you have to evaluate the session this I found difficult.

Over the weekends we did lots of theory, practised our demonstrations, watched videos of the 4 strokes, wrote lesson plans, completed skill and stroke analysis. Each evening we would have homework to be completed for the next day as well as studying for the final exam.

But even though the course was non stop even frantic at times, with a fantastic tutor and happy swimmers it passes very fast. It built on the limited knowledge I had and made me more confident on poolside I feel overall a better teacher which can only benefit the swimmers I take.

I am very please to say I passed my level 1 on the 24th August 2007 and on the same day did my first evening of Registration and child protection on ASA Level 2 course

Reports From A Number Of Previous Grant Recipients

U17 European Cricket Championships 2007

by Ritchie Lamb

The European Championships this year were held at home in Scotland, with a significant difference being that matches were over two days with two innings each. The squad met for practice at Arbroath, the venue that we were to play our first game against Denmark. We hit some balls but the majority of the work was fielding. Afterwards, we went back to the university halls in Dundee where we were staying and rested up for the week ahead.



Unfortunately, the first day didn't entirely go to plan as Denmark batted nearly all of the first day, making 213 due to some rather defensive batting. I bowled quite well but wasn't rewarded with a wicket and had figures of 10-4-15-0. We lost one wicket before the close of play to Denmark's Under 19 bowler A. Ahmed. However, the second day went much better for myself and the team. I batted at No. 5 and arrived at the crease with the score at 81-3. My partner was Euan Chalmers

of Watsonians who is also in the Under 19 squad, and had been in great form. I started slowly but gradually played myself in, and tried to rotate the strike and keep the score moving. At lunch I was given instructions to accelerate after getting my eye in again. I managed to hit several fours and a six before further word came from the sidelines that a declaration was imminent and therefore 'everything must go.' The next over went for 22 off my bat including a six onto the clubhouse roof. The declaration came when 'Chubby' Chalmers reached his century. Our undefeated partnership of 178 was a tournament record and I finished on 73 not out.

In reply Denmark finished on 178 for 9 and the match was drawn, but Scotland finished with the majority of the points. This time I managed a wicket with figures of 3-1-8-1.

Our next opponents were Holland and we decided to have a bat on winning the toss. We batted well all the way down the order and made a good total of 298 on a suspect pitch. I scored 40 and before a lapse of concentration resulted in a loose drive caught in the gully. Holland however slumped with the bat and only managed to struggle to a total of 80 due to an innings of 39 not out from their skipper S. Allema - a good bowling performance all round but which would still have been improved with better thought processes and no catches being clanged. I bowled well with figures of 6-2-7-1.

We decided to enforce the follow-on on the second day, and took to the field once again. Holland's batting proved slightly better and we came tantalisingly close as Holland made 139-9. The game proved very exciting at the finish with about six fielders close to the bat with the spinners operating, but a draw was the result once again but with valuable bonus points to Scotland as we were going into the final encounter with a lead on champions Ireland.

The next game would undoubtedly be the hardest against the unbeaten Ireland to decide the championships. However, the first day of the final was completely cancelled due to rain meaning the game was just one innings a side. Ireland won the toss and surprisingly decided to bat. They batted well helped by some wayward bowling at times stacking up 233. I bowled tidily, but was unable to pick up a wicket and had figures of 8-3-23-0.

We started our batting quite well with our openers spending valuable time at the crease but there was a quick collapse and I soon arrived at the crease. I felt good

hitting a couple of boundaries by threading the ball through the off-side field. However, I was having some problems picking the googly of their leg spinner, and my uncertainty probably contributed to my downfall as I departed to probably the worst ball of the day, by hitting a full toss straight to mid-on who juggled and eventually took the straightforward catch. A real sickener but all was not lost for Scotland's title hopes as we were knowledgeable of the fact that the game didn't need to be won outright as our points against the other opposition gave us a vital lead. We slumped to 109-8 with around 15 overs left for the 9th wicket pair to survive. One more wicket would lose us the tournament. Craig Morrison of Prestwick and Michael Leask, my North buddy from Dyce, were still at the crease with one over left and doing a fantastic job of shrugging off the usual verbals from the Irish. We were all on the edge of our seats, but somehow they survived! And naturally there was a pitch invasion in celebration.

I think this season of cricket has probably been my best. Winning my first European Championship and performing well for Scotland throughout were definitely highlights, but I've also put in some good performances in the SNCL for Aberdeenshire including a five wicket haul against Arbroath and ended up finishing first in the club and third in the league bowling averages on 9.27 per wicket, with good economy and strike rates. Playing for North District was also a thrill this year, the most memorable event captaining an extremely young and unknown North side to victory over Central Under 18s. My thanks also go out to Donald Pirie and his team at Aberdeen University who have helped me with my fitness work over the last two years. The effects of their training have been considerable and I hope these benefits will continue during my training throughout the off season.

