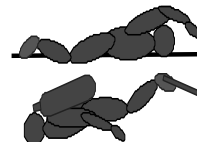




ESTEC SWIMMING & SUB-AQUA CLUB

September 2002 Newsletter



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Editorial

Your newsletter has a new editor - me!

For those of you that do not know it, Sharon Tatman is my eldest daughter and has, of course, been doing a cracking job as your newsletter editor for the past three or four years. However, now that she finds the computer keyboard so far out of reach I've been *told* to take over.

Looking over what Sharon has created I see nothing much that needs changing but . . . I would like to have a go at presenting an editorial comment (my personal opinion on some subject or other) each edition - an editors perk after all? So, with that in mind, and noting the concern regarding club finances, I will begin there.

But, before any of that, I have great pleasure, I'm sure on behalf of everyone, in congratulating Trix and Jeff on their wedding. Mr. and Mrs. Noyes, enthusiastic, active, club members that they are, we must count ourselves so lucky to know them.



Trix and Jeff . . .
"and they lived happily ever after"
(H.C. Andersen : 1805 – 1875)

I was at this years AGM and also recent meetings of our new committee and was struck by an overall determination to get things right. Jeff Noyes, has been our chairman for a long time now and for jolly good reason. We keep voting him back because he is a good chair and a nice guy to boot. The committee supports Jeff in his concerns regarding membership numbers, membership fees, pool allocation etc. This newsletter therefore highlights details of the changes. See 'Need to know' for the details.

The struggle to balance the books is nothing new however. I recall nineteen years ago, when my young family and I first joined the Essac. There was a party at the Tennis Club (no Escape in those days) where lots of people were having huge fun and, would you believe it, fund raising! We had overspent and the next SSCC injection was just too far off. Today's problem however seems to be partly of our own making. Too many of us are not paying our annual subscriptions promptly enough. This corrupts our accounting in any given year and bingo, SSCC think we have fewer members than we actually have. Also the secretary's job, if not already hard enough, becomes an annual nightmare. Having digested what is said in 'Need to know', maybe you will agree with me that we will still pay peanuts for the facilities we enjoy so much?

Some of you may have picked up this edition of the newsletter from our new website. The best way to enjoy it in full color is by logging in - so give us a 'hit'. The address is:

www.geocities.com/estecessac

This newsletter opens up with a nice little piece from Dimitri Pletser. Contributions from our next generation of club members - on any subject at all, are always particularly welcome.

Finally, how about having our own newsletter 'Page-three Girl'? Those who have resided in the UK for any time at all will know about the lightly clad wenches that cheer the Brits early morning reading in certain newspapers. Therefore, all in the name of art and nothing to do with circulation figures - wearing nothing but a smile - we present . . . **Gloria!**

Phil Baker.

Dimitri and friends - underwater!

I'm sorry I haven't been able to write this before; I have had a very busy school year however, the year is over I am able to type this.

It all started a year ago, with the thought 'This year I want to do something exciting for my birthday party', the first thing that came to my mind was paintball; this however was much too expensive and my mum made me forget that idea immediately. The next idea was diving.

At first my parents were not too thrilled by this idea, but later they warmed to it. My dad went to find out and I was thrilled to hear that it was possible, but not probable.

But many in our club are miracle workers and were able to organise it. About six months later I was giving out the invitations to my friends and getting very excited.

The day of my party had arrived, I was installing one of my presents on the computer (Diablo II, a brilliant game), my first friends arrived, after a while the whole gang was here and I was receiving yet more presents. We left for the Schelft, it was on Sunday.

When we arrived Sharon gave us a short briefing and we were off. I stayed with my dad the whole session, so didn't see an awful lot of



my friends, except for the occasional big grin. My friends took turns diving and according to me thoroughly enjoyed it.

After the diving we took the dive instructors to a "pannenkoeken" restaurant and had a nice meal, by this time everybody was extremely tired (Diving looks way easier than it actually is) and we took them home.

I would hereby like to thank the diving instructors and organisers, for a great party and a very enjoyable afternoon.

THANK YOU. I'm a very happy birthday boy.

Dimitri



Meet Gloria – gorgeous, young and very definitely topless!

Need to know . . .

For the whoever pays the membership fees:

Those of you who attended the AGM in May will know that the Club must raise its subscriptions rates or risk losing one of the pools, particularly the Sunday pool. It was decided therefore to revise the rates as follows:

Adult Member (and DIVER under the age of 18)	€90.00
Family Adult Member (plus 1 child free)	€90.00
Extra Family Child Member	€16.50
Single Child (no adult member of club)	€35.00

Full subscription payments made and received by the ESSAC bank account before 1 October 2002 will enjoy the following discounts:

Adult Member	€10.00
Family Adult Member	€10.00

Families and/or Divers may also elect to pay in instalments. This is being tested this year, so that we can see how popular it is.

An e-mail must be sent to Drusilla Wishart in September 2002 informing her of your intent to pay using the instalment plan and how you intend to pay (1 = 80 2= 96.50). The first payment must be at least one full Adult ESSAC portion of the bill received by the ESSAC bank account in September. All money due must be received by 30 October 2002. Divers must pay particular attention that until the BSAC portion of the bill is received and the membership renewal form is signed, no BSAC membership will be renewed. A letter explaining how this works in your particular case has been sent out with the subscription.

A rough example family of 2 Adults and 3 children. €180 for the two adults (two children free), €16.50 for the extra child, totalling €196.50. If paid before 1 October the bill would be €176.00 - a saving of €20.00.

If spread over two months (September and October):

1st payment €80.00

2nd payment €96.50

If no subscription from the member is noted in the Club's bank account by 1 November 2002, the member shall be considered as having left the Club.

