

MINUTES OF NDC MEETING HELD ON Wednesday 8th March 2006

Present: Joe Campbell, Tony Carter, Graeme Forsyth, Hugh Fraser, Martin Henderson, George McBurns, Kevin Miller, Bert Smith, Drew Stevenson, Diane Webb, Kevin Webb (NDO).

Apologies: Frank Connor, Don Lees, Ken Smith, Nigel Spike.

Previous minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on 18th January 2006 were proposed by Martin Henderson and seconded by Graeme Forsyth.

CRBS checks

A brief discussion took place over the position re checks. The NDO emphasised that this remains a complex and important area that we need to keep on top of.

Regional Coaches and incidents

A few RC reports have been received. However, the NDO highlighted the continuing absence of RC reports being submitted at present. Reports to be submitted by RC's to HQ. The NDO also advised that he has been informed of a few recent incidents.

Course update

Nitrox, RI, RC workshop

Not covered.

BI course

Course recently cancelled due to lack of numbers.

O2/Heartstart/diver first aid

Break-even for course is 6/7. Bert urgently needs more instructors to spread the load on this course. 4 names currently in book. Bert has previously had to cancel 3 courses due to lack of numbers. O2 course planned for 23 April.

Discussion took place over update frequency of first aid courses. St John's work on the basis of three year currency. Agreed that SSAC should remind members after two years, to give them enough time to update within three years. Course pricing is a matter for next year's GC/NDC. However recommendation from current NDC is that First Aid update course is priced at £25.

Boat handling/VHF

VHF course ran last weekend – 6 on it. Boat handling course planned for coming weekend.

1st Class

Only one name in the course book. NDO is sure that more interest has been expressed and agreed to provide Drew with a list of known interested candidates. Aim to run event pre-summer.

Deep diving course

Andy Parks is looking for more instructors to run this event.

Wreck penetration

Discussion took place concerning development of a course in this area. Agreed that SSAC does not endorse wreck penetration and therefore it would be inappropriate to offer a course in this area. However, recognising that it does occur, the NDC considers it appropriate that guidelines are developed. Carry forward to new NDC schedule of business.

Training schedule

The majority of the meeting was concerned with discussing the updated pool training and open water training schedules that were circulated by the NDO. The NDO noted that these had been discussed at the DO's conference and that feedback was generally very positive. The updated documents circulated reflected comments received from the DO's conference. The specific matters discussed and amendments made will be reflected in the amended schedules, rather than being listed in these minutes.

Only one area of any real debate concerned the open water rescue drill. One NDC member raised the concern that it may not be safe to run the lift into a tow and recovery exercise and suggested that these elements be taught and also assessed as separate components. Majority view was to break the exercise down into stages in training, but with the ultimate aim of demonstrating one continuous exercise as part of the final assessment. Also noted that deployment of DSMB exercise requires to be included in the open water section.

However, overall after reflecting the amendments, and allowing for the one discussion area above, the NDC unanimously approved these documents for submission to the GC for ratification.

Diving officers' conference

The NDC agreed that this had been a successful event and that feedback was generally positive.

AOB

Agreed that all statements made in the magazine and the website concerning diving practice and particularly safety require to be agreed and endorsed by the NDC before publication.

Kevin Webb thanked the NDC members for all their support during his term in office as NDO. He wished the new NDO, Kevin Miller, all the best in his role.

Date of next meeting: TBA.

Meeting closed with thanks to the Chair.