

**MINUTES OF THE 72ND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF DURBAN UNDERSEA CLUB**  
HELD AT THE POINT WATERSPORTS CLUB, DURBAN  
ON 26 SEPTEMBER 2024 AT 18h00

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**AGENDA**

1. To establish the presence of a quorum
2. To approve the minutes of 2023 AGM
3. Receive the Chairman's & Vice Chairman's Report
4. Treasurer's Report, audited account 2023/4
5. Elect the Auditor
6. Reports from selected Portfolio Committee
7. Presentation of Awards
8. Elect Officer Bearers
9. General

**MINUTES**

**1. PRESENCE OF A QUORUM**

As per the attendance registers, a quorum was reached.

**2. APPROVE THE 2023 AGM MINUTES**

Proposed: Danie Maritz

Seconded: Raymond Kriel

**3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

PWC: Generally, a quiet year at board level with not many issues between DUC and Ski Boat Club.

Financial issues during the year - Prices and margin pressure on the F&B offering, and employment costs and staff gratuities are the main issues. DUC contributed an extra R100K to a PWC staff bonus. Last year we experienced some critical staffing changes which, for some time, did put pressure on operations and effected our profit margins, but thanks to the efforts of our GM, Grant, and his management team, all has been resolved and things are looking very positive. A big thank you to Grant and management, and all of the PWC staff who make this facility what it is. Being in the Hospitality and Service industry, and having to answer to members, is no easy task so we need to appreciate their efforts and dedication in running the facility for Clubs.

PWC Budget: The PWC financials for the year to July 2024 were under budget which technically places PWC in a loss situation, after the respective Club contributions. We have however identified the areas of shortfall and issues have been resolved over the past three/four months. The Budget for the Aug to July 2025 year is currently being finalized and will be presented to both DUC and DSBC committees for their approval within the next few weeks. Two issues that are also currently under review: Provision for annual discretionary performance bonuses for PWC staff.

Bar – 2 revamp / A MAJOR UPGRADE, proposed by PWC Management / Grant to provide a functions and events venue, which will also be positive for generating further revenue.

This proposed improvement - estimated cost at +- R400K has not yet been approved by DUC as the DUC Exec feels that the issue of a staff bonus should be a condition of this spend and of a future PWC budgets. To be discussed and finalised together with the approval of the Budget.

Now to move along to DUC:

DUC Club Disciplines: A thank you to all Committee members for their participation and dedication to their respective disciplines. I believe that their time and commitment is often underestimated. We have seen good growth in some of our new water disciplines and this is very positive for our club, which has experienced a slight decline in membership numbers over the past few years. As I mentioned at last year's AGM, it was our aim to encourage events across all disciplines and budget to 'give back' to our members, and I believe that we have gone some way to achieving such. We have a few changes in committee during the year - these being forced by individual personal circumstances and work pressures operations support from the exec for all disciplines and our tractor service is an ongoing requirement of our success. Special mention must be given to Praise for keeping the tractor in great condition and our dive and compressor room and meeting the requirements of our divers.

DUC has continued with its support for Jacqui Boyd and her Siyaphambili Paddling Academy and their uplifting of kids from disadvantaged backgrounds. Siyaphambili are embarking on a change of management and DUC will likely be playing a bigger part in the coming year. We have extended our efforts in community projects by partnering with Diane Watson and her L-IASIS project which offers surfing and lifeskills training to disadvantaged kids. To this end, we have donated 7 new soft top surf boards and have created a storage facility for their equipment behind the surf ski sheds. We are hoping to find some common synergy between the surf ski academy, the surfing school and our lifesaving section this coming year. We are also pleased to announce that Diane has joined our team of DUC Dive Instructors.

While Leigh (Treasurer) will give us feedback on DUC's financial status, I can say that we are still in a positive financial position and there is further good news for our members which will be highlighted during the course of the treasurer's report.

A thank you to the DUC executive, particularly to Treasurer - Leigh, whose commitment is remarkable. And to Secretary, Louisa, who is stepping down from her position, thank you for your years of service on this committee.

