

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD
ON 18 OCTOBER, 1993
AT BANKSTOWN SPORTS CLUB**

Meeting was opened by Leo Bergagnin (Club President) at 8.00 p.m.

Leo then welcomed the Club's new members and those who have renewed their memberships:

New: John Szwecow, Paul and Jeannine Aram, Brent Hedges, Roslyn Phillips and David Bilbow.

Renewed: Susan Armstrong (5 years) and also Kay and Wayne Avnell.

APOLOGIES: Joe Ingegneri, John Beddie, Peter Jermyn, Ilona Kandilas, Michael Latimer, Ron and Jenny Mines.

VISITORS: John Sumner, Lyn Newland, Susan Webb, Grahame Wright, Tim Cashman, Ann Lohsy and Rod Attenborough (from Kodak).

MINUTES FROM MEETING 21 SEPTEMBER, 1993:

The Minutes were taken as read. All members have read minutes in last newsletter. Accepted by Robyn Hewitt, Seconded by Rick Latimer.

INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE:

Ryde Underwater Club "Surface Interval", Uni. of NSW "Devious Undercurrents", UTS "No Douts", Underwater Research Group "Bulletin", Brisbane Waters Aqualung Club "Demand Valve Vibes", Sydney University U/W Club, Harry M. Miller's "Read My Lips".

OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:

Terese Mayer has sent correspondence and newsletters to new members.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Leo Mayer gave the Treasurer's Report. Accepted by Rick Latimer, Seconded by Brian Colwell.

PHOTOGRAPHIC OFFICER'S REPORT:

Paul Wildish spoke briefly on the night's 'Masters' debate and voting. Slips of paper were then passed out to those wishing to talk on the matter. These were then returned to the Club President so that an orderly debate could be held later.

Paul said that the Committee was currently having negotiations with Barry Andrewartha and Cathie Holloway regarding the publication of the competition results and winning entries. No decision has been taken as yet.

Paul has been soliciting views from several people in the diving industry regarding possible ways to improve the fairness of the competition and the presentation and the response so far has been very encouraging. People approached so far include Glen Percy, Max Gleeson, Kevin Deakin, Tom Byron, Mark Spencer, Becca Saunders and Cathie Holloway.

Paul has held discussions with people who are willing to come and address the Club's monthly meetings. These include Tom Byron talking about the history of the Club and a history of diving and also talking on his revised NSW dive sites books. Becca Saunders has offered to do a slide show in the new year. Max Gleeson has proposed to give a talk about researching his books. Maxwell Optics have also been approached to show us their underwater cameras.

Paul mentioned that alternate venues for the competition presentation night were being looked at due to rising costs.

DIVE REPORTS BY MEMBERS:

Michael McFadyen, John Fowden, Sue Webb and Les Catison had a memorable dive at Osborne Shoals (*as distorted by the St. George Leader newspaper*). By the time they surfaced from their dive "a 35 knot wind had blown up with high seas breaking over the surface". The boat had slipped its anchor and was missing and they were forced to swim for shore. Luckily they were eventually picked up and their boat was saved.

Michael McF. has also just come back from diving New Caledonia and Noumea's Isle of Pines and the northern island. Michael had 2 good dives at Noumea and saw about a dozen sharks, manta rays and also sea snakes at Emadee Island. He had 3 good dives at Isle of Pines and dived a freshwater cave. North of main island Michael dived good reef but the resort is expensive (\$8 for a beer !), but it's excellent diving, accommodation, etc.

Scott Leimroth told of a recent dive with Martin on the Tuggerah. There was also a fishing boat and a charter boat anchored on the wreck. It was murky on top but O.K. once they got down. During the dive they noticed the interesting anchor that belonged to the fishing boat. It's anchor's prongs were shaped into a large arrow head ! Back on the surface Martin had to free Cape Bailey's fouled anchor line because of the same fishing boat.

Robyn Hewitt had a recent dive trip up at Tweed Heads and saw 3 mantas and small turtles.

Leo Bergagnin had a dive with Max Weston at Barrons Hut on the Saturday before.

DIVE / SOCIAL ORGANISER'S REPORT:

As Joe was away on his Great Barrier Reef holiday, Leo Mayer gave the Dive/Social Report.

- Saturday Morning Shore Dives
Friday Night Dives
Club Boat Dives:

Leo Mayer spoke on the Club's recent night dive and shore dive at Oak Park, last month's Club Boat Dive on the Dee Why Wide. It was a successful day and we had 3 club boats and about 12 divers who all had a good dive. Afterwards the group stopped off at Watsons Bay for chowder soup at Doyles and a couple of beers at the Watsons Bay Pub.

- **Jervis Bay Weekend** is for 13 / 14 November and staying at the Huskisson Caravan Park (*the one nearest to the Pub*). Boat owners and divers who are interested in going should contact Joe (on 018-862 328 b/h, 743 3710 a/h) or Leo Mayer (on 708 5742) A.S.A.P. We have to make a firm booking soon. (Bookings are for the Friday/Saturday nights).

