

ULSAC COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Monday 10th February- room 3C ULU at 19:15-20:35

Attendance:

Present: Julio, Henry, Ken, Hannah, Rich, Michelle, Ali N, Ali G, Grace, Miles (L).

Structure:

1- Reports (if present): chairman, DO, TO, ATO, membership sec, equipment, Boat, Social, and Treasurer.

2- Proposals for the committee.

3- Further business.



Announcements:

1- Committee proposals.

2- Towing training

3- Next meeting: TBC

ULSAC Committee meeting minutes

10/02/2014

Reports:

Situation with ULU: ken spoke to Angela and was advised to carry on as normal, eventually we will be told what we need to correct.

DO & TO:

We have done some DL drills which were successful, we have a new OD, course 2 pool sessions almost done. **Wraysbury/ Portland** is going ahead along with O2 course, DPM course and Croatia has been booked and organised.

Ali N is also now dealing with OD & SD and martin might arrange chart & positioning.

Membership: no report.

Equipment: the tanks and other equipment has been serviced however there are questions who to send the invoice to. Since we don't really have a normal procedure. Ken recommends that they send it to ULU un ULSACS name or to send it to ken and ken will send it to ULU?

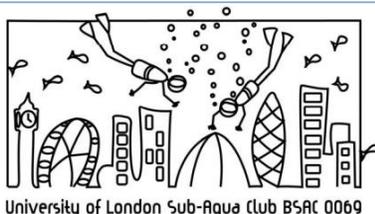
Nothing heard from Sophie and the container.

Treasurer: budget claim has been sent, we currently have a reasonably healthy bank account running around 8000ish. Other funds needs to be assessed and checked. We also submitted the application to get money back. Still need to check what's in the other self-raised funds account, which is where the mileage costs come outs from.

Fundraising officer: currently checking how we can get more money and still looking at the rules and regulations. We want to try and avoid asking and possibly receiving funds before ULU has given us all that we can get, another fear is that by chasing money we break a regulation with ULU and loose funding from that angle. However asking for money from other sources will be difficult because we are not a club open to everyone and most of the kit that we need we already have, and most funding sources just help you acquire funds to buy kits in order to run the basics for the club.



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BSAC
Diving for divers

Awards: we could try and submit the trip to Croatia since it could be considered an exceptional trip, it's a location we have never been.

Register: see if Ryan can get us a list from the website database so that we can backtrack the register.

Social report: thanks to everyone who came to the curry night, we are currently planning a bowling night and other stuff, no firm dates yet. More socials and with more frequency are on their way however the dwindling amount of fresher's is worrying and we need to try and increase participation.

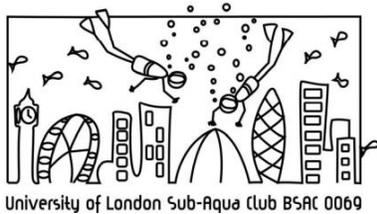
Proposals for the committee:

Michelle proposed the following:

"I would like to begin discussion of these tonight at the committee meeting. Some suggestions have been put forward below and I would also welcome your suggestions once I have had an opportunity to explain the issues.

- 1- Change requirement for Diving Officer from Advanced Diver to Dive Leader
- 2- Change requirement for running branch trips if using a commercial hard boat/RIB to Dive Leader (no Advanced Diver required)
- 3- No. of club trips
- 4- Rationalising committee numbers
- 5- Up skilling members"

1.. This was discussed last year at the AGM for a long period of time. The main concern around this point is that over the years the amount of people progressing to the point of advanced diver has been decreasing and thus we have had less people capable of entering the role of DO. Consequently if this trend persists the argument is that we won't have people able to fill the role in the club. This will especially be noticeable when the "old guard" (Is that what you guys call yourself?) start to take more of an advisory role and start to become less involved in the club. Another factor to this problem is that the people who are doing most of the work are starting to get tired and won't be putting themselves forward for DO come next AGM.



Therefore we need to lower the requirements to be DO or we won't have one. The BSAC handbook recommends the DO be an advanced diver but this is just a guideline and it's not absolutely necessary.

To avoid this problem Michelle has proposed that we lower the requirement for Diving Officer (DO) from Advanced diver to Dive leader. The lowering of the qualification requirements would still be in accordance with BSAC regulations and it seems this lowering of requirements has actually been embraced by other clubs already. In order to make this possible or even to discuss this to a fuller extent, it will be necessary to call a special general meeting. In order to do so we need to have the proposal written down, then 10 members need to sign and endorse it for the meeting to go ahead, which seems way too old school, all we need is a confirmation really. Then we send the proposal 14 days before the meeting.

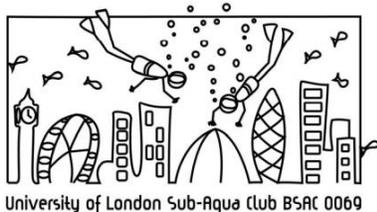
I know that we have 70 student members, and I'm awaiting Clare's reply on how many non-student members we have. Therefore until I get the complete number from Clare I can't say how many people we need at the meeting but it needs to be at least 10% so a rough guesstimate would be around 10. Also considering this is a BSAC matter everyone can vote and we only need the majority of the people at the meeting to approve it and to push it through, therefore we should be able to achieve this quiet easily as long as attendance isn't a problem.

