

ULSAC Committee Meeting 29th November 2007

NB: I (Bugs) was late to this meeting, so thanks to Steve for taking notes until I arrived.

From last meeting:

Oxygen cylinders

Four cylinders are missing. Someone (Richard?) is chasing up the person who may have lost them.

Boat Servicing

Only Vic is able to get hold of her contact.

Stern Lines:

Nick repeated that the RYA says that stern lines are usually unnecessary and can sometimes lead to boat damage. The debate will be saved until nearer the time when the boats are actually being used again.

SGM

The announcement and suggested revisions have been sent out to our members, who'll vote at the Christmas Party (Thurs 7th December).

ULSAC's Birthday

BSAC clubs 65, 66, 71, 71 have contact details online. I (Bugs) have emailed them for information, but haven't had any replies yet. From what I could find, we at least have the year right so can still have the parties!

Mark suggested contacting the Leeds Uni club, who he remembers as number 70. I'll also contact ULU to check their records.

Boat Depreciation Fund

Dave spoke to Angela, who just told him to ask Vicks (because she's been treasurer before). Dave will check with Vicks, Anjali and Dan whether they remember anything from their times as treasurer. In the meantime he'll also get in touch with the "head treasurer guy" of ULU.

Items for Attention

Newsletter

Another call for newsletter articles. Suggested topics include:

- Easter training details
- Trip reports (Easter training, summer trip, weekend trips etc.)
- Article about teaching in the pool
- Fitz will write about the Baygatano
- Mark will write about the problems of fitting diving and babies together.
- I (Bugs) agreed to try finding some funny quotes from the committee meeting minutes. I feel like Frank Pickle reborn.

Other members present offered to come up with articles to be forwarded.

Website

The information on our website is badly out of date: upcoming trips, committee lists etc. refer to events last academic year. Faraz didn't hand over to Tom properly so Tom can't update the website on his own.

Steve will try to remind Tom and Faraz to sort out the website. Preliminarily, this will just be updating the current website. In longer term, this should lead to constructing a new, more easily edited website based on the research Steve did earlier in the year.

Whichever goes ahead, we need to publicly acknowledge our sponsors (e.g. donors to the raffle at our last dinner) asap.

Fund-raising

Jer has suggested running a fund-raiser based round a music night. For this and other fund-raising events we need to contact businesses to request sponsorship. Ideally these should have our "50 year celebration" logo, but this hasn't been designed yet.

Perhaps we should specifically target businesses where our alumni now work? This could give us a better chance of securing sponsorship from these businesses.

Another fund-raising idea could be speaking at Rotary Club (or similar organisations') dinners. We'd need to write to the clubs' events secretaries.

I volunteered to organise a photo scavenger hunt later in the year, when we can be confident of having a warm, dry weekend.

Club clothing could be sold to raise some funds: hoodies, T-shirts etc. with the club's normal or 50-year logo. Mark suggested checking the prices at "European wear".

We could offer try-dives for city boys. City firms apparently go for team-building or ice-breaking activities like these. These could be organised through companies' HR departments.

Fitz will ask Ali G to check the fund-raising letters with the committee before sending them out. They should be written with specific aims, e.g.: we need £x.xx to buy new boats / to improve training / to save adorable puppies / whatever.

The Heinke Trophy

Winning this trophy takes quite a bit of work, in that we'd need to document and eventually present data on our membership, newsletters, website, events etc. But it would be great to finish our 50th year by winning. It might be difficult for us because we're a closed club: e.g. our limited range of eligible members precludes us from training very young divers.

We should work on our 2003 submission and improve it, being careful to keep detailed records of everything we do during 2008.

50th Anniversary events

Dinner should be on 4th, 11th or 18th October (Saturday nights). Mid October would probably be best. We have two main choices for venues:

Our usual hotel is quite good value at £50 for the meal and some wine;

Hiring the HMS Belfast would be a more memorable event, but charges £50 for a 2 course buffet with no wine included (although there would be a bar).

Taking our own bottles of wine (e.g. from Tom Letherby's wine merchant) is uneconomical due to most venues' punitive corking charges.

Other suggestions included the London Aquarium, which is far too expensive and a Masonic Lodge, if any of our members know the requisite funny handshakes.

Treasurer's report

We have £3300 in the bank, although we need to pay MCS £630 and the Badgers charity £76.

Our ULU grant is currently negative, although this will clear when the credit / debt list is cleared. Thanks to Ernst for successfully chasing up one of the outstanding debts.

Diving Officer

No report

Training Officer

We're training "about a million of the buggers this year". The provisional booking for ET is 20th - 30th of March. The OD theory exam has been postponed until January because BSAC has run out of training packs. Eric has now joined the training team to replace Lindsay.

First Aid and Oxygen Administration courses will be run this weekend. The first Dive Leader drills day will be on Sunday 9th.

Membership Report

ULU says that Fitz and Bugs aren't actually members of the society! We'll have to fix that asap. ULSAC currently has 57 paid-up members.

Equipment Officer

Absent, but sent a message that "it's all good" and the regulators are now clearly tagged to distinguish between open water and pool use only.

Social Secretary

For the Christmas Party we've had to hire a karaoke machine rather than borrowing one. The total cost of the party is now £180. So we don't expect to profit now, but we'll break even if we sell all the tickets. This should be fine, as the room capacity is 50 and we've sold 34 so far.

We could raffle some of the prizes left over from the annual dinner. However, they're being stored by Sarah C, who's away. Susie will try emailing Sarah and Vicki to see if we can get hold of the prizes in time.

The EGM vote on proxy voting for AGMs will take place during the party. Student membership is required to vote.

Next Meeting is scheduled for January 8th. Mark B apologises in advance for his absence.