

**SPD COMMITTEE MEETING      6<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER, 2003      (late start)**

**Attendees:** Amanda, Noel, Matt, Peter, Phil, Mark, Duane and Sue.

**Peter** - advises all entries and all prizes have been posted away. Received a thank you letter from Lyn Vincent & Robert Wesyerdyk (winners), email from Mike Ball to keep them in mind for next year, Dive Adventures thank you email and to also keep them in mind for next time. All thank you letters have been sent off to the sponsors advising them of who won their prize. One entry sent prints not slides so a letter was sent re non acceptance, An American entry was sent a disqualification letter. Suggested we keep up the cheap membership for next years comp.

Peter gave Amanda various details re her Sponsorship Co-Ordinator role.

Next Year?? Time span need to work together

**BBQ** - Peter's place - 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2003 BYO meat/ grog 4.00pm

**AGM** - will be held in March - ie. 3 months after January as membership is from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December of each year.

**Noels Invoice** - Committee's agreement to pay it, is not in any minutes. Noel said Amanda and Peter knew about his invoice. Peter, as Photographic Officer, did not know and it came as a shock to him also re both the cost of the invoice and that he was submitting one. Apparently Amanda said production people could send in an invoice. None of the AV committee (except Amanda) knew that Noel was submitting an invoice and even then, initially she said it would need to be discussed further re the cost.

1<sup>st</sup> Problem - it only lists an amount, does not list any details at all.

Noel walked out early in discussions and Amanda advised that his expenses (ie stationary, printer cartridge etc) were also included in this total.

2<sup>nd</sup> Problem - Club constitution states that members only get reimbursed for out of pocket expenses. Members seeking a grant for proposed work must first submit a written proposal and costings to the committee, who then have to present it at a meeting.

Now that was put in place so everyone couldn't claim for time used doing Club work, otherwise there would be no money in the account at all.

After the meeting Amanda spoke to Noel to re-do his invoice and give us all the receipts for the out of pocket expenses separately - as there's no problem (within reason) for these expenses only problem with manpower. Manpower section will have to be brought up at the next meeting and discussed - members to decide.

**Scanner** - found out that it has broken down again and that's why David Fagan scanned the slides for us. The reason the scanner was bought initially was to bring the running of the comp. back in house to save the club money. \* Another reason for the problem with Noels bill.

**Suggestion re running the comp but not the night.**

Problem - competition entries only brought in \$2,280.00 in earnings, the trophies alone cost \$1,258.00. A) We could not do a good enough job to advertise our sponsors and B) It would not make any money and would probably cost us money.



Other topics for discussion from Duane – re reasons not to run the night

These are the issues that need addressing post AV Night. They are not necessarily in any order and certainly not comprehensive, but I believe that they are the important ones.

- (1) There was no Photographer allocated for the night and it was just lucky Simon had a camera with him on the night.

*I understand that there had been an offer for someone to be act as a photographer, but this was declined.*

- (2) The MC was embarrassing to say the least. He was unable to follow the prompts via the screen, let alone adlib with credibility. Failed to pay due homage to the sponsors, especially the Sport Diver Magazine. This position was paid for and one would expect way better.

*This most likely was as a result of having to take what was available due to shortness of time. Another reason that a rushed AV is a bad AV.*

Discussion: We all agreed. The same person was MC 2 years ago and was great, this time he let us down badly.

- (3) Amanda, as the President failed to present the Club effectively from the Lecturn and the floor. The speeches were essentially non-existent. This again was an embarrassing situation for the Club. The President has few duties as laid down for the position, but being a spokesperson is the most important.

*Refer 13A of the constitution.*

Discussion: Amanda said she was unaware re the 1<sup>st</sup> speech- until she saw the agenda for the night. She only knew about the closing speech which she had written out but then couldn't use as the MC stole her thunder.

- (4) Noel, by not getting up and accepting his prize was dreadful and left the thought as to why not. This was another embarrassment.

*There was no reason that the entire show could not have been put on hold for 2 minutes, allowing this award to be accepted.*

- (5) Our all year sponsors, Sea Tamer, Diver City and Ship Rock were all left out in the cold and this is unforgivable and another embarrassment for the Club.