Finally, I would also like to thank all our members, and particularly our social members, for their attendance and support of the club and PWC facility.

#### **4. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Good evening members of DUC

Herewith the Financial Reports of DURBAN UNDERSEA CLUB for the financial year 01 August 2023 to 31 July 2024.

The Statement of Financial Position of DUC at the Financial year-end shows that our club remains stable. The decrease in carrying value of the Fixed assets of the club is due to depreciation write offs. Other financial assets have decreased by R450 000 which is the repayment of the loan from DSBC. This loan is NOT interest bearing as per the agreement between the 2 clubs. Other loans remain static as the financing of the build of this clubhouse as well as the funding towards PWC employee salaries paid during COVID. These also are non-interest bearing.

Investments with Nedbank are controlled and yield an acceptable interest through conservative investment. The Executive committee is always aware that the funds belong to the club and you, the members, and much thought is put into the re-investment at maturity. To encourage members to maintain their membership the club continues to offer a part-payment option as long as subs are paid in full by 31 August each year. Interesting to note that although Member numbers are down, the prepaid subs show the faith and allegiance of many of our members for the coming year. The VAT claim from July 2023 has been resolved from SARS and there is now a VAT liability as well as the 2023 and 2024 Taxation assessments.

The summary of the Statement of Income & Expenditure shows the following: Although there have been increases in Subscription rates, the income derived therefrom is again less than the prior year.

Sundry income refers to the Tractor levies and tow fees

The investments have generated an increase in the interest received.

Expense items to note are at the end of the previous financial year, contributions to the PWC facility were 64%. This current financial year contributions were 69.5% of the DUC Subs income

Although the PWC Board increased the contributions from each club this still did not allow for bonus/gratuities to staff in the PWC Budget. DUC objected, but the DSBC Board members would not budge on this issue. The DUC Committee therefore offered R100 000 to PWC as a contribution to the end of year gratuity. Many of the PWC staff offered thanks to DUC for this contribution.

Admin Expenses are much the same as last year – most notable is a decrease in bank charges and a repayment of legal fees from the slander case instituted last year. Repairs to and maintenance of our assets remains costly – mainly due to the proximity of the club and the nature of the assets involved. The repairs to the boat are mainly for the old boat and the replacement of DUC1 is under consideration.

Tabled at the AGM last year was the decision to give back to DUC Members a discount on purchases of food at the kitchen and coffee bar counters.

A discount of 7.5% was implemented and our payback to members amounted to almost R300k.

This was financed by the interest received on our investments.

TAXATION – the club is exempt from taxation in terms of the Income Tax Act. The tax component is calculated according to the SARS schedule on items falling outside of the tax exemption for example Interest on investments.

Many thanks go to the PWC Admin staff – especially Lynda, Kayla and Cerissa for assistance received during the year.

Thanks, too to Butch and Geoff for support and guidance

And again, huge thanks to Ian Agg- I really appreciate the time, help and advice you give.

Thank you

BUTCH - Some good news for DUC Members – to encourage you to support the club – the Executive Committee has decided to increase this discount rate to 10% effective as soon as can be implemented.

Questions from the floor:

Danie Maritz – Why is DUC financing PWC for the Staff Discretionary Gratuity? The Clubs are meant to contribute equally to the running of PWC

Butch – DSBC were not prepared to budge and DUC Exec felt strongly that the staff deserved a gratuity, hence the contribution.

Financials were accepted by those present

Proposed: Ryan Hansen

Seconded: Danie Maritz

## **5. ELECT THE AUDITOR**

No objections to Viljoen & Associates being appointed auditors.

## **6. PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE MEMBERS' REPORTS**

### **SCUBA DIVING & UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY**

Over the past year, Durban has witnessed some remarkable diving, attracting an increasing number of active divers in our ever-growing DUC dive team. From September 2023 to July 2024, we successfully completed a total of 31 launches from the DUC. The DUC diving instructors have been hard at work, successfully certifying 18 divers across a range of scuba diving courses, all of whom are now valued members of our DUC dive team.

