

## **MUSAC Committee Meeting**

**11 October 2006, Musselburgh Learning Centre**

**Present:** Sandy McPherson (*Chair*), Ian Smith (*BDO*), Don Lees (*Regional Coach*), Billy Symington (*RI, Eqpt Officer*), Douglas Ritchie, Kenny Donaldson, Iain Shaw, Karen Davies, Danny Dutton (*Secretary*)

Chair: Sandy McPherson

Minutes: Danny Dutton

### **Meeting commenced at 19.03 hrs**

There was no formal agenda offered although Ian Smith offered his **Report** as **BDO** with an appended **AOB** for the meeting (*see below*). Given the timescale of the meeting all subject contributions were asked to be limited to 10 mins max.

**BDO's Report** (*see appended below*)

#### **ACTION**

- 1) Given the success of the impromptu training weekends it was proposed that more should be organised with advanced notice in the near future. This will be partially facilitated through the website where the online events calendar has proved to be a successful means for organising venues and the availability of Instructors, often at the last minute.
- 2) **SMcP** will produce new tuition cards for the Pool training sessions based on the updated information available on the SSAC website to bring it in line with revised national guidelines.
- 3) **DL** expressed the potential willingness of other clubs to provide Instructor cover from other branches as necessary, especially with Open Water assessments. As previously discussed this will be pursued. However, it was agreed that the sensible capacity based on the existing ratio of available Instructors for new trainees within the Club at particular stages of training would be best limited to six persons.
- 4) The distribution of SSAC / MUSAC lecture discs will be restricted to trainees about to undergo tests to encourage their attendance at lectures. Discs will be released for revision purposes prior to their exam.

#### **Equipment**

**BS** brought up the issue of the loan of club equipment and the recent occurrence of refilled cylinders containing foul air. Recently cylinders have not been returned for use during Pool sessions on Wednesday evenings and the likelihood of the need to impose measures to ensure their return were discussed.

#### **ACTION**

- 1) Signing out protocols for all club equipment will be improved
- 2) A system of fines will be imposed for the non-return of equipment on a weekly basis. It was proposed that a kit comprising e.g. BCD, Regulators and Cylinder would incur a penalty of £15.00 in total but that cylinders alone would be charged at £5.00 per item. Given the present rental rates from shops etc this was

considered fair practice. **If persons are unable to return cylinders fully recharged then they should try and arrange something at the end of the days diving with the others that are in attendance**, if not, then appropriate notice should be given to the *BDO* or the *Equipment Officer*.

- 3) Cylinder re-fills should only be obtained from reputable sources i.e. Edinburgh Dive Centre, North Berwick or Coldingham. A receipt or logbook entry should be kept in any event in order to track a potential source of contaminated air supply.

### **Replacement / Sale of Club Equipment**

**BS** raised the ongoing issue of the need to replace or increase the present stock of Club equipment.

**IS** re-iterated the need to reapply for a Small Award Scheme Grant (£5000) through the Lottery Grant Scheme. He will speak again to Colin Forbes although **KD** has expressed willingness to undertake a fresh bid. This would need a list of items (and relevant usage) required in support of a new bid.

**DR** mentioned the funds raised by the WHW walk which will eventually total @ £500. Immediate purchase options may be considered from this source in due course..

**BS** suggested that trainees might have an option to purchase particular items of existing equipment as their training progresses, should they wish, but on the understanding that it remains their responsibility to have items tested.

### **Diving Trips**

**SMcP** said he would be trying to organise more trips away in the New Year – Scapa Flow and the Summer Isles were mooted.

In the meantime more training weekends will be arranged for both new trainees progressing into Open water and qualified divers wishing to advance their skills.

### **ACTION**

Options for venues and timetabling will be distributed through the members email list and on the website.

### **Try Dives**

**IS** proposed another Try Dive night, possibly as early as mid November although this may be deferred until early in the New Year. Spaces would necessarily be limited to 20 places on a first-come-first-served basis.

### **ACTION**

**KD** will produce posters and flyers for distribution at Musselburgh Pool as required when date decided.

## **Club Logo**

IS reported that there had been some negative feedback about the logo design via the website forum. Given the lack of progress since IS had made enquiries for T-shirt production and registering the design with a local firm was it still worth pursuing?

The decision of the committee was to endorse the existing design; most felt that it was a bit late for people to air negative opinions after the invited opportunity to comment or produce alternatives had passed.

### **ACTION**

The existing design approved and to be produced.

## **Pre Club Talk Nights**

IS proposed that Members and other viable persons will be invited to contribute to and attend talks or slide shows covering any diving related themes, including holiday's etc. to be held at a suitable venue.

### **ACTION**

This was approved and is to be investigated further

## **Christmas Dinner / Party**

A suitable date and venue is to be chosen for the Christmas Dinner. Members from other local clubs may be invited to attend depending on venue and numbers etc.

### **ACTION**

DR and KD to look at options.

A provisional date of 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec has been proposed with a venue at the Great Wall Restaurant, Lothian Road. An email circular and website posting has been sent out to members to that effect.

## **Use of Commonwealth Pool**

Options for sharing pool hire times and costs with the Pentland Club will be re-examined.

### **ACTION**

SMcP / IS to follow up.

## AOB

BS raised the issue of the training schedule for members doing a crossover from other training bodies to SSAC. At present there are no hard and fast SSAC guidelines for Branches to follow and the necessary impetus has been with Branch Diving Officers – this may lead to a lack of consistency across SSAC Branches and should be addressed by SSAC General Committee.

## ACTION

In the meantime it was agreed that IS (BDO) and DL (RC) would assess the likely requirements of individual candidates before embarking on any training or re-training.

**The meeting was concluded at 20.14hrs**

The next Committee Meeting will be held on .....

## APPENDIX 1

### BDO's Report for Committee Meeting- on the 11<sup>th</sup> Oct 2006

Objectives and outcomes from previous meetings on the 7/06/06 & 14/06/06

| Objective                             | Outcome  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Pending BI's in pursuing their course | Gary, Ann-Marie re-sat their lecture part and will be continuing in achieving BI award               |
| New prospective BI's approached       | Dougie Ritchie attended lecture & has completed both pool assessments.                               |
| Training Weekends                     | A couple of impromptu weekends to complete Training- these worked well. More pre organised required? |
| Communication medium for training     | Web calendar as well as diving page set up. On website   |
| Branch Instructor Meeting covered.    | BI meeting held on the 28/6/06 many topics   |
| Training Cards for Pool               | New cards still to be produced. (see training book for copying info)                                 |

### To-date

1. Pool Training :- 2 on pool training George Carnie & Neil Marshall - possibly 2 more.  
*Douglas Elliot and Gill Dallas have left the club*
2. Open Water: - 2 Crossovers, Carole & Peter, and 4 trainees Lori, Gavin, Jim and Craig.
3. Completed: - **Sports Divers** = Danny, Penny, David Crosbie & Karen Davies  
**Master Diver** = Dougie Ritchie
4. SSAC lectures completed on disc in power point, lecture notes and overheads, all Instructors to get a copy, members can have a copy for their records if required.

**End of BDO's report**

**AOB for the meeting**

1. Come & Try Night
2. Club Logo do we run with it-
3. Pre Club Talk Nights about relevant diving stuff or just slide shows of holidays or diving.
4. Christmas Night out Ideas