Prices for accommodation are:

- Couples in **CABINS** are \$50.00 per night (i.e. \$25 each). If 5 people share a **CABIN** its \$62.00 (i.e. \$12.40 p/p). Each Cabin has shower/toilet/kitchen facilities.
- **CARAVANS** are \$42.00 (for 2 people), or
- **TENT SITES** are \$13.00 a night.
- **Club B-B-Q's:** The next B-B-Q is for **SATURDAY 6 NOVEMBER AT 4.00 p.m.** [Our hosts will be Karin Smith and Peter Booth: 60 Fountainbleu St, Sans Souci.
- Christmas Party B-B-Q** is on Saturday 4 December at Gunnamatta Park, Cronulla.
- **4-W-Drive Weekend** to Yerrandari. Saturday & Sunday 27 and 28 November. If interested, call Joe for details on 018-862 328 b/h, 743 3710 a/h.

DIVE / SOCIAL ORGANISER'S REPORT:

- **Lady Elliot Island:** February 1994. 6 Days, 5 Nights.

Firm bookings are being made next week, probably for the last week of February.

Please contact Leo Mayer A.S.A.P. on **708 5742** for further information / brochures.

Cost is \$555.00 for the island's "free diving" package in February staying in the Tent/Cabin accommodation. This price includes 2 FREE shore dives per day, all food and return flight from Bundaberg. Children under 7 are half price.

- **Dinner and Wine Tasting at Bankstown RSL Club, 26 November.**

Call Joe (on 018-862 328 b/h, 743 3710 a/h.) or Leo Mayer (on 708 5742) for information.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Wreck Course

- BJ asked whether the Club had considered using a surveyed vessel for the wreck diving course, or to look into using one for future courses. Leo B. said this may be looked for courses in 1994.
- Martin Kandilas requested the following point be recorded in Club Minutes: " He was displeased at being advised at the last minute that a Club member had changed the venue for the theory part of the first wreck course. Martin said that he had offered his house as a venue at the August meeting and this had been confirmed in Club Minutes at the September meeting. Martin asked that if similar decisions are made in the future (he hopes not), then could the venue provider be the first to know of changes, rather than the last? Martin said that these types of late changes can make people angry and somewhat reluctant to come forward in the future with offers of assistance with these courses. " Leo Bergagnin said that this would not be the case for any future courses organised by the new Committee.

Future Events:

- Leo Bergagnin mentioned:
 - The **Rob Palmer Cave Diving Lecture Night** at Sydney University on Tuesday 9 November, 1993 Tickets (\$10) for the night are available from IANTD Australasia (telephone 569 5588).
 - **Bob Talbot**, internationally famous underwater and wildlife cinematographer/photographer is the special guest on **Friday 26 November** at the SSI Platinum Pro Presentation night (\$10.00 a ticket).
- Sue Sainsbury of Ship Rock Dive Shop is hosting a Treasure Hunt on Sunday 14 November.
- Gordon's Bay Scuba Diving Club are rebuilding the dive trail chain. All divers are welcome to assist in the rebuild and photographers documenting the event are welcome. Contact club member Gordon McDonald on **519 7850 (a/h)** for further information.

Other Matters Raised:

- Rick Latimer spoke on the recent Robert Ballard talk and his book "Ghost Ships of Guadecanal". Some books were sold at the Club meeting.
- Leo Bergagnin mentioned that there were new Club shirts, caps, etc. for sale.
- Michael McFadyen brought up the point that the proposed sand mining by Metromix off Bondi Beach had been mentioned on the news that night. Apparently the Environmental Impact Statement will be out shortly. The proposed sand mining area is from Cape Banks down to Bate Bay and Providential Head (Jibbon) to near where the Tuggerah is.

Bob Nickling said that he was an employee of the dredging company. The sand dredge to be used was not like normal dredges. He said that "the company had not rushed in blindly to mine sand off the coast". Bob could probably arrange for someone to come and give a talk at the next meeting.

'MASTERS' DEBATE

Leo Bergagnin then opened debate on the 'Masters' issue.

- Martin presented a written submission from Mark and Cassie Welsh saying that they supported the 'Masters' as a method of stimulating interest in the Open section of the competition, with the concept of a 'Masters' where qualifying requirements are multiple placings or a first place in the Open event.
- Rick Latimer was then called upon to talk. Rick said that he's not a photographer but did have knowledge of the photo comp., that there were points for and against. Problems arose because there was suggestions that somehow we should break the deadlock situation that occurs, e.g. Gary Bell's multiple wins. That the Club should turn around and stop that situation occurring. If someone wins the Open then they should then move into the 'Masters' section. That way, clearing that group at the top. Rick said that in theory this was not a bad idea.