An officer or chief executive of the BSAC branch will be in charge of writing it up and if it goes through then a group of former DO's will need to be established to act as advisors to the new DO.

2.. we should also lower the requirements to lower the qualifications needed to run trips using hardboats to places we have been before. Dive leaders and sports divers should be fine, we don't need advanced divers for that. However it would be good to have someone as an advisor for each trip, who doesn't necessarily have to go, but is there to ask and see if they have everything covered. We also need to see how to manage resources properly, the main focus around the ratio of trainees to instructors which will be discussed further on point 5.

3... This issue has also been raised before. We are a dive club that isn't diving. We need to try and organise more trips and encourage people to actually go, however the main concern for this point is that the people who are organising the trips tend to be the same small group of people. These people are beginning to burn out or simply outgrow the club and we need to be concerned with finding people capable of organising the trips and encouraging them to actually organise trips rather than sit around and wait for it to happen.

Therefore we need to try and raise the awareness on who can organise trips and encourage them to take a more proactive role towards organising trips.

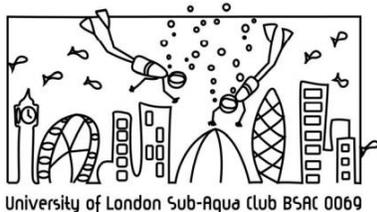


4... this issue was briefly mentioned in the previous committee meeting, and although there were several propositions ready to be offered and discussed with the committee on how to solve it, there seems to have been a unanimous opinion on how to streamline the process of meetings. This idea was that all the essential positions would remain so and would still be required to attend the meetings, and that the presence of these key members would be the main factor to take into consideration when deciding whether the meeting was quorate by the chairman. As for all of the members that share positions, Michelle raised another concern with this trend, regarding the issue of assuming the other members in the shared positions would do the work and neither would do it based on this false assumption or diffusion of responsibility. Either way something needs to be done in order to stop this behaviour.

5... again we need to encourage people to do more things on trips, to do things from their own initiative but under the guidance of the current experience members of the club, this way they can learn how to do it properly and eventually be able to do it and make decisions in similar situations independently. The main priority here is increasing the skills of people.

Since we are struggling with up skilling for other members, Michelle wants to propose that every month we have a rib trip and a hard boat trip, the hard boat can run without an advanced diver and instead can be run by Sports diver or dive leader– this will provide the opportunity to practice dive management skills. The main concern is the need to increase the experience and skills of the club members who will need to take over the roles of the current more experienced members who are on their way out, and to start the process so that it may be achieved within the next 1-2 years, and before or at least in time for when the older members stop being so active in order to make sure that the club survives.

Mark and Michelle are happy to put in the effort for the next year or so, as long as other people start contributing more to trips and start to take a more proactive approach to learn and take charge. We also need to see how many drivers we have in the branch, how many can drive an MPV. How many boat handlers Boat handlers etc. in other words getting a better hold of the clubs human resources. Another thing that we need to start developing is a system or criteria for a proportionate trip. By these we mean having a safe and sustainable ratio of trainees to experienced divers on any trip. It is also vital that we have two boat handles, two dive leaders who are not being boaties and a separate designated driver for the MPV and three other members can be of any experience. This is so we can distribute the load of organising trips more evenly and effectively. This is also the only way we will be able to keep the more experienced members of the club around long enough to be able to train the people who will be taking over. However this criteria for a proportionate diving group is something that will need to be discussed at the AGM and decided by the next committee.



Further training business:

Towing training: The committee has decided to invest £1000 on training for its members who wish to undertake or achieve the towing qualification, in exchange they will hopefully help the club during trips by towing and driving, which would decrease the amount of pressure put on the very few members who are currently able to do so, and thus increase the flexibility within the club for towing.

However because of the currently unknown amount of interest present, the chairman will have to send out an email to announce and attempt to gauge the interest, after which a decision will be made on how much funding will be used per person and how many places we can fund with the allocated funding. At the very worst we are aiming for at least two people to display interest.

Candidate criteria:

- must be over 21.
- full license that has not been suspended.
- Competent driver at the very least.
- preferably able to drive and MPV.

Rich, Katie and Ivan seem to be interested, we also think that vets might have an increased interest in achieving such qualification since it might be useful for them when towing large animals i.e. horses. However we must be aware that any money invested in club members can be lost if they stop partaking in club activities, therefore although we are aiming for a return we must acknowledge that there might not be one.

Current estimate on the cost is £400-500 per person, however we are currently seeing if we can reduce the cost by spreading the training throughout several days and possibly organising the training with other clubs to reduce cost a bit further.

As for the funding arrangements we are considering for the towing will depend on the interest shown however the main three options are listed below:

Option 1: we pay half and they pay half.

Option 2: we pay for a specific amount and they pay for the rest, after which if they organise trips they can claim chunks on the towing fee back – if this is decided then we need to prepare a financial contingency in case they fail

Option 3: we pay the full amount.



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