Check Out Our Website!

The site includes:

- Photos and reports of recent events
- The Aberdeenshire Sports Directory
- Grant Aid Information
- Details of Courses & Workshops
- Affiliation Benefits
- Minutes of Executive & Working Group Meetings
- Annual Action Plans
- Copies of the Newsletters

... and much more!

The site is updated on a regular basis, so why not have a look now. Your comments on the site would be welcomed - we are always keen to hear your views. You can contact us on 01261 813383 or email Christine.Edwards@aberdeenshire.gov.uk or Tracie-Ann.Lovie@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

ABERDEENSHIRE SPORTS AWARDS 2007

MAIN EVENT SPONSOR - MCINTOSH PLANT HIRE

The awards evening will be held at
The Exchange, Thainstone Mart, Inverurie on the 28th March 2008.

Category Details

*Sports Personality of the Year

This award aims to recognise the achievements of a top sports performer in 2007. (aged 18 or over)

*Young Male Sports Personality of the Year

This award aims to recognise the achievements of a top junior male sports performer in 2007. (U18 at 1/1/07)

*Young Female Sports Personality of the Year

This award aims to recognise the achievements of a top junior female sports performer in 2007. (U18 at 1/1/07)

*Coach of the year Award

This award aims to recognise the dedication and achievements of a sports coach in 2007.

*Team of the Year Award

This award aims to recognise the achievements and commitment of a sports team in 2007. This award applies to teams at all levels.

*Service to Sport Award

This award aims to recognise someone who has made an outstanding voluntary contribution to sport as administrator, helper or official, over a number of years. (Please note that previous winners of this award are not eligible for nomination)

* Outstanding Achievement of the Year Award

This award aims to recognise an individual who, for example:

- is new to a sport but has shown outstanding potential
- has overcome particular difficulties to pursue their chosen sport, showing courage and determination
- is returning to their sport after a lengthy break for injury
- or has achieved personal bests or broken records in their sport

This applies to an individual in sporting activities at any level, and deserves recognition for their achievements in 2007 (Please note that a winner of any other category will not be eligible to receive this award)

Criteria for Categories

* Sports Personality of the Year

1. Be an Aberdeenshire resident aged 18+
2. Compete in a sport recognised by sportscotland

* Young Male & Young Female Sports Personalities of the Year

1. Be an Aberdeenshire resident under 18 years
2. Compete in a sport recognised by sportscotland

* Coach of the Year Award

1. Coach an amateur sports club, team or individual within Aberdeenshire.
2. Coach a sport recognised by sportscotland.
3. Coaches in fully paid professional jobs are not eligible for this award (i.e. manager/coach of professional football club, professional tennis coach, professional golf coach)

* Team of the year Award

1. Team must be from an amateur sports club within Aberdeenshire.
2. Team must be from a sport recognised by sportscotland
3. The sports club, from which the team derives, must be affiliated to Aberdeenshire Sports Council

* Service to Sport Award

1. Be an Aberdeenshire resident.
2. For the purposes of this award, must not be a competitor or performer
3. Former winners of this award are not eligible for re-nomination

* Outstanding Achievement of the Year Award

1. Be an Aberdeenshire resident
2. Have an amateur status
3. Compete in a sport recognised by sportscotland

ABERDEENSHIRE SPORTS AWARDS 2007

Nomination Form

Please tick box

Sports Personality of the Year

Young Male Sports Personality of the Year

Young Female Sports Personality of the Year

Coach of the Year Award

Team of the Year Award

Service to Sport Award

Outstanding Achievement of the Year Award

Nominated Person/Team

Name _____ Team _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Date of birth _____

Club _____

Sport _____

Current level of involvement _____

Nominated by

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Position/relationship with club/individual _____

Declaration

I hereby nominated the above named sportsperson for the _____ (category)
And confirm to the best of my knowledge, all details given in support of this nomination are accurate.

Signed _____ Date _____

Reasons for Nomination

Please give as much information as you can about the nominated person/team, continuing on a separate sheet if necessary in order that the selection committee can give your nomination their fullest consideration.

Achievement to Date

Highlights in 2006

Future Targets

Any Additional Information

Completed nomination forms should be returned to
Secretary, Aberdeenshire Sports Council, C/o 1 Church Street, Macduff, AB44 1UR
By 22nd February 2008

NB: There should be ONE nomination per club for the Service to Sport Award. Previous winners of the Service to Sport Award are not eligible for re-nomination