

National Diving Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday 10th July 2007 - 7.30 PM - SSAC HQ

NDC Members Present

Kevin Miller, Marion Brown, Sam Paske, Kev Watson, Bert Smith, Graeme Forsyth

Ex-Officio Members Present

Don Lees, Joe Campbell, Tony Carter, Jack Morison

Apologies

Gordon Young, Drew Stevenson, Murray MacCallum, Adam Curtis, Hugh Fraser, Nigel Spike, Andy Murray

Meeting

Kevin Miller presented the agenda for the evening.

Adoption of Previous Minutes

12th June 2007

Proposed: Don Lees

Seconded: Joe Campbell

Actions from Previous Minutes

1	All RCs to submit RC report to NC 7 days prior to each meeting	All RC's	Ongoing
2	Assistant NDO to provide summary of incidents at each meeting and provide synopsis to BSAC every quarter. <i>KW to write brief summary for website on Incident reporting Annually.</i>	KW	Ongoing
3	Course Directors to submit report prior to each meeting	Course Directors	Ongoing
4	John Arrowsmith memorial foundation/trust options	DL	Ongoing
5	ID cards for RCs	Jim Anderson	Ongoing
6	Crossover guidance <i>KW will circulate crossover matrix for approval at next meeting</i>	KW	Ongoing
7	Letter in next BDO mailing for feedback on location of DO Conference – see below.		Complete
8	Consider minimum age requirement for aqualung training. AM to send letter to Medical Advisor requesting guidance before being considered by NDC.	NDC	Ongoing
9	BDO Handbook material to be printed and issued	HQ	Ongoing
10	Diving Officer's Conference planning	GY/SP	Ongoing
11	Training Schedule Task Group to be assigned	NC	Ongoing

Summary of Actions

National Coaches Report

Graeme reported there are 16 Regional Coaches at present, those branches that don't have a Regional Coach will be managed through him and the task force.

Graeme enquired as to when the next Examiners Course would be run and it has been proposed this will take place at HQ on the 1st September 2007 all being well. There is concern that as we embark with the Regional Instructors Course on the 12th to 14th October 2007 this would place additional strain on those active Examiners.

Graeme raise concerns around the issue to do with shared accents and Scotsac's position as there are a number of branches that are confused as to what is to be practiced.

After a degree of discussion and recognition that this exercise was the only one where 2 skills are combined which places the trainee under undue stress. The following was proposed:-

Shared Accents

1. To take them away from the Training Schedule altogether and have them as endorsements
2. Keep them in but amend their depths e.g. Sport Diver 9 meters to surface with a 1 minute stop.
Master Diver 15 meters to 5 meters.
3. Recommend that alternative air supply
4. Mandatory alternative air fitted.

This matter will hopefully be resolved in the not so distant future.

Course Director Reports

Nitrox - Don informed that there is a Nitrox course to be held at Bo'ness on the 4th August 2007 and would welcome any other branch or branches to request courses. (Minimum of 8 candidates)

O2 Heart Start – Bert reported he had conducted a course in Ullapool with 14 candidates taking part all candidates passed the theory part of the course.

Bert has a further course scheduled for the 8th – 10th November 2007 over in Limerick. Unfortunately Bert will be out of action for the next 12 weeks whilst his foot is in plaster – we wish him well and a speedy recovery.

B.I. The July course required to be cancelled due to holidays it is hoped to have a number of candidates to be available for the September course. There is a course to be run in Limerick over the 17th - 20th August 2007. Can we encourage BDO's to ensure their members who have taken part in the course actively undertake their assessments?

Tony Carter asked for it to be minute that the DO at Larkhall wished to have the pool session introduced back into the course. It was explained this was not viable and given the candidates have the recommendation of the BDO and potentially Regional Coach they should have the required skills. There are 2 pool assessments following the course by both the BDO and regional Coach and this was felt to suffice the requirements.

Incidents – No reported incidents

RYA - Boat Handling Course – Tony Carter formally resigned from the post of the non existing course and assured the NDC he will respond to the correspondence he had previously received from RYA which led to our suspension.

Diving Conference

In Gordon's absence Sam reported that things were progressing well with the Diving Conference 3rd November 2007 Oban High School; preparations there are a number of accepted speakers e.g. Clare Gledhill (GUE instructor/Cave Diver); Phil Robertson (Historic Scotland); Calum Duncan (MCA/Seasearch); Martin Sayer (Scottish Hyperbaric Association) and there are a number of other speaker who are due to get back to Sam in the next few weeks.

In addition to the aforementioned Don Lees has managed to get Northern Diver to attend with supplies, and the promise of a number of raffle prizes etc from suppliers. In addition to this Don has managed to get his banker to supply conference folders.

In the forth coming month there is a further action plan to be achieved.

Discussion around tickets to be printed and adverts made up for the magazine and posters for each branch. Remembering we only have 200 tickets and no ticket no admission.

There was an agreement the tickets would be sold @£6.00 each this would include a soup and sandwich lunch. There was an agreement this would be open to all divers and in the first instance Scotsac members and at the end of September be opened to other agencies.

Training Schedule

Following further discussion it was agreed to break the Training schedule into segments and discuss various segments at each of the NDC meeting and pull it all together.

DDRS – Don Lees sought clarification with DDRS who advised it was better to administer O2 to causality if available than not as the benefits out rate the risks.

AOCB

Don raised the issue around the Master Diver Lectures and the preparation of similar material to that of the Sport Diver. It was acknowledged that the standard set is of a very high quality and Don and the team that produced these once again were thanked. However it was acknowledged that to prepare the Master Diver Lectures was a mammoth task and acknowledgement was made that we had on a number of occasions made mention of undertaking this task.

Don Lees made the offer that he would undertake this task and Marion Brown agreed to assist in the proof reading; Don indicated he would approach the team who were involved with the Sport Diver Lectures to see if they had the capacity to assist.

Don will feed back at each NDC meeting how things are progressing with this task.

Meeting finished at 21.50

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11	Diving Conference	SP/GY	Ongoing
12	Master Diver Lectures	DL/MB+ team	Ongoing