Discussion: Lucky only Don was there – otherwise wasn't really thought of.

- (6) The lack of sound control when each segment started up was a problem that was annoying to say the least. If a sound tech was paid for the system. What was the problem?



Discussion: Was a problem between video and the slides.

- (7) The simple things like venue set up were essentially ignored with a lack of posters and the like until the last minute and even then it was only a patch up to put something on the wall.
- (8) The lack of advertising material in the folders was another embarrassment.

*It is the responsibility of the club to chase this, not the sponsors to make sure we get it.*

- (9) I heard remarks from people that the format was getting boring and the final music was just more of the same and there was a lack of interest in attending another AV Night.

*These remarks came from intelligent people and none of them were drunk. It is indicative of the damage that has possibly been done by having a hurried AV.*

- (10) The expenses associated with the organising of this event need to be discussed with a view to understanding the intended resultant expectations of this quite liberal expense. Caps, Pens and Balloons and associated setup and printing costs.

Discussion: A business plan will have to be done in future, regardless of what has been done in the past – we all know better. Members should also have a say on the larger expenditure.

- (11) What was David Burns's name doing up alongside Peter's for Photographic Officer? This was an embarrassment for Peter.

Discussion: Apparently Peter agreed with Noel that this was O.K.

- (12) Noel's account needs to be addressed at a general meeting level.

*Refer 14 D, 36 B, 36 C,*

Discussion: Refer to above

The AV night is more than just a night to show off slides and video, it is about providing a venue for the afore mentioned, but more than that it is about servicing the needs of the Sponsors. This means that the sponsors have to have felt that the investment was more than worth it and be clamouring to be on the list for the next competition.

The Sponsor who pulled out in the beginning of this AV night's proceedings, did so for reasons that were indicative of all the above mentioned problems and more before they arose. In other words the writing was on the wall and the smart thing to do was to pull back, regroup and consider the situation. There was considerable opposition to the proceeding with AV night for 2003 and sound reasoning was tendered. The conclusion after having the such information at hand, was to disregard the writing on the wall and proceed. Therefore, the failings of this AV night are directly attributable to those that decided in favour of proceeding and there are no excuses.



It was not hindsight that allows this view, it was fore sight, both in the initial major sponsor's view and also in 2/3 of the Office Bearers that decided this issue.

It will remain to be seen just how bad the damage is in relation to the sponsorship issue for the future, but using the formula, "what would any reasonable man do?" It would have to be a considered belief, that damage has occurred and whether or not it is irreparable, will remain to be seen.

It was notable at the last general meeting when Martin, off the cuff, voiced the opinion that perhaps the club should consider not running the event every year, perhaps bi-annually. He made no effort to elaborate on this remark, but to any lateral thinking person that could read between the lines, it is not an unacceptable conclusion that Martin felt that the night had not been up to acceptable past standards and this was his normally diplomatic way, of saying so.

There has to be considerable latitude given to Peter Flockart here as he was really only salvaging what was left by David Burns and given this, he should get some congratulations, but having said this Peter was one of those that voted for the AV night to proceed when the opportunity to cancel was available and hence had an expected understanding of what that decision meant.

*We can still refer to 16E*

Having said all of the above, the night went ahead and one has to assume that those involved did their best to for the night, but the night just didn't come up to speed and we will only know how this affects the future of the competition when time has passed.

*Committee Powers in 9C, is qualified and defined by 16E.*

*In respect to the AV meeting that was held to consider the issue of the AV night being held at all this year in actual fact was voted 3-2 against by the office bearers and in light of this the actual vote that forced the issued was unconstitutional and in fact the matter should have been returned to the members at a general meeting for consensus, for or against.*

*This again is stipulated under 16E of the constitution.*

*The Model Rules for the Association, what we call the Constitution of this club, were compiled in accordance with the appropriate Act with the intention of applying restrictions and latitudes for it's members so as to enable an efficient, just, legal and democratic organisation to exist. It is not a document that is to be compromised by anyone without the consensus of the general membership.*

*Anyone doing so risks (a) breaching the Association Incorporations Act and (b) being left with the results of their actions personally, without the protection of such protections that the Act and the Model Rules provide such persons.*