

in collaboration with the HTNA, and ensure the data collected are relevant for its purpose. Suggested areas for modification include format of list of indications, outcome measures and aural barotrauma.

Action: David Smart to circulate a discussion paper regarding the minimum data set by end March 2003.

14 UHMS Sydney 2004

Arrangements are proceeding for the UHMS ASM to be held in Sydney at the end of May 2004. Congratulations to Sydney for taking on this task.

15 HTNA Hobart 2003

Being held in Hobart in the last week in August at the Hotel Grand Chancellor. At this point, invited speakers appear to be David Elliott and Valerie Flook.

Action: By all – put this in your diary now.

16 Other business

Therapeutic Goods Association – The question was raised as to the status of hyperbaric chambers and whether they constitute Registered Medical Devices. This needs to be clarified.

Action: Ian Millar to obtain more detail and circulate, because the issue has been raised with the Alfred Hyperbaric Service.

Meeting closed at 1200 hours

The ANZHMG executive (Drs Smart and Wilkinson) attended the end of the HTNA AGM. Dr Smart addressed the HTNA about the need to work collaboratively – this was an opportunity to share information and avoid confusion. Issues discussed included Medicare, Australian Standards and outcome measures.

Dr David Wilkinson
Honorary Secretary ANZHMG

SPUMS members' news

Michael Bennett and Simon Mitchell, SPUMS Committee Members, were elected respectively as vice-president and committee member-at-large of the Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine Society at the UHMS annual meeting in La Jolla in June.

Members are invited to keep the editor up to date with their own or others' activities, honours, etc. that they think fellow members of SPUMS might be interested to hear about.

Letter to the Editor

Breath-hold diving – an update

Dear Editor

With reference to my recent letter to the Journal concerning Jacques Mayol and in particular the Editor's comments,¹ together with the article by James Francis on breath-hold diving in the same edition,² I am now writing to advise that there is yet another breath-hold diving record to be reported.

Stuart Wavell, writing in the News Review section of *The Sunday Times* in the UK on 25 August 2002, reported that 29-year-old Tanya Streeter had the previous week dived to a depth of 525ft (160m), off the Turks and Caicos Islands, whilst standing on a weighted sled. Her return to surface was also assisted, in that she used a lift bag, which she had to disconnect from the sled and inflate by opening a valve. Such an assisted breath-hold dive falls into the "no limits" category and she apparently holds records in a total of six free diving categories.

Wavell also reported that Streeter started free diving in 1997, and broke the world record for "constant-ballast" diving in fresh water the following year. Her dive to 57 m in 2 min 10 sec made her the first woman to set a world free diving record. In this category, I understand the unassisted breath-hold dive is made using fins during the descent and ascent.

It seems that the breath-hold diving fraternity are developing their competitions into quite a fast-moving business. Streeter estimates that without sponsorship, her latest record would have cost US\$75,000–85,000 for boats, a safety crew and accommodation for the judges. When asked whether she was worried about her record being beaten, she replied, "No, I would give it six weeks!"

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References

- 1 McKie NIP. Jacques Mayol. *SPUMS J* 2002; 32: 25-26
- 2 Francis TJR. Breathhold Diving. *SPUMS J* 2002; 32: 31-35