Dive Trips: The annual DUC Dive trip to Sodwana happens in November. The club enjoys a bespoke Sodwana experience gaining access to the luxury and convenience of Coral Divers and the freedom of diving with Amoray. The club fills two boats and the divers decide where and when they want to dive each day! There are always other activities in the evenings, but also with plenty of time to relax and socialise. The club organised a mid-year trip in June to Sodwana, where members stay and dive with ScubaXplore.

A talk on Ragged Tooth Sharks was presented by Jeremy Cliff, allowing members to gain knowledge about these unique sharks. This was followed by a weekend of diving with the Raggies at Aliwal Shoal with Scuba Xcursions. The talk, "6 Degrees of Freedom: Chasing Pelagics," was co-hosted by Don Hunter and Linda Ness, which provided members with insights into photographing the Sardine run, which coved tips for, both above and beneath the waves. DUC has developed a strong relationship with ORI and Ushaka. DUC photographers are invited to take images of the animals that are released as well as in the tanks. All DUC divers are able to participate in events like 24 hr dive-athons which take place annually. Unfortunately, there was major strike action at Ushaka this year which meant that the scheduled events were unable to take place.

We launched a citizen science initiative in partnership with Kaylee Smit from Ocean Life Science. DAN Talk on dive safety was conducted, along with a workshop focused on the Otoscope - The Otoscope is a medical device that enables the eardrum and ear canal to be examined. The SAMBI team provided a workshop for divers, demonstrating how to use the i-naturalist app for identifying fish species found off the coast of Durban.

A social gathering was arranged for divers to connect with the club's new diving members.

DUC hosted the launch of an eagerly anticipated new book titled "Southern Africa Sea Slugs," which serves as a comprehensive field guide for our divers and anyone interested in the fascinating world of Nudibranchs.

Items for sale in the shop:

DUC DIVE TEAM T shirts - There are cuts for Ladies and for Men allowing all DUC Divers to look good out the water!

DUC FIN BAGS – no matter if you are a scuba diver or just enjoy the odd snorkel on North Pier – DUC FIN bags will make sure you have all your soft gear in one place and DIVE READY!

DIVERS WHATSAPP GROUP: The DUC Whatsapp group is informative, fun, supportive and a great way to stay in touch with what the club and its members are up to!

On going maintenance to the club's dive gear, boat and divers facilities to ensure we maintain our status as South Africa's Premier Diving Club.

Last but not least we would like to extend a big thank you to the skippers that operate the DUC dive boat. Stuart Donkins and Andre Jansen, your readiness to assist at a moment's notice is truly appreciated.

## **SPEARFISHING**

Start of the year saw Alister Jones taking over from Chris West. We'd like to thank Chris for his dedication to the section over the last number of years.

Despite adverse weather conditions, the KZN spearfishing team showcased remarkable performance at the South African Spearfishing Nationals in Port Elizabeth, April 8-13, 2023.

Only one day of competitive diving was possible, yet two DUC members excelled, with Alistair Jones securing second place and Gerard Vosloo claiming third. Notably, the KZN A team emerged victorious in the team event. The winning team comprised three DUC members: Gerard Vosloo, Alistair Jones and Bruce Brauteseth. Gratitude is extended to the DUC committee for their sponsorship and unwavering support throughout the event.

DUC Spearfishing assisted Umhlanga Spearfishing Club, by hosting the weigh-in of their annual Crayfish Comp. 31 August 2024.

DUC Member Louis Schoerie placed 2nd with the Heaviest Bag at 4.4kg  
DUC Member Phillip Dreyer placed 2nd with the Heaviest Cray at 1.05 kg  
Female Diver Christal Botes placed with a bag weight 1.9kg

DUC Spearfishing to Host KZN Shore Dive Champs 7 or 8 September 2024.

