



Wow, when you thought it had gone down a different path than you had anticipated the path takes you further into a place that we never anticipated. I realise this is a Kitesports Membership organisation but the world events are going to integrate into our industry more and more. The horrific war in Ukraine, the energy prices becoming higher and higher and COVID still being a factor in day to day living; all of these are going to contribute to escalating kite prices and a change in the way we kite around the world. We have sadly seen Jim for Kiteworld close their magazine down. This is a huge loss to the industry and I for one will be very sad to see such a consistent part of the community disappear. We at the BKSA will continue to be working with Jim and we are very pleased about that. The enthusiasm on top of the knowledge he has in our industry needs to be revered and used. We as a community and industry can always achieve more and better, and it is with people like Jim that this will happen.

As you know Kiting is now an Olympic sport and we are well into the cycle towards Paris 2024. Speaking to the coaches and team around them; we are really excited about this cohort and have some very good chances of some medals. This is an exciting time. Youth development is growing. We have fantastic regional racing clinics going on for 13-16 year old teenagers; we work across 5 regions trying to bring more people into the sport and racing in particular.

Our membership levels are continuing to climb and are now better than pretty much the whole of the time of BKSA history. This is exciting as together we can make more of a difference and impact our sport in more positive ways. We now have great new offices on the front in Sandbanks, Poole; slightly too far for me to travel to regularly from Scotland! But it is great to have a base in a real building rather than running the BKSA, a National Governing Body out of Andy Gratwick's shed in his garden!! In the last report I discuss the biggest IT project we have undertaken so far; this was to automate and get live all 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. I can proudly say that this is now almost complete and working really well. This is not only a massive cost saving to us but also will help develop areas of the membership historically untouched.

We have seen a huge upsurge in Winging. A massively dynamic addition to the kiting experience that allows even more people to join this ever expanding sport. We are now working with the RYA and BSUPA on increasing the training and schooling provisions.

And finally, I wanted to say thank you to the team in Poole and all that they do for the sport and the BKSA. Without their hard work and enthusiasm, we would not be half the sport we are. I am incredibly proud to say I work alongside Andy and the other Board members. Between us we are trying to make the kiting world a better place.

Will Richardson

BKSA Chairman