In practical terms, you are still making a 'Master' the Photographer of the Year, because he is a 'Master'. This doesn't resolve the problems. It just shifts the emphasis from one to the other.

The competition is for the Australasian Underwater Photographer of the Year. If there was a 'Masters' group created and someone did then win the 'Open' section, it would be because all the good competition had been removed anyway.

Rick now believes that a 'Masters' is not that good an idea. If someone wins for 3 times then they should be asked to have a break and not to enter next time. Brian Colwell said that this had been suggested in the past to people like Gary Bell.

- Martin Kandilas then gave his views against a 'Masters'. For a time he had been all for a 'Masters' section but had since changed his mind and is now against having this section created.

Martin said that this issue was first suggested about 3 years ago. Martin then gave an analogy - that of the Olympic Games, for example Carl Lewis. If Carl Lewis was not running in a race and you then won you would feel cheated, that you had competed but there had been no competition.

If someone wins as Australasian^{U/W} Photographer of the Year but all competition had been removed beforehand, then this takes the prestige away from the competition. It would then be a non event if we do have a 'Masters'.

The Rules were then mentioned. That a winner automatically goes into the next year's 'Open'. Place getters can get into the 'Novice' section again. Maybe the rules should be modified.

- Scott Leimroth said that he was not a photographer but his friends were. He felt that the point of the competition was to beat people like Michael Cufer. This stimulates people to want to enter the competition.
- Leo Bergagnin then said that the competition rules were being reworded and refined so that some shots (e.g. "penthouse pets" which had previously been entered and these were not true to life underwater shots).
- BJ then spoke and said that he was all for a 'Masters'. That at the moment the competition was discouraging a lot of entrants. If someone has already entered once or twice then they don't bother entering again. Up and coming photographers are being discouraged. At present the competition structure is not promoting underwater photography. BJ feels we must attract more junior photographers.

With a 'Masters' section then this group can compete with "the best of the best". People competing in a 'Masters' could then compete for a plaque.

'MASTERS' DEBATE

- In general discussion it was then brought up that to segregate winners would detract from the "Australasian Underwater Photographer of the Year" by putting in a separate category. It has happened that the same people continue to win the competition, but entrants to the competition take their chances on winning. They put themselves up against the best in the 'Open'.
- Brian Colwell then spoke on the subject. Brian said it is discouraging when people like Gary Bell win for 3 times running. To encourage photographers there had previously been a 'Juniors' category but this was phased out due to lack of interest. Then with the 'Open' section people feel they can never beat the same guys that are at the top. The 'Novice' section does get a lot of first time entrants, but the same argument arises, that they cannot beat the same guys that consistently are at the top of this category.

An extra incentive was added to the competition: that of Highest Scoring Slide - one in the 'Open' and one in the 'Novice' sections. If someone had one really good slide then this would bring them up.

Then there has been the two Encouragement Awards, one in the "Open" and the other in the 'Novice' sections. The winner of this category was worked out by the Photography Officer and the Club President and was awarded to the contestant who shows most promise. If a photographer can't get to the tropics to take the best photos then this award encourages those who show promise with their photos that are taken in local waters.

Brian does not agree to segregate the competition. He doesn't agree in penalising someone like Andy Belcher. If you look at someone like Michael Cufer who's been competing for 6 years and has crept up the winning ladder. You "wear them down through attrition". People who enter every time get serious and want to win the competition and they prove their point in the end. It's good to watch people progress over the years. Good competition is healthy at the top.

- Michael Cufer then spoke as a competitor. He said that either way the competition was set up it's still going to be good. You will still be competing against the same guys and still have competition at the top end. Michael said it's been a good feeling for him to wear down the competition.
- Bob Nickling then asked Rick Latimer what effect a "Masters" section would have on the sponsors. Rick said a decision on this does not hinge on the sponsors. The sponsors are not a problem, it's just a shifting of emphasis and you wouldn't lose any sponsorship.

A vote was then taken. A clear majority of club members voted NOT TO HAVE A 'MASTERS' SECTION in next year's competition. No further debate shall be entered into on this issue.

RAFFLE:

First prize of a trip on Max Western's Sea Tamer II and Kodak film was won by John Fowden. Thanks to Max for the prize. Contact numbers for bookings on the Sea Tamer II are **567 2658** or **018 280 791** for the **B°AT PHONE**.

Second prize of 3 rolls of Kodak film was won by Robyn Hewitt. Third prize of more Kodak film was won by someone, but I've forgotten their name !

MEETING CLOSED at around 9.20 p.m.

GUEST SPEAKER:

Rod Attenborough from Kodak then gave us a comprehensive demonstration of the new Visual C.D. Disk Player (5 discs). Most people at the meeting were suitably impressed with its capabilities.

Kodak have also generously donated rolls of film for our Club raffles.