## **UNDERWATER HOCKEY**

Underwater Hockey activities over the past year have included:-

4 x SA Junior teams participated in the CMAS Junior Worlds Tournament which was held in Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia. The tournament was held over the 20th to 27th July 2024 and was an unbelievable tournament for the junior players to participate in. Sadly, no DUC / KZN junior players were in the teams that participated.

The world standings at the end of the tournament placed the SA teams as follows:-

SA Mens U19 - 7th  
SA Ladies U19 - 5th  
SA Mens U24 - 5th  
SA Ladies U24 - 7th

SA Inter-Clubs held in Generations School Aquatic Centre in Somerset West - 30 November 2023 to 2 December 2023. Overall tournament was well supported even though the clarity of the pool water during the tournament was shocking which impacted the quality of the underwater hockey played.

DUC Ladies A - 2nd Place (Silver)  
DUC Men B - 1st Place (gold)

Nationals Tournament held in Wahoo Aquatics Centre in Johannesburg - 3 to 4 May 2024. Overall good Nationals tournament which was enjoyed by all who participated even under very poor water clarity due to the new filtration system put in place.

KZN Men A - 4th Place

Only 3 x KZN Ladies could attend the tournament so they joined an invitational team of ladies and ended the tournament in 1st Place in the Ladies A League.

Having recently gone into our "summer season" which started on the 1st September 2024, underwater hockey practices are now being held twice a week, Monday and Wednesday evenings at Kings Park Pool. Practices are being well attended and player numbers are steadily growing leading up to Inter-Clubs at the end of the year.

Upcoming local tournaments:-

Inter-Clubs 2024 to be held at Kings Park pool, Durban from 28 to 30 November 2024.  
Nationals 2024 is likely to be held in Cape Town in April (nothing has been announced as yet).

Upcoming International Tournaments:-

CMAS World Champs Qualifiers to be held August 2025 in the Netherlands.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL**

We recently welcomed Billie-Jean Paker who took over from Lindsay Hopkins. We'd like to thank Lindsay for her time dedicated to the section over the past few years.

This year, DUC Environmental partnered with Breathe Conservation to host a monthly Reef and Beach Clean-up. On Saturday mornings, before we all head out, we learn about one featured underwater creature and one type of marine pollution, like polystyrene or nurdles. And while we're thrilled that together we've removed over 40kgs of rubbish this year from the little reef along the harbour wall – we're most proud of the new ocean lovers we've introduced to the wonder underwater that's so safe and accessible to everyone!

So ... if you want to join us and learn how to snorkel, enjoy the fish, discover more about our marine environment and help collect some trash – our next get-together is on the 12 th of October. See you there!

## **SURF SKI**

Gareth Miles stood down as Surf Ski Portfolio Officer in December 2023 due to work-related commitments. Dave Harker and Daryn Brown have been assisting in Gareth's absence. Daryn has since taken over the position as portfolio officer.

The Winter Surfski Series race 2 was the DUC hosted Reef Challenge held in May. Thanks go to Dave Harker for running this race in Gareth's absence. The race was a great success with 140 paddlers taking part in both a long and short course, with the course laid out to benefit the spectators, and challenge the paddlers with 2 surf turns to mix things up a bit. The event raised R23,000 in entry fees for the club.

DUC hosted the SA Surfski Champs this year, sponsored by Fenn and organized once again by the seasoned Dave Harker. DUC member and former world champ Michelle Burn snagged what she thinks is her 6th national title, with Uli Hart from the Western Cape taking the men's title. 170 skis took part in the weekend's 2 days of racing.

DUC is due to host the Surfski World Champs next year which is sure to be a memorable event - video and presentation by Dax Brown.

## **PADDLE SKI FISHING**

Although 12 fishing competitions have been planned, we have only managed to hold six. This has been mainly due to weather conditions not being permissible, leading to having to postpone till more favourable weather. Of the six competitions held, only three have yielded any fish. Cash prizes and fishing tackle were won. When no fish were weighed in, a lucky draw was held and fishing tackle given out. Even with the postponements, members have remained positive and happy.

