

**Musselburgh Sub Aqua Club (MUSAC)
Minutes of Annual General Meeting – 11 March 2009
@ Musselburgh Learning Centre**



Present: Alastair McLeod (AMc), Ian Smith (IS) (BDO), Fiona Smith (FS), Dougie Ritchie (DR), Karen Shaw (KS), Iain Shaw (ISH), Kenny Donaldson (KD), Dave Carruthers (DC), Tom Hares (TH), Paul Guiney (PG), Sandy McPherson (SMc), Billy Symington (BS), George Steedman (GS), Stewart Bowie (SB), Penny Dutton (PD), Dianne Blyth (DB), Denis Ledward (DL), Claire Gillon (CG), George Wilson (GW), James Wilson (JW), David Crosbie (DCr)

Chairpersons Welcome - Sandy McPherson

Apologies received

Danny Dutton, Rhona Ritchie, Kirsty Robertson, Russell McMorran, Anne-Marie Jamieson.

Minutes for 2008 AGM adopted Billy Symington – seconded Tom Hares

1.0 Diving Officers report – Ian Smith

Another incident free year. Thanks to all for diving safely this makes my job easy, keep up the good work informing me of the days diving, if you want to go diving let me know and I'll post it on the web (Trainees not to wait until something is posted) others may join you.

- 1.1 Reminded if SCOTSAC or MUSAC membership lapses that you are not covered by insurance. SCOTSAC send out initial renewal form and follow up with a reminder. There is a table on the website for instructors to check the status of trainees, please always check their log book/membership cards before going for a dive. If required the branch could send out a reminder if they feel they need another one, but members should be keeping tabs on their membership renewal dates.
- 1.2 SCOTSAC training changes - Shared ascents have been dropped from Sport and Master Diver again.
- 1.3 Branch training changes in the pipeline from SCOTSAC different structure with the introduction of a Branch Diver qualification by 2010. Master Diver lecture to be produced on disc hopefully by the AGM 21st March - Ian will keep everyone up to date once he is informed.
- 1.4 Another good years diving; Scapa Flow and the usual East and West coast dives, both shore, boat and RHIB.
- 1.5 Training Weekend a great success with a record number attending what was a very cold weekend, congrats to all who passed assessments and thanks to all that helped.
- 1.6 Trainees: George W, Jean-Marc, David Mc, Caroline, Dianne, Denis & Clare (crossovers).

Open Water Trainees: Anna, Seonaid, Duncan & James.

- 1.7 A lot of interest at the training weekend, dedicated master diver weekend to be organised. (Not to say trainees can come to make up numbers) Lecture disc as mentioned earlier.

- 1.9 Kenny completed Sport Diver Branch Instructor, anybody else interested in going for this qualification let me know. Especially females
- 1.10 Thanks to all Instructors for their hard work. In the pool and lectures (especially Fiona & Dougie for their open water work, presented with a MUSAC Mug with thanks for their constant support to me in all areas of training) also thanks to all who helped organise diving trips albeit normal Sundays or weekends away.
- 1.11 Talks to start again, any general interest topics let me know.
- 1.12 Lectures to start soon, and for master diver if disc through (I have the advanced deco & safety and emergency procedures lectures).
- 1.13 With Spring & Summer just around the corner for those not been out for a while get your kit checked out and cobwebs blown away before hitting the big blue.
- 1.14 Scapa Flow trip, great success and all members who attended made me very proud with their safety & professionalism the Skipper at the end of the week also expressed his gratitude and respect in the way we conducted ourselves.
- 1.15 Rhib back in the water, should get good use of it this summer and will endeavor to get everyone a shot. Couple of lumps found in the Forth worth investigating.
- 1.16 Congratulations to the following on achieving Sport Divers:

Jan Halvorson
Catriona McLean
Orna Gilchrist
George Carnie

And to Kenny Donaldson for achieving his Sport Diver Branch Instructor Award.

2. Treasurers Report – Karen Shaw

Income 2008 / 2009

Total Fees received:	£2,536.29
49 members paid to MUSAC	
Fees in advance =	£1,732.25
Fees by Direct Debit =	£ 804.04
Sale of 2 nd hand Equipment	£ 560.00
Bank Interest	£ 54.92
Misc (funds raised from skittles night / xmas)	£ 307.99

Total Income for 08/09 **£3,459.20**

Expenditure 2008/2009

Pool Fees to date	£2,028.00
Equipment services	£ 480.00
Equipment purchased (buddy jacket, boots)	£ 708.33
Website	£ 56.28
Air fills	£ 184.97
Log Books (x30)	£ 101.00
Tax on interest	£ 10.93
Misc (room hire - lectures, stationary)	£ 83.99
Total Expenditure	<u>£3,653.50</u>

Total Income	£3,459.20
Total Expenditure	£3,653.50
Loss	-£194.30

Opening Balance March 2008	£4,648.17
Loss	£ 194.30

Closing Balance February 2009 **£4,453.87**

2.2 KD pointed out that an Air Card now only kept at Dive Safari.

2.3 GS asked if the final figure was a true reflection if only half levy was paid in September, thus indicating that the loss would not have been as great. KS replied that figures should be accurate from when she took on the books.

IS mentioned that there was extra equipment expenditure due to lottery shortfall.

Q Why is there a proposed increase in membership fees?

