



THE BRITISH SUB~AQUA CLUB

Teesside 43 Branch

MINUTES OF THE 51st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SUNDAY, 29th MARCH 2008

The Chairperson, Paul Nesbitt opened the meeting by welcoming all members to the 52nd Annual General Meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

Paul Buckley, Ken Pape, and Bill Hudson.

3. MINUTES OF THE 2008 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Proposed as a true record by Nigel Watson and seconded by Kev Wilde. The minutes of the EGM held on 2nd August 2007 were then agreed, proposed by Mike Gardner and seconded by Roly Church.

4. MATTERS ARISING

None

5. CHAIRPERSON'S INTRODUCTION – Paul Nesbitt

Looking back at 2008 it occurs to me that either I've got the on set of Alzheimer's or it was an uneventful year from the clubs point of view. Without stealing too much of any of the other committee members thunder on specific matters it has been another year watching the pennies & we need to continue with that in 2009 possibly with application for grant aid & more fund raising events to organise, such as the very successful bonfire night, possibly a barbi in the summer & a Xmas do if we can pressgang, I mean get a volunteer to organise.

Diving wise another difficult year weather wise hopefully with an improvement in 2009. Now we have couple of private boats within the club this should aid diving further a field, we also need to resurrect the Thursday nights as long as the weather is kind.

The closure of Billingham Forum baths within 2009 has been looked at by the committee with assurances for a replacement venue promised & we have also taken over the account at the Forum from Three 9s diving club so that we have full control.

A visit from "Teesside Ship Society" to our club went down well with mutual interests shared & a return visit by Don & Jeff to show the clubs history on DVD was warmly received.

It has been nice to see new members join the club & their enthusiasm & effort has been a breath of fresh air with the club taking on a new social side with meals out.

Only significant event on the Committee was the resignation of Mick Harrison from the post of Treasurer/Membership secretary due to personal reasons but thankfully Dave Rees stepped up to the breach & took over the role mid term.

This brings me neatly on to the Committee whose efforts go un-rewarded but who without the club could not function thanks go to :

Diving Officer- Kevin Wilde

Kev's efforts as D.O. provide a lot of the organisation of diving for members but most of his efforts go into training & organisation bringing new members to the club without which we couldn't survive. Resurrection of the diving committee by Kev have already ensured more organised diving for 2009. Thanks for all of Kev's efforts in 2008.

Secretary – Mike Gardner

Mike into his second year as secretary & now has made the job his own also assisting Kev with diver training. Mike keeps minutes & myself up to date he has done a sterling job, even with one leg he has managed to fulfil his role, with a new SMB in the shape of a Parrot for 2009 he will be back diving, just don't mention Black Pudding. Thanks to Mike for his assistance over the year, pieces of eight!

Equipment officer- Billy Cass

Took the role back on for 2008 keeping the boats & compressor running, plus the rest of equipment up to scratch. Equipment officer is again a role without which the club could not function so thanks to Billy for his renewed efforts

Treasure/Membership Secretary- Dave Rees

Dave bravely took over this difficult post mid term from Mick Harrison & has coped well now showing that he can make the job his own. He ensures bills are paid, insurance is up to date & membership renewals taken care of, just a few of the jobs in this role. Common renewal date means a busy May for Dave Thanks to Dave for stepping in & pulling us out of the brown stuff in 2008

Bar Manager – Jeff Pape

Jeff's efforts behind the bar are another valuable source of income for the club & Jeff keeps the drinks flowing for all ably assisted by the delectable Cynthia. Running the bar is just part of what Jeff & Cynthia do filling in & helping around all aspects of the running of the club thanks to them both.

Web Master/ ADO – Nigel Watson

Nigel ably assists Kev in his role as D.O. & in diver training, he keeps the website updated with news about the club. 2008 has seen the best use of the club web site since its conception. Valuable tool for the club pulling new members in & now being more widely by club members for planning dives. Thanks to Nigel's efforts in both

Committee Members

Committee members are essential to keep the club functioning picking up the pieces that club officers leave behind & ensuring that all jobs are done from maintenance of the club & equipment to organising & supporting events.