The aim for the upcoming year is to hold a minimum of one fishing competition per month and to alternate holding the competitions between the Durban Harbour and offshore at the DUC. The members agree that by doing this we will catch bigger and more fish.

I would like to thank all our members for their continued support throughout this ongoing year and I would like to take this opportunity to wish them tight lines and good luck for the forthcoming year.

## **WATER POLO**

DUC Water Polo continues to solidify its position in the KZN Water Polo League, standing out as the largest independent club in the region. The club maintains a strong presence across all leagues under KZN Water Polo.

### **SEASON HIGHLIGHTS:**

**DUC Masters Overview:** This team, with an average age of 62, competes in the 3rd Division and had an exceptional season, winning the league and remaining undefeated in the second half of the season.

**Achievements:** Represented DUC at the SA Masters Water Polo Tournament, securing three victories against tough competition. A notable highlight was the team achievement of the "Spirit of Masters" trophy, presented to Oscar Chalupsky.

**DUC GOB Masters Overview:** Featuring prominent players like Don Stewart, an ex-Olympian, and Marc Allan, the current masters world record holder in the 50 butterfly, this team successfully defended their title in the 2nd Division. **Achievements:** Competed at the SA Masters Water Polo Tournament, finishing as runners-up and earning the Team Spirit prize.

**DUC Orcas Overview:** Competing in the highly competitive 2nd Division, the DUC Orcas are the league's only mixed team, incorporating both ladies and men. This inclusion allows DUC Ladies to compete at a high level.

**DUC Ladies Overview:** For the first time, a ladies-only tournament was organized. DUC Ladies entered with six players and three additional players on loan from the tournament organizers.

DUC Ladies won the first three games and advanced to the semi-finals, which they also won. Unfortunately, the result was later contested due to the loan players. DUC Ladies eventually played for the bronze medal but lost to DHS Ladies.

### **Membership and Coaching**

**Members:** DUC Water Polo is supported by various members, including MICs of Water Polo from Glenwood Boys High and Northwood High, and coaches from Durban Girls High, Durban Girls College, Northwood, Clifton School, and Marie Stella.

**Referees:** DUC is unique in having a FINA (World Aquatics) accredited referee among its members.

The annual awards dinner was held at the club on July 27, with a "Christmas in July" theme. A special thanks to Chef Chris and his team for the superb meal, and to all members who contributed to a successful and enjoyable evening.

## **OPEN WATER SWIMMING**



This past year has seen DUCS make significant strides in open water swimming, cementing our place as a leader in the KZN region. With over 1,150 swimmers participating in our events throughout 2023, we've witnessed tremendous growth, especially in our league swims. It's been inspiring to see so many new faces joining us and returning month after month.

In 2023, our swimmers collectively covered 2300km across all league swims. Our new long course (2.5km) and short course (1.25km) formats have been well-received, allowing us to offer a variety of swim experiences. With 7 or 8 different courses available, each league swim brings something new, making every event unique.

2023 was also a year of standout performances. Matt Pellser and Tayla Bruce took top honours in the Men's and Ladies' Long Course, while Ruan Bisnath and Diane Smith were crowned champions in the Short Course. These athletes continue to set the bar high for everyone involved.

We've already seen a surge in participation in 2024, with close on 950 swimmers already taking part in just the first six swims. Due to the overwhelming interest, we've had to cap entries at 200 swimmers per event, ensuring that safety remains our top priority. The community spirit within DUCS has only strengthened, with many new swimmers citing the camaraderie as a key reason they keep coming back.

While 2023 had its share of challenges, particularly with water quality issues along the beach front, DUCS was fortunate to enjoy near-perfect conditions for much of the year. Our location has been a key advantage, allowing us to offer safe and enjoyable swims even when other areas were struggling.

#### Notable Achievements

Our swimmers have made waves on the international stage and beyond: Dominique Rabie & Kai Forrest were selected to represent South Africa in Mauritius for the CANA Open Water Swim Champs. Stephen Hunt completed the challenging swim around Robben Island. Chris Shipley and Graham du Toit set a new False Bay relay record for their age group. Many of our swimmers completed the 16 Mile and Mile swims at Midmar. DUCS swimmers dominated the Capital K 1km and 3km swims, winning every Masters Men category and several Ladies categories.

