



# RATAE SAC

## MINUTES OF QUARTERLY MEETING

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2003  
The Lifeguardsman  
Shepshed  
8:00pm



### Members present:

Mark Hessey, Carol Harper, Rob Cuss, Michael Mildenhall, Martin Crookes, Chris Kirk, Karl Kirk, Alex Kirk, Mick Ward, Kev Wright, Rachel Kirkby, Rod Hill, Paul Lucas, Edith Lucas, Graham Stanbridge, Cherie Wooding, Ian Ellison. Ian Petchey,

### 1. Apologies:

Mark Willoughby, Alison Ball, Ted Tibenham, Lesley Turnbull, Bryan Spence, Richard Muddimer.

### 2. Minutes of meeting held 25<sup>th</sup> February 2003:

Minutes were accepted for the Quarterly Meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> February 2003

### 3. Matters arising:

Several actions were outstanding:

- Dive criteria on international dive trips. Martin Crookes bought up the problem of strict criteria for diving abroad. This is only likely to get worse. Full details were given for the Israel trip, but problems were encountered. ACTION: all going on dive trips make sure they meet the requirements and that they can prove their diving credentials.

### 4. Tribute to Peter Ridge.

The club were informed about the sad death of Peter Ridge. The following is a tribute written by the Dive Officer, Mark Hessey:

" Peter Ridge joined Ratae Divers in 1993, being one of the second tranche of people to join what was then a very new club with about 10 members. He was a very competent sports diver and dived at places such as St. Abbs, Plymouth and off the South Coast. More than a diver the people who knew Peter admired him for his perseverance and his ability to get on with everyone. Although not tall in stature and softly spoken he did not suffer fools gladly and would get the best out of the people around him with a few well chosen words.

In addition to being a diver he was also a pilot and had successfully gained a degree in his own time. He was in the middle of finishing a Master's degree when his illness took hold. When we were told that Peter had lung cancer everyone said that it was unfair - he had never smoked and seemed to be in the prime of life. What we didn't know that in his late teens, whilst working in Germany, he had been working on building sites with asbestos and it was this that eventually killed him. After the operation to remove a lung Peter was told he would

never dive again and so he very generously donated his equipment to the club - this was Peter's way - generous with his possessions and time.

However he was determined to at least swim again and on several occasions he could be found on a Thursday evening swimming up against the side of the pool. I was there the first time that he went into the pool - it took him half an hour to get from the shallow end to the deep end and when he finished he got out, very slowly. It was enough that he had done it. Over the coming weeks he continued to increase his time and duration in the pool until his disease caught up with him again and he became too ill to come.

I saw Peter at his home about 2 weeks before he died. He had just been to Gap to buy some new clothes as his old clothes didn't fit him anymore. He saw a leather jacket there - he hadn't had one since he was young, so he bought it. He never got to wear it - Peter was nothing if not a quiet optimist.

I for one, and I know there are many others in the club, will miss Peter very much and we send our deepest condolences to Cathy, his wife and to his 2 children. "

Everyone present acknowledged that the club owed a lot to Peter, including his hard work at winning the kit grant, for his donated kit, and his training.

The club decided to pay our respects to Peter and to raise money for his Cancer charity, by dedicating the last club Thursday night at Hind Leys on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July.

As a lasting tribute, the club will revive its award for achievement at the AGM in the name of Peter. Discussion centred on what the award should be for. The award will remain open for nomination of anyone that has made a difference to the club, or performed a high number of dives etc. Club members can nominate anyone for the award and a committee will decide on who gets the award.

**5. Chairs Communications - Paul Lucas:**

Apologies for his absence due to his high work load. The club looks healthy on a Thursday evening. The publicity gained by the photo in Dive magazine was also acknowledged.

**6. Treasurer's Report - Cherie Wooding:**

A copy of the Accounts was circulated to all present. The club has a bank balance of £1027.50, which is not as healthy as it looks. Cherie stated that not enough people were going in the pool and that these fees were not being covered. We need more people using the pool, some weeks it is full, others it is almost empty. Bryan Spence's idea for an entertainment evening at the club was discussed as one means of raising money. We need one per term.

Another signatory is required: ACTION: Cherie to see if Rachel Kirkby can be added as a third signatory as she lives close to the pool.

**7. Diving Officer's Report - Mark Hessey:**

Mark stated that the club has two new trainees wishing to start. He wished to express his thanks to all instructors who took lectures during the past quarter. The standard of diving in our club is good, but we all need to dive more as a club.

#### **8. Training Officer's Report - Rob Cuss for Bryan Spence:**

In the last Quarter, the following qualifications have been completed:

Ocean Divers: Theory; Jo Tanner, Scott Wheatley, Lynn Wright, Richard Muddimer.  
Pool assessment: Jo, Scott and Lynn.  
Open water: Lynn and Scott have had some open water dives. Alex Kirk passed his Ocean Diver (at the Great Barrier Reef!).  
Sport Diver: Alison Ball fully passed SD.  
Dive Leaders: Theory: Catherine Spence, Graham Stanbridge, Ted Tibenham, and Rob Cuss.  
Chartwork and Positions SDC: Bryan Spence

Bryan Spence has organised a day with the RNLI at Stoney Cove (subsequently changed to Vobster Quay) for the 28<sup>th</sup> June 2003.

#### **9. Equipment Officer's Report - Graham Stanbridge:**

The club has 4 complete Open Water kits. The stabs are looking worn and chlorine is a problem. Solution is a bin at the back of the pool for dunking the kit into. ACTION: Get a dustbin and check with the college that this is not against Health & Safety etc. ALL NOTE: regulators should not be dunked fully open, allowing water to enter the first stage. ALL instructors to ensure that trainees do not do this.

Air is still being returned low still. ACTION: Instructors to remind trainees that Graham should be informed if the air is low.

#### **10. Forthcoming Trips:**

**2003**

**Plymouth:** Full

**Anglesey:** Enough interest for the trip to go ahead, more can be added if interested.

**Holiday:** Another club holiday may be run in 2004.

**Pembroke:** Martin Crookes has organised a Nitrox course for the second weekend in August in Pembroke. Course on Friday and Saturday with proper diving on the Sunday.

#### **10. AOB:**

- Sports Council: Light will be fitted in the shed in the summer
- Disabled Day of Sport on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2003. Ian Ellison, Cherie Wooding, Karl Kirk, Chris Kirk, Kev Wright, Rachel Kirkby, Mick Ward, Mark Hessey, and Martin Crookes volunteered to help.

#### **11. Date and Time of next meeting:**

August 19<sup>th</sup>, The Lifeguardsman, Shepshed at 8pm.