

## Aberdeen Scoobies – The club

The club Aberdeen Scoobies is going down hill fast and without something which gives the club its life back, even with over 300 members, it seems it will just end.

300 members and it's usually the same old voices heard on the forum. Members join and are asked to post within a time of joining just to say hello. Reading through the list of members it is very obvious that more than ½ of those listed haven't even logged in for over 6 months. It is not that the club needs to remove or replace those members, but more ask the members what it is they felt they joined for:

- Is there something missing from what they were expecting ??
- Why are some members no longer wishing to be premium members ??
- Is it just they have gotten the good of their discounts and decided that is enough ??
- Is it the way the club operates ??

I think if members were asked more about what they wanted from the club, then it might just get some life back into it, and encourage those members to be more active in the running, the forum and the events of the club. If the club is classed as a members club, then those members need to be asked and listened to; to save the club for all to enjoy. Not just a random comment “let the members run the club; it's the most thankless task ever” (NOT, A PERSONAL DIG merely an observation)

An AGM held regularly(round about the same date each year), and actively encourage members to attend – not just like the monthly meets – but a meeting that has a structured purpose to be informative to the running and future of the club. Allow the members to see how the charity books stands, see how the costing of events evolves, how the membership money is spent. Not every member may be interested but given the opportunity, along with the friendly environment this may prove valuable to all concerned and beneficial to all involved.

The organising of events are said to be open to any member to do so if they wish, if there were a group of people who could help make proposed events happen this may also be beneficial – nothing to do with the charity events. A fine balance between charity events and fun/car events can not only benefit the club, but also the members.

A list put up with the proposed events at either the end or beginning of the year, asking for feedback, and interest would help determine if an event would be worthwhile, even just for fun events may end up creating huge response and interest, and then nearer the time people drop out or have a change of plan, Events whether they be fun or charity need to have members participation, or not only does it make those who organised it feel disappointed but also those who attended may feel it was not worth attending.

Some ideas for events; some of which should be publicised to the public and tickets sold;

<b>CHARITY EVENTS</b>	<b>FUN EVENTS</b>
Burns night	Race night
Valentines disco	RR day
Easter Treasure Hunt	Weekend touring trip
Quiz Night inc raffle draw	Family picnic/barbeque
A Mid Summer Dance	Bowling
Halloween/Christmas Disco	Cinema & Meal
Ingleston	Go Karting

Understandably events would take a fair amount of organisation, But if done in a block i.e.: discos and summer dance organised at the same venue, with costing and prices worked out at the time then surely that would cover a fair bit of that organising. Likewise with the Race night and the quiz night. Then the only events that would need the most organising would be the treasure hunt, the family picnic/bbq and the weekend touring. A suggestion for the weekend touring would be to discuss the route, and pick out suitable accommodation on that route; be it Aberdeen – destination A on the Friday night (making sure that it wasn't too much of a trip bearing in mind it being a Friday) then A – B on Saturday (again making sure it was a comfortable run arriving in plenty of time so to relax before entertainment at night) and on the Sunday a relaxing day leading up to the route home to Aberdeen pm.

Although all of these points are for discussion, I do feel that they would be best discussed with as many members present as possible, therefore being able to get the input, comments and views, advice and opinions of those who will hopefully be attending and helping to make the events and the club successful again.

### **Santa Cruise Organiser Ideas/comments/opinions**

#### **Raffles:**

Tickets & prizes -  $\frac{3}{4}$  of companies have said their charity allocation is decided early in year, so for companies support we need to get letter/booklet/flyer out to majority of local and oil companies. The more companies know about Santa Cruise perhaps more donations will be given

Publicity – for raffle to help sell more tickets – if tickets are sold then more money for the kitty, tickets left over less money for charity (ies)

Letters – Have all letters now been typed and posted out??

Are there “Thank You” gesture to those companies who contributed prizes ??

#### **Events:**

Quiz night - so far not a lot of interested members in this year's event – Alternative ??

Same date & venue?? Last 2 quiz nights I have attended have always been packed with teams, perhaps time to change and rethink event to get more interest ????

Dates - get organised earlier so things can roll from January

Which events will be specifically charity events, which just for fun & get together??

### **Money;**

Dividing it up??? – Between??? As well as the hospital, choose another worthy charity, not the same 1 every year (or it does become the same as the hospital and they then expect it) Ideas like donating a theatre visit to the pantomime for a local group of disadvantaged kids – get a deal with HM Theatre, Get a deal with bus company

### **Club - Keeping the whole club up to date with things such as:**

Total of pot, say on a bi monthly thread so members can see.

Keep the members notified of what's happening behind the scenes so they know what events are coming up or being organised at the time.

### **General points;**

Publicity – Seeing as now registered charity why not think of more “open to general public” events ??

I noticed from May 2010 minutes that Jen asked if the minutes were to be posted on “normal” forum. I do think that it is best to publish the minutes so that any member can look and see/comment/propose anything they feel would also be beneficial. It keeps the members up to date with what is going on behind the “scenes”

How about holding an AGM to allow members the chance to voice any comments, concerns, ideas, views and also a run down of what is happening behind the scenes with the charity side of the club. Also a good time to discuss what events they would like to see happen.

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### **Summary**

I know that some of these points have been raised before in the forum, I also know there has never been an amicable outcome of the points, it is maybe about time these were totally addressed and resolved to the fullest they can be. There will always be disagreements, discussions (heated or otherwise) and perhaps this is why the club is going downhill with less and less involvement from members.

We should all be trying to resolve any issues, reach agreements and help the club run more smoothly, without it turning into all out raging war.

The club should be run by members for the members and be enjoyed by the members – fully on all accounts.

The charity although claimed to be separate from the club, depends on the generosity of the members and should therefore be accountable to the members – whether they are on the SC organisers committee or not. If it were not for the members the charity would not raise the money to do the good that it has done and hopefully will continue to do so.

Perhaps if there is too much agro – yes possibly from myself, amongst others – a new forum under the name Aberdeen Scoobies Santa Cruise Charity should be looked into, and the forum as it is now will remain just cars, fun and banter.