We once again partnered with the Oceans 8 team, contributing to an event that raised close to R1 million. Additionally, our collaborations with triathlon groups have been a success, with many triathletes noting that DUCS swims have helped improve their performance.

Looking ahead, we are proud to be supporting the upcoming International Oceanman Series by hosting the swim. Our work with Swimming South Africa and KZN Aquatics continues as we aim to build open water swimming in the region, and we're excited about the possibility of hosting new events in the future. We're also in negotiations with the municipality to host a unique canal swim in the Point area – a first-time event that promises to be something special. Last year's 10km challenge was a massive success,

and we plan to make it an annual tradition. The challenge saw many participants complete the distance over the course of a week, and each swimmer received a unique t-shirt that became the envy of many.

Our community continues to grow, with over 600 members actively participating in our DUCS WhatsApp groups. This platform has been invaluable for staying connected, sharing updates, and fostering the sense of community that makes DUCS so special. In Closing, 2023/24 has been a remarkable period for DUCS, marked by growth, achievement, and a strong sense of community. As we look to the future, we're excited to continue building on this momentum and to remain at the forefront of open water swimming in KZN.

### **STAND UP PADDLE**

We welcome Murray James as the new representative for the section, who took over from Brandon Reed.

Stand-Up Paddling activities this past year have included:-

The annual King of The Bay race was held on 23rd June. 5 of the top six SUP finishers were DUC members.

The annual Zinkwazi Classic SUP race, held on 10th August. This attracted paddlers from around the country. DUC was strongly represented and took five of the top ten positions

A hugely successful winter time-trial event was held weekly on Saturday mornings at the Point Canals. This event was staged over 7 weeks in July and August and was contested simultaneously against paddlers from KZN, the Western Cape, Eastern Cape and Gauteng. DUC paddlers are excelling in this challenge and are currently leading in both the men's and women's divisions.

In conjunction with the Time-Trial event we have hosted a SUP skills clinic focusing on technical and racing skills, this has been well attended by DUC members.

The club's SUP storage racks have been expanded this year from 25 racks to 45, this has proved extremely popular and spaces have filled up quickly after completion.

One DUC member has been selected to represent SA at the ICF World Championships which will be held in Florida, USA. The tournament will be held between the 20th to 25th November this year.

We look forward to the year ahead with DUC members paddling and competing both nationally and internationally.

### **LIFESAVING**

The 2023-2024 year has been a period of both challenges and successes for the Durban Undersea Club Lifesaving Section. While we faced difficulties with some of our duty members being recruited by the Cape Town municipalities. We also experienced significant great achievements. One of the standout successes has been the introduction of Siyaphambili youth to lifesaving, which has bolstered our numbers in training sessions and brought fresh enthusiasm to the team. Another one being the great performances from our Nippers and particularly Lethokuhle Makhubu who

performed really well on the beach and in the sea and was selected for the KZN team and competed in the SA Interprovincial Champs in PE. Thanks to all involved. Despite the challenges, our team has remained committed and resilient, ensuring that we continue to uphold the high standards of the club.

#### Nipper Carnival Success - January 2024

On 14 January 2024, the Durban Undersea Surf Lifesaving Club hosted its first Nipper carnival, which was a resounding success. Clubs from across the region praised the event's organization, and it was a pleasure to hold it at DUC. Overall, our Nippers performed exceptionally well, especially considering this was only their second carnival. A special mention goes to Lethokuhle Makhubu, who excelled in the Iron Nipper event, coming out of the water ahead of the male competitors. We extend our gratitude to the DUC team, including Grant, Geoff, and Denver Calder, for their invaluable support and efforts in making this event a success. Nipper awards – During the year we had a new group of Nippers, Juniors and Seniors joining our club. The following nippers joined and received their awards:- Noah Calder L3, Joseph Calder L2, Bailey Calder L1, Sienna Morgan L2, Leon Kearney L1

#### Nippers Competitions - February to March 2024

February 2024: We competed in another successful competition with great participation from our Nippers. Despite challenging conditions, our competitors performed admirably.