For the diver:

Divers should note that BSAC subscriptions went up from 1 May 2002 as follows:

New Members, Club Diver, Ocean Diver, Sports Diver, Dive Leader and Assistant Club Instructor £43.00

Club Instructor, Open Water Instructor, Advanced Diver £38.00

Advanced Instructor, First Class Diver £33.00

National Instructor £23.00

Abated members (that is other member of a household 14 years and over) £28.00

Exchange rate will be that of the day of billing.

For the Swimmer:

There is a different method of entry to the Noordwijkerhout De Schelp, our winter Sunday pool. Members can no longer walk straight in but must collect an electronic arm/ankle-tag from the reception desk. The desk is to the right-hand side in the main entrance. The tag is then used to release the entry turnstile next to the bar. Take care though because the turnstile is very unforgiving and doesn't appear to allow for mistakes.

On exit the procedure is much simpler. Just drop your electronic tag into the pocket at the top of the exit pillar. The turnstile is then released and away you go!

Pool sessions are open to our members at the Noordwijkerhout **de Schelft** this winter 2002/03 season on the following Sundays:

October 6, 13, 20 and 27

November 3, 10, 17 and 24

December 1, 8 and 15

January 5, 12, 19 and 26

February 2, 9, 16 and 23

March 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30

April 6, 13 and 27

Equipment News:

The Club has now purchased, thanks to a special grant from ESA, 10 set of masks fins and snorkels for the children. Fin sizes ranging from size 27 to 34. This equipment is primarily for the "Kids tryouts" that we have every so often, but if a parent wants to borrow a set then they should contact the equipment officer.

The club has also purchased, again with a special grant from the SSCC, a hand held Marine GPS . As well as having a full marine database it also shows the names of roads (even the Keplerlaan). Although a dedicated mounting plate will be fitted to the boat to hold the unit, the GPS itself will be kept separate from the boat, so if you are taking the boat out, and want the GPS contact the equipment officer.

Keith Miller
Equipment Officer

Expeditions:

The Essac like to organise a club diving holiday (for sports divers and above) to Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles, during the period 29 April - 9 May 2003.

The accommodations would be at the Coco Palm Gardens where prices range between €65 to €90 per room per night (based on double occupancy. There is an additional charge for a third person of €13.50 per night, and kids under 12 are charged at €8 per night) depending on the accommodation.

All accommodations has a small kitchen, fridge BBQ etc. and a patio onto the gardens. The main residence has a pool-bar. More info on rooms can be found on their multi-language website:

www.cocopalmgarden.org

This is classified as budget self-catering accommodation, but it is very clean and exceptional value for money.

MiniVans would be arranged per 4 divers unless you specify that you and your buddy want your

own van - generally this cost would be €45 per day all inclusive split between the number of persons on board.

For flights it may be possible to arrange a group discount with KLM but, at the moment, these flights are advertised as low as €550 but might increase during the period we are looking at - school holidays! To get a more definite price we need to supply KLM with a list of names.

Dive packages are arranged on the spot in Bonaire. However, unlimited shore diving would be in the region of €100 per 6 days. Note that most dives sites are accessible from shore and boat trips can be arranged as and when desired. Check it out at: www.diveinn-bonaire.com.

Diving will be left to the individual to find his/her own buddy, and the club will not be arranging any training dives.

The club will arrange a trip in the Minivans to the far north, for maybe a night dive, and perhaps a meal together on the last night, and generally have cocktails together in the early evening to share diving stories, but would leave all the rest to the individuals.

Typical costs for a 10 day holiday based on a couple sharing accomodation, and two couples sharing a minivan is as follows:

Flight	€550 per person
10 days accomodation	€325 per person
9 days unlimited shore diving	€154 per person
10 days share of car rental	€112 per person
Total (not including food, drinks, airport tax, petrol etc.)	€1141 per person

In order to know whether to proceed further please indicate your interest to Drusilla Wishart: Drusilla.Wishart@esa.int.

The future of the Sterrenbad by Barrie Henson

In the April Newsletter Sharon and I wrote an article about the proposals for a new pool in Wassenaar as a result of our attendance at two workshops. Since then the various options have

been extensively discussed in the local "Gemeente". The major problem, of course, is cost and the Wassenaar Gemeente are facing severe budget difficulties because of several major projects.

This resulted in one completely new concept from a building developer (and one or two political links) to utilise a site in the centre of the village near the harbour. This area is being evacuated by small businesses that are moving to a new industrial estate. Funding of this plan was 'arranged' to include building authority for luxury houses on the existing pool site and a car park with charges for the new pool. Not surprisingly there were many objections to this plan and following several arguments it has now been dropped.

The latest agreed plan is to build the new pool adjacent to the existing site, i.e. further up the road. An important argument in this approach is to keep the existing pool open until the new one is ready.

The new pool will have: a competition pool, a recreation pool and a therapy pool. There will not be an outside pool because of cost. The proposal for the competition pool is that it will have seven lanes. This is very strange because at the workshops it was clearly recommended to have eight lanes. Presumably cost is a factor here as well.

The design options have to be discussed in more detail and a final decision will be made in December. Then work will commence and the new pool is supposed to be opened in 2005. However, a few more surprises may still appear!

The committee

Your committee members are:

Chairman	Jeff Noyes
Club Treasurer and BSAC Secretary	Drusilla Wishart
Diving Officer	Mario Monaldi
Training Officer	B. Galewicz
Equipment Officer	Keith Miller
Swimming Officer	Myra Macleod-Nolan
Expeditions Officer	Post vacant
Snorkelling	Wim van Leeuwen
Social Secretary	Trix Noyes-Hensen