

Musselburgh Sub Aqua Club (MUSAC)

Minutes of Annual General Meeting – 21 February 2007
Musselburgh Learning Centre



Present: Ian Smith (BDO), Penny Dutton, Rhona Ritchie, Dougy Ritchie, Karen Davies, Iain Shaw, Fiona Smith, Gill Donaldson, Dave Carruthers, Kenny Donaldson, Tom Hares, Jan Halvorson, Ally Mcleod, Gary Calvert, Rab Malcolm, Paul Guiney, Sandy McPherson, Danny Dutton, Dave Crosbie, Colin Forbes, Gavin Ballantyne, Billy Symmington, Anne Goswell, Adrian Kidd

Chairpersons Welcome - Sandy McPherson

Apologies received

Kirsty Robertson, Ann-Marie Jamieson, Russell Holland, Gerald and Jeannette, Dave Rillie.

Minutes for 2006 AGM adopted

Diving Officers report – Ian Smith

- An incident free year

Thanks to all for diving safely and making my job easy, keep up the good work informing me of the days diving

- Good years diving

Club members having trips abroad, Oban, Arran and the usual East & West Coast dives

- Training weekends – well attended and a successful way of progressing training. Thanks to all those who helped with organisation and instructing.

- D.O Conference

Shared ascents – In June 06 the NDC recommended the cessation of buddy breathing as part of the Sport and Master Diver award in open water. However, the motion failed to attain the necessary two-thirds majority at the DO Conference in December and was therefore reinstated as a requirement for the award. Those qualifying since June 06 do not have to do this but it is a good idea to practise this skill. This will be further discussed at the SSAC AGM.

Increased incidents of fast ascents relating to i.e. integrated weights in BCDs falling out.

Risk assessments – Proposal to introduce a generic format that can be customised at branch level for various dive sites.

- Trainees

Pool training x4

Open Water x 7

Master Diver x 1

Branch Instructors x 2

- Thanks for the time and commitment given by the branch instructors (BI's) to pool training and delivery of lectures. More assistance is still required for open water training, especially over the next few weeks whilst Ian and Fiona are moving house.

- Talks at Musselburgh Learning Centre – Dave Carruthers gave a talk on risk assessment. It has been suggested that input for BI's on the use of powerpoint in delivering lectures would be useful. Further ideas for talks are needed and should be passed on via the website or committee members. The programme of lectures for trainees will be starting soon.

Spring and summer diving – members are urged to check their kit out on easy, shallow dives first, if they have not been out diving for a while.

- Congratulations

Sports divers – Karen, Gavin Ballantyne, Penny and Danny

Cross-overs – Dave (Crosbie)

Master diver and Branch Instructor – Dougie

1000th dive - Sandy

Treasurers Report – Rab Malcolm

Income

• Levy	40 @ £25	£1000
• Pool Fees in advance	28 @ £50	£1400
• Pool Fees Monthly Direct Debit	12 @ £4.17	£600.48
• Sponsored walk		£1040
• Come & Try Night		£90
• Bank Interest		£37.14
• Total Income		<u>£4167.62</u>

Expenditure

• Tax on Bank interest	£7.70
• Sponsored walk donation to Sick kids	£500
• Equipment repairs & Purchases	£458.15
• Website	£50
• Pool Fees to-date	£1246
• Total Expenditure	<u>£2261.85</u>

Income versus Expenditure

• Total Income	£4167.62
• Total Expenditure	£2261.85
• Balance from Income - Expenditure	<u>£1905.77</u>
• Balance from 2006	£3139.13
• Balance 2007	£1905.77
• Total for 2007	<u>£5044.90</u>
• + Float	£500

3 months free pool levy due to the boom being broken.

The financial year runs from February to February in line with the AGMs

Joint Secretaries report – Danny Dutton

Took up post in June 2006 in the wake of IS (former Secretary) being elected DO at the AGM in March.

SSAC News (in order of event)

- Members Survey distributed through Scottish Diver Magazine. Was also available online and as download from SSAC website. No feedback as yet
- Child Protection Legislation: Received letter from Jan Crawford CPO SSAC in respect of training Branch members under 16 years age. A training course may be offered if sufficient interest. PD has received more info.
- SSAC Clothing. A new range of branded SSAC clothing and accessories is available via the online shop or through mail order.
- Training opportunities – a range of new and speciality courses are available through a joint initiative with *Sportscotland* which hopes to assist branches promote the sport, secure funding and manage volunteers.
- Buddy breathing ascent training. (see DO's report)
- Incorporation of SSAC: The new company was formed on 28 December 2006 following an EGM of the NDC. It is a company limited by guarantee, with the official title of the Scottish Sub Aqua Club. Membership and renewal application forms have been updated to take this into account and are available here. The February edition of Scottish Diver will feature more information on any changes resulting from the new constitution.

MUSAC News

Committee has met 6 times since the last AGM.

The present membership presently stands at around 42 members, which makes us one of the largest club within SSAC so we must be doing something right.

