

***GLUG Annual General Meeting
12th December 2009
Phoenix Artist's Club***



1 A Welcome!

Apologies, Allan I, Ian F, Steph B,

2 Matters Arising

Nothing to raise as there were no minutes from the AGM last year.

3 Chairman's Report [Doug Y]

Tried to change format of club meetings to make it more inclusive. Committee now meet prior to social event and then report back, to allow members to comment and also increase the social time of the meetings. Changed venues to the Phoenix who have kindly offered free room hire and allow members to stay late, even though this is a facility for private members. It was agreed to stay at this venue. Martin S is a member of the club and will book the venue for the 2010 meetings. First Tuesday of every month, except Jan which will be 12th Jan. Dec 2010 will be the date of the AGM.

Pride stalls this year have been very successful and have gained many new members. Banners should be replaced this year to improve the image of our stall. The try dives have been really successful and Streatham have been really accommodating.

Comment came from Fred W. that as a remote member, he feels communication has greatly improved. He also congratulated Mark on his work and made the comment he would be welcome to work on their website. A great commendation for our Webmaster!

Thanks to Charlie S & Oonas divers & Brian for organizing oversea trips, also to other members who have organized oversea trips, both past and in the near future. An

extra thank you was raised to Charlie for organizing the Christmas dinner.

4 Vice-Chairman's Report [Brian B]

Brian took over organization of Prides and holds all publicity stuff at the moment. Sadly we couldn't get to the London Zoo Pride. Brighton Pride wasn't as successful because of weather, but we were able to follow up new members up through try dives.

Publicity/banners for the stalls need replacing. Lee has offered to do some design work to make the stalls more attractive. That's going ahead and submissions for designs will be made to committee in due course. The Red Sea trip was a huge success. A similar trip has been organized for July, which is over half full already.

5 Treasurer's Report [Ian C]

Ian expressed concern that he wouldn't be around as much next year but will stand again unless anyone wants to stand in his place. UK diving has increased. Try dive sponsorship has definitely helped us to continue with try dives, but this hasn't been confirmed for next year. Any sponsorship from other bodies would be most welcome. Income way up, receipts and bank statements are available or members to see. Online payment has made things much easier. We suffered on exchange rate for Dan insurance this year. Accounts were provided separately.

6 Membership Officer's Report [Mark V]

This year will be the first clean run of Standing orders. Mark only took on the role half way through the year. Most payment issues have now been ironed out with Standing Orders. Bjorn stepped down so roles of membership officer and Webmaster were combined. New payment methods mean we accept cash at meetings, as well as PayPal and AlertPay, though the AlertPay account will be phased out. S.O still preferred way of paying, along with cheque and cash. Many people have expressed interest and join through the new register link. Approx 3 people per month. 13 payment via online payment system. 50% of whom would not have registered otherwise. The membership database will be updated and stored through the website, which members can update. If members have not renewed by Jan their account becomes dormant, by Feb, the account is deleted unless full membership payment is made. GLUG also accepts BACS payments. Membership now stands at 148 members, 157 with Outdoorladz who've had free membership from the try dive.

7 Webmaster's Report [Mark V]

There have been fairly significant changes to website this year. The site was relocated to a different web host. Security loopholes have now been closed so

anyone registering doesn't gain access to email and posts until they are paid members. Any registered members are followed up by emails.

Training page updated for PADI & BSAC.

Profiles are now accessible to other members so they can contact each other.

Introduced users policy and guidelines. People can now contact committee members directly without having to log on. The Blog has now been replaced by the forum and there is a disclaimer for insurance on each page. There is a new dedicated Try Dive page. A series of mailing lists have been introduced so people can contact dedicated lists of people whilst maintaining member's confidentiality where necessary. Post categories have been changed to make them clearer and make posting easier.

The events page will be replaced with a Trips Page which takes bookings and notes all details of each participant. The trip organizer is automatically updated by email of any bookings or changes made to their trips. This should go fully live in the New Year.

The new Welcome Page offers more options for those who want to log in and those who are more dedicated members who want to access the site in more detail.

Training dives, dive trips and social events will be on separate pages. Post and comments are to be reworked too. Help videos may also be posted to the site, especially to support people who wish to post.

Caroline offered many thanks to Mark for all his hard work, which was echoed by Fred and the rest of the committee.

8 Training Officers' Report [Ian F and Martin S]

We have run a total of 59 courses this year.

- 1 DM
- 1 Technical Basics Diver
- 31 DSD (try dive)
- 2 Advanced Open Water
- 1 Open Water
- 15 Referrals
- 5 Dry suit
- 3 Nitrox

Most of those have been in the UK, with several students completing their dives in warmer climes! We are determined to beat that figure this year!

9 Publicity Officer's Report [Caroline M]

Caroline has been limited by new work regime. There is a new Facebook site with 300 friends and regular posts to the wall. It was agreed to put up a link on the GLUG website. Caroline was contacting other groups to encourage cross membership, but not a lot of response so far. Boyz and Pink paper carried a couple of articles and Brian gave two interviews on Gaydar radio.

The Membership Questionnaire received 8 replies. Mares have kindly donated fins and mask to GLUG. Caroline is now working shifts and can't give the club 100%. She is quite happy to help out when necessary and support our new Publicity Officer, but doesn't feel she can give it her full attention.

10 UK Dive Co-ordinator's Report [Corinne S]

Corrine ran the usual 4 trips with great success. One day was blown out, but pretty lucky with weather this year. All trips were full, with no lost divers and no incidents! Some great viz on some of our trips and some fantastic dives. There was an excellent trip to Scapa Flow and great fun was had by all, despite the odd soggy wetsuit. Fantastic meals too as trip members cooked for the rest of the group and Gordon Ramsay didn't get a look in!

Next year trips are up on the website. There will also be a Boat skills course RYA levels one and two.

The folks in Guernsey will try to organize a Sark trip this year too.

11 Equipment Co-ordinator's Report [Steph]

All equipment is fine. A few cylinders are up for testing this year. O2 equipment up for renewal this year.

Dorothy Divers have £361 in the bank.

12 Election and Re-Election Of Committee Members [See Attached]

13 GLUG's Nominated Charity for 2010

Pole to be organized for website.

It was proposed we should move away from Foodchain as they have a majority support and as the needs of HIV care have changed perhaps we should support a more needy or relevant cause.

Suggestions are to be posted from a health and general perspective. For two different charities, dive/marine & gay related.

Other suggestions were anti homophobia charities and charities supporting members of the gay community suffering from cancer.

Amount agreed of £250 from GLUG. Final vote at January meeting.

14 AOB

Ian C. asked what we should do with the surplus bank balance. It was suggested the money be split between buying dive equipment for the club and improving our publicity for the Pride Stalls.

Fred also suggested the club have a Written Constitution

Meeting closed 17.35pm