

Musselburgh Sub-Aqua Club
Additional Committee Meeting

15 June 2011



Present

Karen Shaw (KS), Iain Shaw (IS), Sandy McPherson (SMC), Alastair McLeod(AMC),
Clare Dillon(CD), Dave Rillie (DR), Ian Smith(ICS), Fiona Smith(FS),

Apologies

Dave Carruthers (DC)

The purpose of tonight's meeting was to discuss the point below in more depth and agree some proposals to put forward to club members for going forwards:

Previous discussion from AGM: Club Equipment topics

At the AGM it was discussed the possibility of going forwards with equipment hire/donation and the Committee was to discuss this at a later date:

The reason behind this is that the club equipment has recently been used more and more by qualified divers, and unfortunately the equipment is not being looked after properly and returned late on occasion (recently regulators went in for a service and were found to have stones in them!) This then results in a lack of equipment being available for trainees; also there is increased wear & tear and depreciation on the equipment, which in turn will increase maintenance costs and the need to replace equipment quicker.

Due to the Lottery Grant funding not being as available as in previous years, the club is in the process of replacing club equipment from the club bank account. Any additional ongoing maintenance costs of the equipment will also have to come out of club funds.

To cover the increasing running costs, one way forward would be to increase Membership fees: the Committee feels this would be unfair to the members as they already help to pay towards the running costs and purchase of club equipment from the annual club levies, as well as having incurred purchasing / maintenance and depreciation costs for their own equipment.

If more and more members decide to not purchase equipment when qualified or decide to sell their equipment and use the free club equipment, the club could not sustain the increased costs. This is the primary reason why the committee has suggested the proposals outlined below:

Proposals:

Due to the circumstances above the Committee would like to propose the following (to start from 1st October 2011, this allows members additional time to purchase their own equipment)

Options:

A No further borrowing after six free uses for qualified members

Or

B Hire charge (after six initial free uses) for four further occasions, £5.00 per item (ie tank, stab jacket, regulators, computer, suit) - £20.00 maximum hire. (£10.00 deposit still applies).

(If the tanks are taken out empty ie they need filled before diving there will be no hire charge, the tank still needs to be filled before returning the following week by 8.00pm, if the cylinder is not returned filled, you will lose your deposit, (this would mean that the tank cannot be used for training).

Due to time constraints we are asking paid up club members to vote using one of the following options: (Please vote by Wednesday 1st August 2011).

An email vote

or

poll box for the next two Wednesdays' at pool

or

online via the web page.

Once a decision is made and the club members have all voted and agreed, this will be added to the Club Constitution, welcome packs and webpage.

The Committee members have looked into numerous other SCOTSAC / BSAC branches and Dive shop hire charges these are essential for purchasing and maintaining a high level of safe diving equipment.

An example of another SCOTSAC branch charges:

West Lothian Branch www.westlothiansac.co.uk/history/2011/ire_charge11.html

Tank and Air	£5.00
Buddy Stab Jacket	£5.00
Regulator with Octopus, contents gauge, depth gauge and compass	£5.00
All of the above together	£15.00

1. MUSAC has already in place that trainees have the use of the club equipment free of charge until they finish pool and open water training and are signed off by the Diving Officer.

The club equipment has always been purchased to allow everyone carry out their training and give them enough time to see if they like the sport before purchasing these big items themselves. Unfortunately the club is not in a financial position where we can hire equipment out for the longer term.

2. From one AGM to the next (March to March) a qualified member is entitled to use club equipment on six separate occasions (deposit £10 paid). This is in place if the equipment is available and trainees don't need it. Trainees will always be prioritised (every member has had this privilege for their own training).
3. It has been requested that the club equipment must be returned to the cupboard by **8.00pm** on the Wednesday evening, this will allow the Equipment Officer time to check for damage and complete hire/return paperwork/deposits etc. If the equipment is not back by 8.00pm you will lose your deposit. This also allows enough time so the club equipment is available for trainees 8.30pm pool training.

To allow the equipment cupboard to run as smooth as possible club equipment should not be checked out before 9.30pm, (to allow kit to be used for pool training).

The £10.00 refundable deposit that was voted on at the AGM and unanimously passed applies to any equipment being borrowed from the Club, and is refunded when the equipment is returned on time and in reasonable condition.

Meeting ended 8:15pm