



# THE BRITISH SUB~AQUA CLUB

## Teesside 43 Branch

### MINUTES OF THE 50<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SUNDAY, 11<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2007

The Chairperson, Paul Nesbitt opened the meeting by welcoming all members to the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting. There were 18 members present.

2. **APOLOGIES** – Alan Hunter, Ken Pape, Sybil Taylor, Roly Church, Don Foster, Brian Malthouse, Aubrey Colling, Bill Johnson, Heather McNeill.
3. **MINUTES OF THE 2005 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** were proposed as a true record by Jeff Pape and seconded by Mick Harrison.
4. **MATTERS ARISING** – none.
5. **CHAIRPERSON'S INTRODUCTION – Paul Nesbitt**  
Last year the committee's main area of focus was on club finances due to the reduction in members & the subsequent loss of revenue. To combat this, the reintroduction of air fees & an increase in prices for dives have had to be introduced and when boat prices were analysed against increases in fuel prices they are still below what they were 3 years ago. Also Insurance premiums have also been reduced to attain some savings. This has stabilised club finances but we are still looking at methods such as charitable status for the club, which should further reduce our outgoings.

The year had a disappointing end as two committee members felt the need to resign over an issue towards the end of their term. What made it most disappointing is that both would benefit any committee & both are long standing respected & trusted members of the club & committee & their input on the committee was missed.

On a brighter note the club moves on & compressor engine is better than ever & we have more members interested in joining the committee than we have had for a few years. It is also proposed to amalgamate the positions of treasurer & membership secretary into one post with a set date for club membership renewals for all to make the job easier. On the subject of committees it is these guys who unpaid, put their own time & effort into making the club run smoothly without most of us being aware of the amount of work they put in, they are:-

#### **Diving Officer- Billy Cass**

Billy Cass the man the critters fear most, who over the year seemed to be riding solo in organising dives & the main person to thank for most of our club diving

#### **Equipment Officer- Colin Crookston**

Colin Crookston whose efforts on all the equipment & the compressor engine we all greatly appreciate.

#### **Treasurer -Paul Hanley**

Paul has done a great job in keeping club accounts up to date & negotiating a reduction in our insurance premiums over the year

#### **Membership Secretary- Tim Feldon**

Thanks to Tim our main source of income has been taken care of & has done a fine job of introducing new members & keeping the committee up to date with membership

#### **Bar Manager- Jeff Pape**

Coldest beers on the South Gare should attract more visitors than we do on Thursdays Nights probably due to the location rather than the warm welcome. Jeff runs a tight ship & does it with ease. What we don't see are his efforts all around the club from repairing roofs to fixing equipment Jeff does the lot so special thanks go out to Jeff.

### **Secretary- Cynthia Church**

Sadly Cynthia will be stepping down this year from the committee therefore she deserves special mention for her efforts not only over this year but also for her efforts over all the years she has been at the club & on the committee. Her professionalism & commitment are a lesson for us all & her workload as secretary & barperson are greatly appreciated. Special thanks from myself for all her help & I am sure from the rest of the club members

### **Committee Members**

Thanks go to all other members of the committee for their help in 2006

Namely Nigel for his running of our website which we should all make better use of Don & Richard & Kevin for all their efforts around the club & Mick for stepping in at short notice for membership secretary & organising the bonfire night

### **Man Without Portfolio**

I have included this section to say thanks to all the club members not on the committee but whose help in all areas of the club are greatly appreciated again without these unseen acts the club could not function

Special thanks must go to Roly Church alias (Victor Meldrew) although not in the best of health he has still managed to help with the compressor engine & various other jobs his help is greatly appreciated. Everyone knows he is one of the stalwarts of the club & underneath that tough exterior beats a heart of gold

Hopefully in 2007 with a couple of new hips he will have no need for the boats & will race us to the sites swimming alongside.

Best of health & luck for 2007 Roly, from myself & all members.

## **6 OFFICERS REPORTS**

### **(a) Treasurer/Membership Secretary – Mick Harrison**

From taking on the role of Treasurer/Membership Secretary in November 2006, 4 people have renewed their membership and only 1 has declined to do so.

There are currently 43 members of the club in total.

