

## INTRODUCING ... Dyslexia Scotland's Ambassadors

Dyslexia Scotland's President, Sir Jackie Stewart, and the Board of Directors have taken the first steps to form a group of 'ambassadors'. These high profile Scots, who are notable within various sections of society, will help the charity advance awareness of the issues faced by people with dyslexia throughout the relevant communities in Scotland. We have already featured Steven Naismith, Rangers football star, who has agreed to be one of our Ambassadors. In addition, at a meeting hosted by Sir Jackie and our Chairman David Shaw on 9<sup>th</sup> May, we are delighted to say that the following people have agreed to be part of this important group.



### Paul McNeill - Scottish Football Association Regional Manager

Paul is dyslexic and has been Regional Manager (West) for the Scottish Football Association since 2006. Within this role he is responsible for the delivery and development of the Youth Action Plan and he operates at different levels within the sports industry and local government to drive forward the development of the Scottish FA Region. The main targets are to increase participation; recruit and retain volunteers; develop club infrastructures; coach education and development of players. (See his story in 'Dyslexia and Us', page 100)

### Paul commented,

"When Dyslexia Scotland asked me to be an Ambassador I was very proud and excited and jumped at the opportunity. After learning that I had dyslexia at the age of 13 and being given very little support, I have had to overcome a number of challenges to be able to succeed. I hope that via this role I will be able to help provide support to Dyslexia Scotland and show young and old people with Dyslexia that they can achieve whatever they want in life..."

### Nicola Morgan



Nicola Morgan is an award-winning author of around 90 books published, mostly for young people. A former dyslexia specialist, she became interested in all aspects of the learning brain, including and especially the teenage brain. Author of *Blame My Brain - The Amazing Teenage Brain Revealed*. Nicola is a professional speaker and is also the former Chair of the Society of Authors in Scotland.



### Mark Stoddart - International Designer and Artist

Mark, who is dyslexic, has a unique sculpture workshop in Ayrshire that was founded in 1990. Mark's sculptures have become highly collectable items sought after by clients the world over. Foremost among these is a range of glass-topped coffee and dining tables with bronze-bases, some sculptured into wild animal forms. Others take their inspiration from technology, among them the Apollo Lunar Landing Module table, one of which belongs to former US astronaut Buzz Aldrin. (See Mark's story in 'Dyslexia and Us', page 126)



### Ben Thomson

Ben is severely dyslexic but was luckily diagnosed at an early age. He was able to obtain a degree in Physics from Edinburgh University and has subsequently had a successful career as Chief Executive and then Chairman of the investment bank Noble Group for over ten years. He is now Chairman of a number of organisations, including the National Galleries of Scotland. He is also Chairman of Barrington Stoke, a Scottish publishing company which publishes books for dyslexics and reluctant readers.

Like many other dyslexics, Ben gained huge confidence through success at sport. He was a Scottish international athlete.



### Keith Cook - Fencing Champion

Keith, who is dyslexic, lives in Edinburgh and is a business partner of Fencing Fun, a company devoted to introducing the sport of fencing to primary school children. He is also British and Scottish Foil Champion, Keith has represented his country and won medals all over the world, including five Commonwealth medals. He has also won a medal in every British Championship for the last five years, and is the Scottish Championship for a record seven times running and unbeaten in Scotland for 7 years.

**Watch this space for future updates about the Ambassadors.**