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# The S A Gem and Mineral Club

Associated Member of **FOSAGAMS**  
13 Bathurst Crescent, Taybank, PE South Africa, 6025

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Phone calls preferably after 17:00 weekdays

## NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2014

### SUBS ARE NOW DUE

R130.00 PER INDIVIDUAL, R150.00 FOR FAMILY AND  
R60 STUDENT

Payment can be made at the next Club meeting or  
By Direct Deposit or by EFT into the Club's Savings Account:  
SA GEM & MINERAL CLUB ABSA BANK Greenacres Branch  
Branch Code 632-005 Savings Account No 380 3157 1933  
PLEASE USE YOUR SURNAME AS REFERENCE FOR  
DEPOSIT AND ADVISE THE TREASURER, DONAE'  
0837735222

**LAST CLUB MEETING** Thursday 27th February 2014 at the Conference Room, St Saviour's Church Hall, Cnr Villiers Road and 1st Avenue Walmer at 7:30pm. There was a total of 11 members present. Reinhardt welcomed everyone to the meeting and informed the members of the new workshop premises in Walmer and will be up and running within the two weeks.



Derek Scotney gave a memorable word of thanks to Collin and Gill Towers for their service to the Club and friendship.

Reinhardt shared his first interest to Gem stones and presented his large Amethyst drusy.



The members then spent some time looking at some items of bloodstone and Amethyst on the display table and enjoyed Fiona's tea, coffee and cake.



**CLUB WORKSHOP** : Members are encouraged to come and join us at the new Workshop, Saturdays from 2-5pm at 163 Villiers Road, Walmer. Please contact Angie or Reinhardt first. Many thanks to Nicolette and Kruven Kerspay for the use of their garage. We would also like to thank Collin and Warren for all the hard work done in moving and setting up the workshop successfully. All the Club's machinery is in running order and ready for members use.

The First workshop was held on Saturday the 8th March. There were seven people at workshop. Warren finished his Snowflake Obsidian and Ray finished his Agate. The new comers were shown how to cut their first stone.

**NEXT MEETING** : 27th March 2014, at the Conference Room, St Saviour's Church Hall, Cnr Villiers Road and 1st Avenue, Walmer, at 7.30pm. Members are urged to attend. The birthstones for March are Aquamarine, Jade/Nephrite and Coral, and members are asked to bring specimens of these, or any other item of interest.

## About Aquamarine - History and Introduction

Aquamarine is a blue to green-blue variety of precious beryl. The beryl group of minerals is most famous for chromium-rich, green emerald, which happens to be one of the 'Precious Four' gems of the world (diamond, sapphire and ruby are the remaining three). Aquamarine is one of the official birthstones for those born in March. Aquamarine is exceptionally hard and has an outstanding glass-like luster. It is most famous for its breathtaking sea-blue colours which can range from light blue to dark blue. The name 'Aquamarine' was derived from an old Latin expression which meant 'seawater'.



Aquamarine and emerald belong to the same family, but they are surprisingly different. Aquamarine and emerald are both beryllium aluminum silicates. While emerald is coloured by trace amounts of chromium (and vanadium), Aquamarine colour is the result of iron impurities within colorless beryl crystal. Aquamarine and emerald have essentially the same specific gravity and refractive index, but emerald tends to be hazy and full of inclusions, while Aquamarine has excellent transparency and clarity. Aquamarine, and other types of beryl, are quite durable and hard, ranging from 7.5 to 8 on Mohs scale of mineral hardness. A dark and deeply-saturated blue is the most desirable and valuable Aquamarine colour. Other varieties of beryl include Morganite, Goshenite, Golden Beryl (Heliodor), Green Beryl and Bixbite.

### World-Famous Aquamarine



There have been huge finds of aquamarine with the weight of several tons that didn't qualify for cutting due to the weak, gray or opaque color. The largest find of aquamarine in gemstone quality dates back to 1910. The "Minas Gerais" in Marambaya, Brazil mined a stone of 243 lb (110.5 kg), 18 inch (48.5 cm) long and 15.5 inch in diameter that was cut in many gems of a total weight of more than 100,000 ct.



The 'Dom Pedro', weighing 26 kg and cut in Idar-Oberstein, Germany in 1992 by the gemstone designer Bernd Munsteiner, made it the largest aquamarine ever to have been cut.

### Origen and sources

The leading producer of aquamarine is Brazil, with many mines spread throughout the country. Other deposits of Aquamarine are sourced from Australia, Myanmar (Burma), China, India, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Zambia, Zimbabwe, as well as in several U.S. locations. Karur, India recently has become one of the biggest suppliers of Aquamarine.