Website: the website continues to attract new members. It has become a vehicle of communication, news and views and members are encouraged to make use of it. Many thanks due to Ian Smith for building and maintaining the site.

Membership database – We are in the process of updating the records once again and would like to take the opportunity to ask members to check their details and amend accordingly please.

Equipment Officers Report – Billy Symmington

Current club equipment

- 8 Cylinders
 - 11 Regulators
 - 13 BCD's
 - 17 Masks
 - 2 Oxygen Sets
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- Plans to purchase 6 complete new sets of equipment. 6 New Cylinders to be bought at London Dive Show. New Regulators & BCD's to be bought from Lottery Grant. Club (all in service) will be available for sale once new ones purchased, with first refusal given to club members.
 - More care to be taken when borrowing Club Equipment. There has been a problem with cylinders being contaminated with oil when re-filled with air and the source has still not been traced. 2 compasses have been returned damaged. All equipment is to be signed out and in by Billy or Dougy.
 - Remember & report faults to Equipment Officer

If 6 sets of equipment prove not to be enough then the club will consider purchasing more. IS pointed out that a maximum number of 6 trainees at any time is more manageable, given the number of BIs

Expedition Officer's Report – Sandy McPherson

2006

- February Training/Dive weekend-Snowed off on the Sunday but everyone had a good time.
- Sound of Mull trip. Dived Hispana, Rondo and Breda. Good weather and some members first wreck dives
- Nov training weekend also went well and was very well attended, with 26 participants.

2007

- Training/Dive weekend to be organised March
- June: Summer Isles. Fully booked
- Some summer Friday night boat bookings at St-Abb's. Booked two now but plan to book some more. **25 May and 6 July, at 6.30pm.** Deposit of £5 to Sandy to secure place.
- July: Billy's big Red sea trip

- August: St-Abb's photo competition-Clubs from all over UK, and would be good for Scottish clubs to be represented. Could stay overnight in Eyemouth on the Saturday – Camping a possibility?
- September Dive boat weekend-Sound of Mull or similar trip still to be booked. Suggestions to Sandy.
- November Training/Diving weekend – to be arranged.
- **All trip details will be listed on the web site**
- Actual dive sites on these trips will be posted for suggestions on the website discussion page

2008

A boat has been booked for a weeks diving in Scapa Flow. (MV Triton at the Stromness Diving Centre). Information sheets are available but again information updates will be posted on the web. Diving costs £140 for the week and self catering accommodation will be booked at about £160 for the week. Deposit this year is £60. The trip is fully booked but if enough interest another boat could be booked. Names to Sandy.

Any Other Business

- Lottery grant application – Ian Smith has almost completed the application and will send off ASAP.
- MUSAC Logo. IS explained there have been problems getting a commitment from a company to carry out the work. He has been in touch with Image Scotland and 2 other companies, with no progress. He has gone back to Image Scotland and is waiting a response.
- Great Glen Way. Gill called for volunteers to participate in this 72 mile walk, starting on 10 september 2007. 3 members have signed up so far. **For further details contact Gill Donaldson**

Club membership fees. 2 proposals for change.

1. Dave Carruthers proposed that the club membership and pool fees are amalgamated into one payment of £75, with the option of paying a £25 deposit and the balance by direct debit. This will be referred to as MUSAC membership fees.
2. Ally Mcleod proposed that the £75 fee is payable in one sum on the renewal date, so everyone is paying at the same time.

After discussion a vote was cast, including a 3rd option that the current system of payment is maintained. The result was in favour of DC's proposal by 16 votes to 7 votes for AM's proposal. No-one voted to maintain the current system.

Website – This will not be updated whilst IS is moving and he recommends use of the form page in the meantime to indicate if diving. He also requested that people use their names on the calendar page.

MUSAC membership – SSAC have a record of 55 members registered as MUSAC members, but the club only has 42 paid up members on the books. MUSAC is missing out on the fees. Secretaries and treasurer to check records to identify those individuals with SSAC membership but who have not renewed their MUSAC memberships

Several points were raised in relation to this:

BS – SSAC should be informed of the names and they will not renew their SSAC membership.

CF – Suggests that everyone pays their SSAC fees via MUSAC

FS – Committee should write advising that SSAC will be informed that they re no longer branch members, unless MUSAC fees are renewed within a week.

SM – Pointed out that people SSAC as membership provides insurance cover when diving, which may be why people join. It is a requirement of SSAC however that there must also be branch membership.

IS – The committee need to meet at another time to decide on the best course of action to take.

Committee stands down – Sandy McPherson

Big thanks to -

Ian for another successful year in the hot seat. Not an easy job. Also, his dedication in building and maintaining the best club website in SCOTSAC.

Rab for keeping the accounts

Billy & Dougie for their continued efforts in looking after the equipment

Penny and Danny for their club secretarial work

Tom, Dougie and Kenny for their committee work. All the committee meetings were well attended this year.

No committee members stood down and no nominations were received. The current committee members will continue in their posts.

Date of next committee meeting – to be arranged for early April. Members will be notified by email.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Minute taker – Penny Dutton, joint secretary MUSAC