

Midlothian Sub Aqua Club (currently member of S.S.A.C)

CLUB CONSTITUTION

1. The name of the club shall be Midlothian Sub Aqua Club, hereafter referred to as "The Club".
2. The Club shall be affiliated to, or part of, a nationally recognised diving organisation (currently the Scottish Sub Aqua Club). Membership of the diving organisation is compulsory as well as payment of Club Membership Fee. Any change of affiliation can only occur through an Annual General Meeting or an Extraordinary General Meeting and is a change in the Club Constitution.
3. The objective of the Club shall be to promote the sport of safe sub-aqua diving among its members.

The means of achieving this objective will be:-

- a. Arrange Dives and diving holidays for its members.
The Club however does not undertake to organise every dive and members are encouraged to use their own initiative in this matter. The Club diving officer shall be notified of all diving expeditions/trips undertaken by its members.
 - b. To train and test newcomers to the sport, using an approved diver training program (based currently on the S.S.A.C. standards as a minimum).
 - c. To provide equipment for use by Club Trainees, while participating in pool training.
 - d. To strive within the Club to achieve higher standards of diving, training and safety.
 - e. To promote fund-raising ventures and any other activities which are deemed to be in the best interest of the Club.
 - f. To introduce all age groups to sport diving.
 - g. Not forgetting the one essential objective - to have fun diving.
4. The Club shall be run by an Executive Committee comprising of a Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Diving Officer, Training Officer, Equipment Officer and up to four other Committee Members (with responsibilities as the committee members deem fit). Any other Club member may attend meetings as an observer, but they shall not have voting rights on the Executive.
 5. The Committee, shall be elected annually at an Annual General Meeting to be held at an agreed time and date no longer than (14) months after the previous AGM, at which a Quorum would consist of eight. full members including at least three Committee members.

In the event of a quorum not being achieved, the AGM. would be postponed and arranged for about two weeks later, at this meeting the full members present would be deemed to be a quorum. Elections of the Committee/officers will be by

a simple majority. In cases of difficulty in attending meetings a voting request in writing from any absent full member would be considered.

6. The Committee shall have the power to appoint members to the Committee to fill positions left vacant by resigning members.
7. General and Annual General Meetings will be advertised at least fourteen (14) days prior to the date of the meeting, by notice board and where possible E-mail. In the event of a quorum not being achieved for a general meeting the AGM. Procedure will be followed. A quorum for a Committee meeting shall be three officers.
8. Only fully paid up members of Midlothian Sub Aqua Club have voting rights at general, extraordinary or annual meetings.
9. All prospective members must complete an application form this will be put before the committee for acceptance or rejection.
10. If rejected the applicant will be given a written explanation of reason for refusal.
11. The moneys collected on behalf of the Club will be held in a recognised financial institution in the name of "Midlothian Sub Aqua Club". Cheques drawn of this account must bear the signatures of two Committee members approved by the Committee. The Treasurer shall keep records of all financial transactions and present a financial report to the AGM. which shall be audited.
12. The Secretary shall keep all notes of General and Committee meetings.
13. Membership types are as laid down in the Annex to this document. and may be revised by the committee when necessary.
14. Only full Club members will be allowed to carry out open water training beyond the day of the Elementary Diver (or equivalent) open water skills examination.
15. Qualifications may be accepted from other clubs at the discretion of the Diving Officer.
16. The membership year shall run from April to April. New Members joining part way through the year would pay a pro-rata proportion of the membership fee. All fees shall be decided by the committee and may be revised when necessary.
17. Membership fees should be paid for the forthcoming seven (7) days before the end of the present membership year.
Members whose fees are still outstanding for the new membership year will be deemed to have resigned and will lose the benefits of Club membership and will not be allowed to dive with the Club (unless they are members of another club. This can only be done with the authority of the Branch Diving Officer
18. It is the duty of every member to ensure that a standard of training and diving procedure is maintained to a degree which is approved by the Diving Officer and Committee.
19. The decisions of the Committee in respect to the governing of the Club, shall be recorded in an appendix to the constitution, but are not part of the constitution. These By-laws will become effective when the minutes of the Committee meeting are published.
20. Changes to the constitution can only be made at the AGM. or an Extraordinary General Meeting called for that purpose. Proposals for change must be circulated in writing to all full members fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting. Changes can only be made with a two thirds majority of members present.

21. The Club may be dissolved by a resolution to that effect being passed at a General meeting with 90% of all the paid up full members present voting in favor.
22. Upon dissolution of the Club, all assets shall be realised and donated on a 50-50 basis to the R.N.L.I. and S.S.A.C. No member shall have call upon these assets other than where the committee has authorised outlay and recompense. A change in the affiliation of the Club is not deemed as dissolution.

Annex 1.

According to age and other criteria, there are various grades of membership of Midlothian Sub Aqua Club and these have different annual membership fees. To reflect these circumstances, the annual fee for individual full members of Midlothian Sub Aqua Club, is set by the Executive Committee according to the following categories:

Standard - Available to any diving or training member.

Student - Available to any diving or training member aged 18 years or more who is receiving full time education (proof required)..

Non-diving Available to social members who use pool nights.