I am currently working on introducing a Common Renewal Date (CRD) and more information will be provided during the next few months

A proposal was put forward for a rise in the fees for membership by £10. Proposed by Paul Nesbitt and Seconded by Mike Gardener. A vote went to members present and was passed. Associates stay the same and Honorary Members to pay £10.

Accounts are on display in the clubhouse.

### **(b) Diving Officer – Billy Cass**

This year there was no Training Officer but Kevin had agreed to train Daniel Harrison to become Ocean Diver and as a result John Findlay, Mick Gardiner, and Brian Malthouse all achieved sports diver. Thanks go to Kevin

The diving started on the 23/03/2006

There were 17 wreck dives, 7 scenic dives and 2 shore dives

There were 2 club dives in April, 12 dives in June, 10 dives in July, 1 in August, 6 in September and 1 in October.

The top 10 most dived with the club are as follows, B. Malthouse 22 dives, B. Cass 16, K. Finnegan 13, D. Foster 11, J. Pape 10, M. Harrison 9, D. Walker 7, M. Walton 7, M. Gardener 6, K. Wilde 6.

In total 37 dives took part in club diving.

Marshallled dives 2006

B. Cass 13, K. Wilde 3, C. Crookston 2, P. Nesbit 2, J. Pape 2, K. Finnegan 2, M. Harrison 2, and D. Foster 2.

As we all know Brian Malthouse went to dive at St Abbs, he slipped on the rocks and ended up in hospital with damage to his knee, we all wish him a speedy recovery.

I would like to congratulate Brian on his achievements as a diver throughout the year

**(c) Equipment Officer – Colin Crookston**

**BOATS**

Both boats had been running well over the season a second GPS was purchased (the same as the one that had been purchased) so that each boat would have interchangeable GPS'S. They had started to steam up through the season so they were taken back and exchanged.

**COMPRESSOR**

The Compressor engine failed in 2005. Myself and a friend of mine Barry Watson bought a second-hand engine from Scunthorpe, which I went to collect.

We then made a new cradle for the engine to sit into and also had to have made a new drive shaft to run the compressor which cost approximately £\*\*\*.\*\*. However the club did not have to bare the cost of this.

There are still one or two outstanding jobs to be carried out on the compressor which I will deal with in the coming year.

I would like to thank all that helped with the compressor especially Roly.

**POOL TRAINING EQUIPMENT**

Pool equipment had only been used by only one trainee this year. All will be checked over at the beginning of the year.

**(d) Bar Manager – Jeff Pape**

Somewhat disappointing year both for Diving and for Bar takings. The miserable weather and falling membership has meant a much reduced profit in 2006. Nevertheless we enjoyed Bonfire Night on November 4<sup>th</sup> Colin and his gang rustled up the eats, and we had a cracking bonfire lots of fireworks ever the weather was good. Thanks go to Colin and Co and to Dave Rees for organising an enormous wagon load of pallets. Bill Hudson and myself spent a whole afternoon unloading the wagon and building the bonfire.

There is quite a lot of unseen work that goes on during the year Bill Hudson, Don Foster Jeff Pape and Roly Church. (The last of the summer wine) financed from the Bar we have reinforced the front door, renewed some of the compressor roof and made it weatherproof and Bill is underway painting the exterior of the front of the premises.

Cynthia, the bar licence holder, involved with the bar for many years and a valued member of 43 Branch will remain as bar licence holder.

Hope to see all your smiling faces the other side of the bar in 2007 might even provide warmer beer and cashew nuts for the grumblers!

Last but not least hope you enjoy your free drink after the AGM.

Accounts available at the clubhouse.

**7. NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS ANNOUNCED**

Chairman	Paul Nesbitt
Diving Officer	Kevin Wilde
Treasurer/Membership Sec	Mick Harrison
Secretary	Mike Gardener
Equipment Officer	Colin Crookston
Bar Manager	Jeff Pape
Committee Members	Richard Waller, John Findlay, Gary McSorley Don Foster, Nigel Watson, Hedley Brammer

**8. CHAIRPERSON'S CLOSING REMARKS**

Paul said that the club was in its 50<sup>th</sup> year and Val Hudson and Sybil Taylor were asking for ideas on how to celebrate the event.

Paul thanked the outgoing Committee for all their commitment and hard work over the year.

The meeting was closed at 11.30 am. The Chairman thanked all those that had attended.