

MUSAC - Minutes of Committee Meeting – 7th June 2006

- Attendees:** Sandy McPherson (SMcP), Ian Smith (IS), Rab Malcolm (RM), Billy Symington (BS), Kenny Donaldson (KD), Dougie Ritchie (DR)
- Non Committee:** Gary Calvert (GC), Fiona Smith (FS), David Crosbie (DC), Anne Goswell (AG)
- Apologies:** Tom Hares, Paul Guiney, Penny & Danny, Peter, Carol, Jill & Douglas

The meeting opened at 7.01 pm and closed at 8.16 pm.

Agenda No Agenda, purpose of meeting to set objectives & targets for this year.

**Sandy McPherson
Chairperson** Welcomed and thanked everyone for coming to the meeting, especially to our two new committee members, Kenny Donaldson & Dougie Ritchie. He also mentioned that there would be a break in the norm of committee meetings and that non committee members would be allowed to bring up any relevant points due to members not getting the normal 2 weeks notice. He asked that all questions go through the chair.

**Ian Smith
Secretary** In his role as secretary he had two agendas emailed to him from members.

David Crosbie **Topic 1.** The lack of available Instructors for open water training.

Ally McLeod **Topic 2** Come & Try night for the Scouts

Topic 1. The discussion was handed over to DC to explain his concern, and this was that he feels there is a lack of Instructors available for open water training. IS replied, that it should be remembered that the time given up by Instructors is voluntary and no demands can be made on them, but with the advent of the Summer, better weather and more of a chance of diving the East Coast he hoped that more Instructors would start becoming available, DC replied that he is well aware of this and is grateful to those that are out, but still feels there is an issue that requires to be addressed.

AG mentioned that she was with another club and in comparison MUSAC was far more active and helpful through her time in the club.

KD mentioned that DC was not the only one to raise this concern, and that when Gill & himself were going through there training they felt the same sometimes, SMcP noted that there can be a clash between the times that trainees are available to go out and the Instructors being available, there has been times of three Instructors out and no trainees, after much discussion back and forth, it is agreed that there is a lack of Instructors in the open water, and this had to be addressed.

IS was going to mention later on in the meeting, as part of his remit as D.O. he is going to try and encourage, if they are still interested, those who had started their Branch Instructor (B.I.) assessment, to assist them getting back on course, Ann- Marie Jamieson has already emailed him to this extent, IS to hound the others.

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Discussion then took place about other members becoming B.I's and what the requirements are, this again was discussed and KD, DR & DC all agreed that they would like to be able to assist where and when possible, and possibly go for their B.I certificated when they meet the right criteria.

IS replied that this did not unfortunately deal with the immediate problem, and asked the committee, to think about a more imminent solution.

SMcP replied that more training weekends would help, everyone gets a weekend away and a lot of training can be done over the two days, this was agreed that it would be beneficial, he also noted that not every trainee can make the Sunday dives, and a system for members / trainees to inform Instructors that they are available throughout the week could be designed, IS replied that something could be put on the website i.e. Calendar or Form type thing, but he mentioned that he's not that clever with the web stuff especially for the later idea but would look into it, DR mentioned that he found the best way was to badger the Instructors by constantly phoning them into submission. After 40 minutes discussion a summary of outcomes were as follows.

Pending B.I's to be approached about perusing their courses.

New potential B.I's to be approached.

The possibility of more training weekends to be arranged.

Communication media on the website, for informing of Trainee / Instructor availability.

Instructors to be asked to carry on their hard work, and commitment, from the pool training, onto the open water training.

Regional Coach to be approached for assistance of other Instructors (as a last resort hopefully)

B.I meeting to be held.

**Ian Smith
BDO**

At this point took the opportunity to thank all the Instructors for assisting with the lectures, and especially to Sandy, Billy, David, who along with himself put a lot of time into re-writing the lectures in power point.

Topic 2 Ally McLeod had requested that the committee discussed the possibility of a Come & Try for the Scouts ages 10 -15 years.

IS thought that the minimum age requirement in SSAC for being allowed on aqualung was 12 years, BS thinks 15 years and is going to check with SSAC at his next meeting, the other issue raised was the Instructors having to registered with the CRBS (Central Registration Body in Scotland) which involves a criminal records check, a discussion over established Instructors being exempt through granddad rights, and being compulsory for new B.I's, the general outcome was that, because children were involved, despite parents signing disclaimers, that all involved with the Come & Try should be on the CRBS. Thus keeping things legal, again in summary, the committee has agreed to the

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Come & Try as long as the following criteria is met.

Instructors involved are on the CRBS

The age group is kept to SSAC recommendations

Date to be set after training is completed and pool a bit quieter

RM asked whether the Club would be closing the pool sessions over the Summer period, firstly so he could inform Musselburgh Leisure Centre and secondly this would help with open water training, it was agreed that the pool sessions would be closed from the last pool session on the **28th of June** and resume on the **2nd of August**, with this discussion turned to the pool, talk of redeeming money because the pool was broken and finding alternative pools for carrying out some of the deeper assessments, IS mentioned coincidentally he had received an email from Pentland Sub Aqua Club offering MUSAC to use places at the Royal Commonwealth Pool (RCP) that they hire every 2nd Thursday of the month, he informed the group that three trainees and Instructors were going the following night, and that he has already been in touch with the RCP about hiring it for the club, but has had no response back from the RCP, IS to pursue this, as well as approaching Midlothian branch at Newbattle Pool, the discussion turned to whether not the Club should be subsidising or covering the costs for the Trainees / Instructors to go to or hire another pool.

IS felt that the Club should as they are being forced to go to another pool due to our pool being knackered, BS felt that it was unfair on all the other Club members who pay their pool fees, not to get some refund, assuming that there is some refund coming from the pool fees, this was generally agreed by the committee although some could see where IS was coming from.

AOB

BS raised an issue on our 4 weeks grace we give new members, in light of a recent fatal incident that has occurred in another Branch, where a trainee was taken into open water for the first time, after 8 weeks pool training and having not joined SSAC, thus making the D.O., committee members and other Instructors involved liable for any legal action taken.

BS suggested that when new members come along, they can have their come & try night and sign a disclaimer, this covers them through SSAC for that night's C&T, but then they should be asked to join SSAC to be covered by Insurance, KD voiced concern that this might scare people off if we ask for monies up front and with the time lapse from coming along, getting a medical and until the membership was received, BS assured that SSAC can turn membership around in a week or so, and also mentioned anybody joining PADI would be required to pay up front, again some lengthy discussion took place about the pros & cons.

The outcome was that they would be asked to join SSAC after their C & T night They could do a self assessment with their medical form for SSAC

Their £10 C&T fee would cover them for 4 weeks pool fees

After a maximum or before 4 weeks they would be asked to pay all MUSAC fees as well as getting their medical form signed off by a Doctor.

Welcome pack to be amended to this, and that the medical exam made clearer

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that they don't have to use their own if they are too expensive, and that Doctor Russell can be used.

Sandy McPherson Closed the meeting at 8:15 pm not all topics were covered and objectives set, it was agreed to have another meeting next week same place same time
7pm Musselburgh Learning centre.
(Lottery and new logo to be discussed as well as objectives for next year)