KZN Champs - 2-3 March 2024: Held at Addington, our team faced tough competition, but Lethokuhle Makhubu's standout performance earned her a spot on the KZN team for the SA Champs.

SA Champs - 21-27 March 2024: Despite the cancellation of some events due to beach conditions, our Nippers represented DUC proudly. Lethokuhle's achievements put DUC on the map, and we are excited to see her continue to excel.

Seniors: Throughout the Christmas period, our duty lifeguards performed admirably, ensuring the safety of beachgoers with no major incidents reported. The station was consistently manned, and the duty squad remained available even during less favorable weather conditions. A special thanks to Sizwe for his leadership in organizing the squads, and to Geoff and Leigh for providing burgers for the team on Christmas Day.

The year also brought its challenges, particularly with the movement of senior members. Two of our top lifeguards moved to Cape Town for a nine-month contract, impacting our duty squad and posing difficulties in maintaining full coverage. Despite this, we saw an influx of new members eager to assist with training, which has helped mitigate the loss. We have had some issues with lifeguards not attending their scheduled duties. A meeting was held to address this, and Sthe Khawula and Sizwe were appointed as Captain and Vice-Captain, respectively, to manage duties moving forward.

A total of 51 duties have been performed since August 2023. The total number of hours were 1432 hours up to the end of July 2024. The lifeguard with the highest number of hours was Sizwe Mndiyata with 32 duties and 256 hours. Of note was that even though

we had extremely low numbers due to some lifeguards going to Cape Town, our lifeguards manned the beaches throughout the summer consistently throughout the summer season.

Awards - 7 members completed and received their LA during the year. Looking forward, we plan to host the Nippers Carnival again and are working to secure sponsorship for our teams.

## **FREEDIVING**

Freediving as a sport is still relatively new to South Africa. The support of DUC providing a safe place to allow access to freediving has been beneficial to the growth of the sport in South Africa. At the start of the 2024 year, we set out a mission and vision:- *The mission is to create a safe and responsible space for anyone wanting to form a greater connection to the ocean. With the aim to encourage members to follow safe freediving practices.* We believe this has since been achieved. We faced initial challenges with launching off Durban due to restricted visibility, which is common for Durban diving conditions. The launch strategy was adapted to dive further offshore in deeper water in better conditions when available. Freediving off Durban has very much been focused on "depth training" that involves diving to depth using a line and buoy.

We have run 4 Beginner Freediving courses which saw 7 students pass all requirements to meet certification in the Molchanov education system. Other achievements include DUC member, Arenea Becker completing her AIDA Judges course (one of only 2 qualified judges for KZN) and also competed in the 2024 AIDA South African National Championships held in Cape Town.

Special mention to DUC members on achieving notable Personal Best performances this year:

- Arenea Becker 105m in Dynamic Bi-fin
- Riette Thuenissen 30m deep dive in Free Immersion
- Francois Lampen 5 minute & 2 second Static breath hold

Achieved objectives in the last year:

- Screening of the Last Shark documentary
- 10 Boat launches
- Guest talks by Natalie Dos Santos and John McCarthy
- Freediving Safety Workshop by Tamsyn Signe & Matt Stow

Objectives for the year ahead:

- Specialized workshops to expand on freediving skills (ie. breath work, yoga, dry skill techniques)
- Regular Guest Speakers to offer talks related to freediving practices
- To continue to offer courses and education on freediving
- To launch an Annual DUC Freediving Sodwana trip for members
- Organise and host annual DUC Cup (pool freediving competition)

Thanks goes to Stuart Donkins, Andre Jansen and Bryan Hart for boat support and keeping our freedivers safe at sea and DUC for the gorgeous new dive boat.

In conclusion, 2024 was a year of development for the freediving portfolio. We have established a standard for safe freediving practice and will continue to support the growth of the sport both competitively and recreationally.