A strong varied committee ensure decisions are taken wisely & fairly for all club members so thanks to all committee members, namely.

Don Foster always there to help around the club & available for advice when needed

Richard Waller always willing to help out especially with boat maintenance

Hedley Brammer punches above his weight in helping with radios & equipment

Mick Harrison difficult year for Mick but we still love him, bravely stayed on as committee member earlier in year.

Big thanks to all of above Committee Members & Officers for their efforts in 2008 it is much appreciated by myself & the club. Lastly thanks to all those not on the committee whose efforts do not go unnoticed from helping committee members in their roles & maintenance of club, boats & equipment plus training new members & helping run the bar thanks to all involved

6 OFFICERS REPORTS

(a) Treasurer/Membership Secretary – Dave Rees

It was agreed by the members that membership fees will be increased by £10 for diving members and £3 for non-diving members.

(b) Diving & Training Officer – Kev Wilde

I'm going to start with thanks to my instructor team Mike, Stuart Nigel and Paul. Who have put a lot of effort into training this year. Its been nice to have year off pool training. I know at least two of them are seriously thinking of going for their instructor badge this year, and I cant see them having any problems.

In 2008 the instructor team ran Ocean diver lectures followed by the Nitrox workshops, I ran the Nitrox workshops again last month for those that required them. We have been busy getting the newer members into the water when ever possible to increase there experience levels, all are progressing well, and last season ended with Mike Gardner reintroducing and organising the Wastwater weekend which is always a good chance to get things signed off.

Last year in my report I mentioned the BSAC's intention to highlight buoyancy and explained about the various levels of competence that were expected from the different diver grades. Unfortunately we had an incident when one of our members suffered a neurological bend whilst on a club trip to Weymouth, and I believe buoyancy control was a major factor in that incident. We must all strive to keep our skills up to speed. Another incident, which no one can blame on buoyancy was when one of our members joined the Brian Malthouse club, this is a very exclusive club which to date only has two members and requires the diver to cripple his or her self at St Abbs. Thankfully he is now well on the way to recovery.

In 2008 I asked three members, Mike gardner, Phil Bennet and Mick Harrison to join me in forming a diving committee, we have been working towards the getting day trips and weekends organised for the 2009 season. To date we have weekends organised for Ireland and Anglesey and are trying to organise weekend and day trips to the Farne Islands, Oban, St Abbs and South shields. Obviously these are in addition to diving off Redcar whenever possible.

I would be happy to continue in the roll of D.O. and if permitted have asked Nigel to again assist me in the roll of Assistant DO. Thankfully he has agreed. Lets hope 2009 is a good year for the branch and that we all keep safe.

(c) Equipment Officer – Billy Cass

No formal report although Bill stated that all equipment is serviced and ready for use.

(d) Bar Manager – Jeff Pape

Congratulations 43 Branch, Bar takings increased in 2008 - not a lot mind you but a £220 increase is not to be sniffed at, especially since Colin has left the club. 2008 was again awful for diving around the British Isles. We can only hope that 2009 wil come good, and Cynthia and I will see your smiling faces over the bar after evening and weekend diving.

7. NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS ANNOUNCED

Chairman	Paul Nesbitt
Diving Officer	Kevin Wilde
Treasurer/Membership Sec	Dave Rees
Secretary	Mike Gardner
Equipment Officer	Billy Cass

Bar Manager
Committee Members

Jeff Pape
Mick Harrison, Richie Waller, Roly Church , Don Foster, Nigel
Watson, Hedley Brammer, Phil Bennett

8. CHAIRPERSON'S CLOSING REMARKS

Paul closed the meeting by again thanking the committee, and members for their continued support. Let us all hope 2008 is a better year for local diving!

On a sad note, Jeff Pape reported that Bill Williams had sadly passed away. Bill was the only member of BSAC43 to achieve "First Class Diver" standard, our thoughts are with his family at this sad time.

The meeting was closed at 11.15 am.

Best regards,
Mike Gardner.