

MUSAC Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 22 August 2007

Musselburgh Learning Centre



Present: Ian Smith (BDO), Sandy McPherson (Chair), Billy Symington, Dougie Ritchie, Penny Dutton (Minutes)

Apologies: Danny Dutton, Kenny Donaldson

1. Matters Arising

Disclosure checks: It was agreed that in line with pending legislation and subsequent changes in SSAC policy, all branch instructors should complete Disclosure Scotland checks. At present it is only a requirement for people undertaking the BI training.

Action: Penny Dutton will check on the current procedure with Jan Crawford, CVA officer, SSAC, request application forms and circulate to all BIs.

Age limit: There was some initial discussion about catering for younger members through a junior snorkel club. This will be put on the agenda for fuller discussion at the next committee meeting.

2. Training weekends

Sandy is starting to look at booking options for both Sports and Master Diver training. Inverary and Oban were suggested venues. October is likely date as there will be members ready to start open water training soon.

3. Diving Officers Report

Trainees: 12 Sports Diver trainees on the books and 3 Master Diver trainees. Sports Diver trainees – 3 crossovers, 2 almost completed pool training, 4 in pool training, 3 on open water training.

Nitrox course: Congratulations to Janette, Gerald, Karen, Colin and Dougie for completing the course and thanks to Billy Symington for organising it through Dive Safari.

Dive Lectures: Due to start in the next couple of weeks in the Musselburgh Learning Centre. Ian proposes to offer a Saturday morning workshop to cover 4-5 more straightforward lectures and for revision.

Action: Ian will notify about dates, confirm venue and check on suitable dates for workshop.

Branch Instructors: Ian stressed the need to determine the commitment of BIs to carry out open water training. At present it is the same few who are having to take this on. He has emailed all BIs. It may be necessary to draw up a list of active and non-active instructors, and to draft in instructors from other clubs to help out.

MUSAC Merchandise: order forms available from the MUSAC website.

3. Equipment

Billy made the point that BIs should use their own equipment rather than the clubs, when instructing trainees in the pool. There is not always enough equipment for trainee use. He pointed out that the club rules are that the equipment is primarily for the use of trainees and should only be used by club members as an interim measure whilst their own equipment is being serviced. He suggested that the new kit should be numbered and the complete rig allocated to individual trainees for the duration of their training.

Action: Danny will produce a notice for the equipment room to remind members that they should notify one of the equipment officers when borrowing equipment and must sign equipment in/out of the book

4. Trips

Scapa Flow – Sandy has paid a deposit for the B&B from the deposit he had already gathered in from members.

A deposit will now be taken for all trips organised, to cover the costs and to ensure that others don't miss out. The deposit will be non-refundable for boat trips, unless the person finds a replacement.

5. MUSAC Membership fees

The Committee discussed again the issue of late fees and non-payment by some individuals who continue to be members of SSAC. It was agreed that people will be given a month to pay their fees, after which they will no longer be deemed to be members of MUSAC.

Action: Penny to email all members to advise of above and to remind that fees are due on 5/9/07, either in lump sum or by deposit and direct debit. Rab Malcolm, Treasurer, to pass on names of paid up MUSAC members to Penny/Danny to check against the lists of SSAC memberships that they receive.

6. AOCB

Lottery Funding: A grant of £4111 has been awarded. £9382 was originally applied for, but purchasing a computer and software was not deemed to be the best use of lottery funds. A previous grant had funded Stab jackets and equipment and the lottery will not fund the same thing twice.

The grant will cover the purchase of:

- 3 x ladies Stabs
- 2 x 12 ltr cylinders
- 8 x octopus regs
- 8 x triple consoles
- 8 x dive computers.

It was proposed that club funds are used to purchase 1st and 2nd stages compatible with the octopus and consoles. Ian also proposed that a laptop is purchased from club funds for delivering the lectures. Billy pointed out that money will be raised from selling off the surplus club equipment.

Action: Billy and Dougie to check what additional equipment is required to make up 8 complete rigs. As this may amount to a considerable sum, Ian will

check if an extraordinary meeting is required to get approval from MUSAC members to use club funds.

Huge thanks to Colin Forbes who assisted initially and also to Kenny Donaldson who progressed it latterly to this successful outcome.

Penny Dutton
Joint Secretary MUSAC