

Hi everyone,

We hope you are all having a happy and safe Christmas holiday

It's been a chilly finish to what has been a stellar year for the club. Thank you to all who were able to attend the recent AGM, and to everyone who really tried but were unable to make the evening. It was very close to Christmas so we appreciate it is a busy time for everyone.

Now, when laid out in full view, we had a huge year this year. The full list is below but it is worth highlighting some of the key achievements of the year.

Firstly, driven by Anne McKirdy, we had the showing of "Atlantic" to a number of schools and the club, with a Q&A after each showing with the director. The effort resulted in educating hundreds of students about the recent history of our coastline and some of the challenges we currently face from both an environmental and community perspective. As a Surf Club we also have a community role as educators.

Second, both the Hour of Power and the Shells Parent Surf Sessions were a roaring success. Yes, there are things we can improve on, and with more trainers and more people involved next year we can see things going from strength to strength. Special mentions goes to both Breda Scott and Ann Mc Kirdy who put in a massive effort to be there every weekend. With more people involved, we will continue to increase the number of kids who are getting valuable experience in the ocean. Linda Fahrlin also contributed a massive amount of quality work to the design and image of the club throughout the year. Thanks also to our team of Surf Instructors, especially our point man Brian Tivnan, who all regularly went above and beyond to make sure every kid felt safe and enjoyed their time in the water. Eddie and Seamus from iSurfIreland also gave a huge amount of their time to help with the Shells Parent Surf Sessions.

Third, its also a fair call to make that the two contests Co Sligo held this year were considered two of the best ever local contests held in Ireland. That was direct feedback from the other clubs and the ISA. Again, there was an energetic team involved at all times and Jason Southcombe and Kian Egan are worth a special mention for pushing these events to the next level. The smiles on the kids faces after the Junior Event told the whole story.

Fourth, the effort with ongoing training in the pool led by Derek and Ray is brilliant. The fact that people are committing to weekly training over the winter months for the betterment of our kids and the community is just fantastic. The group is there training, and developing the safety skills which are critical to the

progress of this club over the next number of years. Well done to everyone and can see you all powering through the Surf Instructor exams in the new year!

Summary of the year:

- Club Constitution & Code of Conduct
- Winter Junior League Contests
- Atlantic Movie Screening
- Hour of power
- Parents Session
- Development Squad
- Coaching Initiatives and Equipment
- Quiksilver Junior
- Club Summer Party and BBQ
- Safeguarding
- Eurosurf 2017
- Strandhill Surf Open

Financially we achieved a lot with a little, balanced the books and worked closely with our sponsors to be as effective as possible with the resources at our disposal. Again, with more volunteers and more input from existing and new sponsors, our club will continue to grow.

There were a number of you who, via the surveys a few months ago, have volunteered to get involved. Thank you, by sharing the work around, this club will continue to go from strength to strength. Anyone else who is also keen, or able to help out a few hours here and there, please let me know and I will look to include you in the various committees we will be forming to continue the good work we have all started. Even the odd few hours here and there will make a big difference for the club over the year.

Our memberships are set from January to December each year. In the new year we will be updating all members on the link to go to in order to sign up, and we will be including the tiered member plans.

The following people were voted in at the AGM. Over the next few months we will be adding Committee members as the roles evolve.

President - Derek Parle

Secretary (actual title under review) - Brian Parle

Treasurer - Rory Howard

Training Officer - Saoirse O Donoghue

Child Officers - Roy & Shirley Kilfeather

Finally, it is important that everyone has a clear understanding of what the present state of play is in relation to the existing and future home of our club.

The present building building is owned by the council, run by the Maritime Board and is co-habitated by Voya, two surf Schools and the Co Sligo Surf Club. The general agreement is that the present building is not 'fit for purpose' and there is a feasibility study which is expected to be completed in the next month or so which will allow the Council, Maritime Board and Co Sligo Surf Club to objectively decide the most suitable future home for the club. As the information comes to hand we will be organising a sub committee to evaluate the information and relay updates to the active club members.

The Committee is unanimous, and as a direct result of feedback from all active members of the club over the last year: **Our guiding principal for making any and all decisions for Co Sligo Surf Club is that the welfare and safety of our children is the most important factor.** This will be our guiding philosophy as we map out the future of the club over the next few months and years.

Thank you all for making this such a fun year and we are all really looking forward to time in the ocean in 2018.

Thanks

Brian Parle (Secretary - for lack of a more creative tile. All suggestions welcome!)