## **SOCIAL**

The year of 2024 was vibrant, funky, and catered for all age groups. The year started off with a New Year's Day celebration. Members do feel that we should re-look at a New Year's Eve Party. This is difficult to control but we are sure with correct planning this can happen again.

We celebrated every public holiday this year: St. Patrick's Day, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Woman's Day etc. We had a variety of evenings from Vinyl Evening, Potjie Comp, DJ Spike with his 80's video afternoon to Wine Pairing and even our own Greyville July Horse Racing betting party. Going forward we urge members to read the Weekly Newsletter to update themselves with what is happening at the club.

We tried hard this year to accommodate different artists once again to suit the huge age group. We urged members to voice their opinion on artists and food. Don't sweat the small stuff.

A new menu was launched and once again we ask members to email the kitchen with certain food requests, compliments or complaints. The menu is not cast in stone. Each email does get the attention needed. Hopefully, we will have a salad bar up and running for the summer months.

Step forward and let's start our Social Volleyball on a Thursday evening during summer. We need social players.

All around the club is busy but we need your loyal support going forward to ensure that we as DUC maintain the standards.

Huge thank you to all the staff working at PWSC. They slave themselves to the ground on busy days and seldom receive a thank you from the members. As always, the barmen bend themselves backwards to accommodate all members. Thank you to each barman and cleaners for their dedication and friendly demeanour. Special thank you to Chef Chris for his creativity in the kitchen and always willing to walk the extra mile. He needs a medal with all the demands, but he gets the work done.

Huge shout out to Michael, our Food and Beverage manager, who tackles all challenges with a smile. He is working extremely hard to ensure that all members are happy. Well done, Michael.

To all members: There are 2 Jenga Block games – make use of them. There are stretch tents that you can hire in the office. Support your club. Visit our clothing shop and purchase your T-shirt or rash vest. Take part in all the many entities we have at the club. This is your club! Embrace it with an open heart.

## **BOATING**

All going well. Introduced the new dive DUC boat and new tractor.

## **SIYAPHAMBILI PRESENTATION**

Jacqui Boyd gave an overview of Siyaphambili paddling school and the changes likely to happen shortly and introduced Janet Simpkins to the club.

## **7. PRESENTATION OF AWARDS**

The following were acknowledged in the various sporting categories:

SCUBA DIVING - Cleo Fitzgerald  
UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY - Tim Boettiger  
SPEARFISHING - Chris West  
ENVIRONMENTAL - Jama Bulwana  
SURF SKI - Mark Smith  
PADDLE SKI FISHING - Frans De Villiers  
WATER POLO - Sidney Grey  
OPEN WATER SWIMMING - Wayne Jeffers  
STAND UP PADDLE - Murray James  
FREEDIVING - Marc Thoesson

## **8. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS**

The following people were elected to the DUC Committee for the 2024/2025 year:

Chairperson: BUTCH MURRAY  
Vice-chairperson: GEOFF PHILLIPS  
Treasurer: LEIGH PHILLIPS  
Secretary: ANGELIQUE VAN DER HOOGEN (new appointment)  
Scuba Diving: SARAH KEYSER (new appointment)  
Underwater Photography: BRYAN HART  
Spearfishing: ALISTER JONES (new appointment)  
Underwater Hockey: WESLEY REARDON  
Boating & Safety: RYAN HANSEN  
Surf Ski: DARYN BROWN (new appointment)  
Environmental & Conservation: BILLIE-JEAN PARKER (new appointment)  
Paddle Ski Fishing: RAYMOND KRIEL  
SUP: MURRAY JAMES (new appointment)  
Water Polo: SID GREY  
Open Water Swimming: STEVE EVANS  
Life Saving: DAVID CLAASSENS  
Extra Ordinary position 1: DOT MARITZ  
Extra Ordinary position 2 (PWC Board) Kirwin Paulson

Unanimously accepted

## **9. GENERAL**

Nothing.

The meeting ended at 19h30