

INTRODUCING ... Dyslexia Scotland's Ambassadors

Dyslexia Scotland's President, Sir Jackie Stewart, and the Board of Directors have a group of 'Ambassadors'. These high profile Scots, who are notable within various sections of society, help the charity to advance awareness of the issues faced by people with dyslexia throughout the relevant communities in Scotland. We are delighted that the following people are part of this important group.



PAUL MCNEILL is a Scottish Football Association Regional Manager. He 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.



KEITH COOK is a 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.



MARK STODDART is an 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.



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.



BEN THOMSON is severely dyslexic but luckily his dyslexia was identified 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.



CHRIS TISO is a well known and award winning business man and chief executive of the Tiso Group, the leading outdoor clothes and equipment supplier. He took over the family business in 1992 at the age of 21 following the death of his father. In twenty years Chris Tiso has increased the company's turnover from £5 million to £30 million. With dyslexia in his family, he has seen the unhappiness it can cause first hand.



STEVEN NAISMITH, a professional football player, has become an Ambassador for Dyslexia Scotland as he is dyslexic. He was born in Irvine and first played for Kilmarnock, winning several awards as a young player. He transferred to Rangers and remained there until this Summer when he transferred again to Everton. He recently said that the battle for him to read a book is far harder than any football match.