A The pool hire has gone up to £54.00 per week and as we still use the pool for swimming we no longer get a discount when the boom is broken. This has raised the question of increasing membership fees to cover the pool hire. The original £75.00 was to cover pool hire and maintenance of equipment.

The Committee will be able to report a better idea of loss from end of January and report back to the club throughout the year.

It was discussed that the change to the membership fee is discussed and proposed increase takes place in March 2010 (approximately 5% increase - £80-£85)

3. Secretary's report – Fiona Smith

MUSAC News 2008 /2009

- 3.1 The Committee: has met 6 times since the last AGM with an additional Extraordinary General EMAIL Vote in July (very successful)
- 3.2 The Committee welcomed Douglas Ritchie and Iain Shaw, big thank you for stepping in at last minute.
- 3.3 Main topics of meetings have included:
- Diving safety practices (pool and open water)
 - Renewal of Scotsac Membership
 - Possible Membership fees increase in 2010
 - Approval to purchase new equipment
 - Minutes : of previous meetings can be viewed on the website.
 - Membership : we have approximately 50 members, according to Scotsac list. All of these members have not paid their MUSAC levy.

DC asked what the membership situation was for those members who were on Scotsac's list but not paid members with MUSAC,
FS replied they are not covered by insurance unless they are fully paid up with both SCOTSAC and MUSAC.

IS mentioned that he is aware of the names who have indicated they are not returning to the club.

- 3.4 Website: the website increasingly attracts new members. Well done Ian maintaining and developing this much admired resource. Members are encouraged to make use of it particularly as a means of checking on dates and times of events, contribute articles or photographs and of course to comment on any aspect of the club and its affairs.
- 3.5 MUSAC now has its own branded clothing! If you haven't already bought some please find order forms on the website.
- 3.6 Great success in skittles and Christmas social events, well done Karen and Fiona!! Big thanks to all who attended and made them the success they were. Huge Thanks also to the kind donations from Billy Symington, Don Lees and Dave Smith.

3.7 SCOTSAC NEWS

AGM 2009 Date

This year the AGM is scheduled for 3pm on 21st March 2009 at Stirling University.

A good turnout would be very much appreciated.

Details may be found on the SSAC website.

4. Equipment Officers Report – Douglas Ritchie

- 8 Cylinders
- 8 Regulators, serviced this year.
- 9 BCD's
- Assortment of Masks, Fins and snorkels
- 2 Oxygen Sets
- 8 Suunto Gekko computers (one faulty being returned to shop)
- Equipment to be signed out & in by Equipment Officers only
- Care to be taken when borrowing Club Equipment
- Remember & report faults to Equipment Officer
- Remember to mark air contents on the board after pool session.
- Cupboard to be kept tidy at all times, Equipment to be returned to original place.

IS mentioned that extra clips and reg necklaces were purchased, the necklaces have not been very popular due to them being too tight, longer ones maybe purchased, the idea is to keep all equipment especially with trainees neat and tidy, and easily at hand.

5. Expedition Officer's Report – Sandy McPherson

2008 Scapa Flow successful trip (MV Triton at the Stromness Diving Centre).
Boat diving from St Abbs Friday nights a success
August: St-Abbs photo competition
Training weekend - Inverary

2009 Proposed booking Diving Belle in Sound of Mull
Book Billy's boat out of St Abbs on Friday nights
Boat dive organized for a weekend, ? Where to be organized
Red Sea trip in September 2009
Training weekend planned for October.

5.1 Actual dive sites on these trips will be posted for suggestions on the website discussion page.

5.2 Anyone going on trips is requested to practice diving before they go on these trips, great opportunity to make sure equipment is all in working order. Anyone going on trips is reminded that their membership for SCOTSAC and Musac has to be paid.

5.3 Sandy said that he is happy to book as many trips as people want. There will be some trips he cannot go on but he has proposed that he nominates a qualified member to oversee the diving if he is not there.

2010 ST Kilda trip if enough interest. Details to be announced.

All suggestions and new trip organisers welcome.

- 5.4 Sandy suggested that the club take part in Seasearch, courses available? £35.00pp. Anyone interested please speak to Sandy.

(What is Seasearch?) Seasearch is a project for volunteer sport divers who have an interest in what they're seeing underwater, want to learn more and want to help protect the marine environment around the coasts of Britain and Ireland.

The main aim is to map out the various types of sea bed found in the near-shore zone around the whole of the Britain and Ireland. In addition we are recording what lives in each area, establishing the richest sites for marine life, the sites where there are problems and the sites which need protection).

6.0 Any Other Business

- DC Mentioned that SCOTSAC are having a Child Protection day - thought a BI or Committee Member could attend on behalf of club, SMcP interested.
- AMc Have all branch instructors had their Disclosure Checks done, one known outstanding, other BI to be checked. New Branch Instructors are now checked as part of their qualification.
- AMc Asked if further discussion regarding increase in membership to cover the cost of pool hire could be discussed and voted on at this meeting, needs to be put on an agenda to be discussed and voted on officially.
- KD The Committee would like to purchase a laptop.
- DC Mentioned that this should not be an issue as the Committee can spend up to £500, and this would benefit the Club, Members and Instructors when doing talks, Lectures both Sport and Master, as well as keeping a record of all Club business in the one places.

Thanks to Committee Members and all attending members.

There were no nominations for Committee Positions and the existing Committee stayed on for another year.

The meeting closed at 8.04pm.

Minutes taken – Fiona Smith, Secretary MUSAC