Steering Group Minutes

28th Meeting

8th Nov 2022 19:30 h, by Zoom

1. Present: Toby Sherwin (co-Chair and Secretary), Mike Puleston (co-Chair), Robert Morgan, Sue Watson-Bate
2. Apologies: Pete Jonas (by Zoom), Anne Gwynn, Belle Heaton, Chris Bryan
3. Minutes of last Meeting and Matters arising (not covered below):
The minutes were accepted.
4. Treasurer’s report and Membership:
**RM** reported that after payment of £35 to the Royal Torbay Yacht Club for hire of their room for the AGM there is £59.87 in the bank account plus £114.15 in the cash box. So as of 5 Nov we have in total £174.02. Since 5th Nov **TS** has paid in £30 membership fees from new members Louise Scammell, Christine Bonner and Caroline, a student from Plymouth University all of whom attended the Meadfoot Bioblitz plus £10 from himself for renewal of his membership. **TS** needs to send out a reminder to Association members to start rejoining.
5. Facebook and Instagram,
There have been no problems in the last month on Facebook with the change of rules to exclude free diving being respected. The new Instagram account, which is managed by **SW-B,** has 192 followers and we can expect more as she restarts a weekly spotlight on SoSD. It was agreed that we should share our Facebook postings with other local sites such as Dawlish Discussions where appropriate.
6. Talks and speakers
Belle Heaton gave a talk about the impact of Pacific Oysters on the the epifauna and infauna of estuaries in the South West by Zoom (part of her MRes research at Plymouth University) on October 11th. Her talk has been uploaded to the SoSD Youtube channel.
Looking ahead the programme has changed a bit since the October meeting:
Paul Naylor (RTYC - confirmed) November 17th. Inter-tidal life.
Keith Hiscock (Zoom) 6th December on 'Marine life highlights (and lowlights) along South Devon in 2022’
Mike Puleston (sometime during the Art Exhibition, Taphouse Maltings). River Teign
Tracey Hamston January 2023 on Seagrass (to be confirmed)
Rob Morgan (Zoom) February 2023. Taxonomic relationships
Jenny Bennett March 2023. Geology of Devon’s south coast. (to be confirmed)
7. AGM (17th November, Royal Torbay Yacht Club)
**TS**, **AG** and **PJ** will arrive at 1845 h to start setting up. Doors will open at 1900 h and the meeting will start at 1930 h. **TS** will give a brief update on the activities that we have undertaken in the last year and highlight some of the things coming up in the next 12 months. He will also read the Treasurer’s report in his absence. After a brief break Paul Naylor will give his presentation.
All existing members of the Steering Group are willing to continue in that role, although we could do with one extra member. Entry fee is free to members (including those who sign up on the night and pay £10) and £4 to non-members. Membership to anyone joining or rejoining on the night will last to December 2023. The Treasurer’s report, Steering Group members and membership fee will need to be confirmed at the AGM by SoSD members only. Existing Steering Group members will be approved en block.
The banner and display boards will be on show and the RTYC bar will be open. **TS** will write to existing members to remind them of the AGM and to let them know about doors opening at 1900 h. Responsibilities are
**TS**: welcome Paul Naylor and sort out projection facilities etc. Also provide display boards and banner, ‘Square’ cardless reader, and petty cash, membership forms and blank sheets to record names and amount paid (£10, £4 or £0).
**PJ**: Admission and then meetings secretary
**AG**: Set up display boards and banner, and then to direct attendees to the Board Room
**SW-B**: Take photographs; help PJ with admission and elsewhere as required.
(Please note: we didn’t discuss these roles in detail at the SG meeting, so please be flexible on the night and help where needed)
8. Field activities
The Meadfoot Bioblitz on Sunday 6th November was very successful, particularly because three new people attended and also joined the Association. In all 6 people took part. Even though the tides were not ideal, in that LW was not particularly low and there was an atrocious downpour in the middle, everyone had a very enjoyable day. However, a black mark each goes to **TS** and **MP** for forgetting to get the new participants to read and sign the disclaimer.
The next Bioblitz will be on Saturday 10th December at Corbyn Head when LW is 1.35 at 1325 h. Meet on the beach at 1130 h.
As an aside the Rockpool Project have been in discussion with DASSH, the MBA database, about forwarding RPP to them. SoSD will continue to conduct our Bioblitzes under the auspices of RPP.
9. Art exhibition at the Taphouse Maltings
The Art Exhibition opening on 25th November is on course and photographs have been selected for exhibition by **MP**, **AG** and **TS**. **TS** and **MP** will give introductory talks about SoSD and the photographs on exhibit. Information about SoSD and membership forms will be displayed. It was agreed that the two TAAG posters about Wonders of our Shore will be reprinted as they are getting tatty and will eventually be used on our display boards next summer and that 250 copies of the A5 SoSD flyer will be printed and made available at the exhibition.
10. Next meeting
The next meeting will be at the Taphouse Maltings, Newton Abbott at 1930 h on Wednesday 14th December when members of the Steering Group will have a chance to see the exhibition.
11. The meeting ended at 2110 h.