

**BSAC Teesside 43 Branch CASC**  
**Minutes of the 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting**  
14<sup>th</sup> March 2010 @ 10.30 am

1. The Chairperson, Paul Nesbitt opened the meeting by welcoming all members to the 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting.
2. *Apologies for Absence* – these were received from Stuart Wintringham, Phil Bennett, Tony Harker, Kev Wilde, Mike Gardner, Sally Gardner, Jeff Pape, Ken Pape, Alan Hunter (sends his regards & best wishes to the “oldies”)
3. *Approval of Minutes for 2009 AGM* – These were proposed by Nigel Watson and seconded by Don Foster as a true record.
4. *Matters Arising* - None

5. *Chairperson's Introduction* – Paul Nesbitt

Another year goes by & the club keeps a rolling along, the club remains stable both financially & with membership numbers, more from Dave later. But we only just manage, we need to keep on recruiting members to replace those we lose & promote fund raising events throughout the year, therefore I ask all members to encourage more new members & to support organised events.

One such event last year was the bonfire night, which saw the most numbers of people at the club I have ever seen. This proves we can muster the support when we put our mind to it. Thanks for those who attended & those club members who gave prizes for the raffle & supported the raffle including donation from Denney's. Also thanks to those who helped with food, fireworks the bar etc, more of the same in 2010 please.

I won't mention the diving this year coz Kev shouts at me each year for stealing his thunder. So I will mention the ongoing financial situation the country finds itself in with members losing their jobs last year, thankfully all have now found new employment opportunities good luck to them in their new roles. The situation continues with the closure of Corus TCP (I refuse to call it a mothball) this has & may see more of our members facing loss of employment, we need to give those at risk as much support as we can both as a club & individually.

Sadly 2009 saw the committee unanimously decide to terminate one of members membership mid term. This was done under rule 3.5 due to persistent & serious breaches of behaviour. The individual had the right of appeal under the clubs constitution, which he did not take up & was therefore dismissed from the club.

On a happier vein the club has seen the amount of social events go through the roof some organised by our very own social secretary in waiting Tony who even managed to get 25 people around a table for 18 in Akbars. Joking aside this is a very important part of the clubs success & I would encourage those who haven't attended yet to join in the fun.

Main events on the committee officers front was Rolly Church replacing Bill Cass early in the year as equipment officer, Mike Gardner being replaced by Hedley Brammer as club secretary & last but certainly not least Jeff Pape who regretfully had to give up the bar managers position due to ill health being replaced by Kevin Wilde. All were replaced mid term, thanks to all previous officers & to the replacements that took over posts immediately to keep the club working & here's wishing Jeff a speedy recovery .

That leads me onto the committee members as they are now & who without we could not function as a club.

Diving Officer/Bar manager/Training officer – Kevin Wilde

Somehow as well as fulfilling all the above roles Kevin also managed to get married to Arlene in 2009 not that he sees much of her as he is too busy at the club. Somehow he managed to persuade his new bride to help out behind the bar on occasions so he gets to see her.

Thanks to Kev for all his hard work over 2009 organising training, diving trips, managing the bar, social nights etc etc etc.

Secretary – Hedley Brammer ( Mike Gardner)

Thanks firstly to Mike who has supported myself & the club as secretary over the last few years, his efforts have been very much appreciated & good luck with the lion taming.(Teaching)

Hedley Brammer having sat patiently on the committee for the last few years threw away his crutches & pounced on the chance to step up to the plate to replace Mike.

A big thank you to Hedley for stepping in so quick & judging by the amount of emails I have already had I am sure you will continue to do a sterling job.

Equipment officer – Rolly Church

As usual Rolly continues to assist the club he works ceaselessly with never a moan or bad word about anyone, just getting on with the job without a hitch. He also manages to keep us young uns in line at committee meetings with encouraging words of wisdom.

A big thank you to Rolly for all his efforts in 2009

### Treasurer/Membership Secretary – Dave Rees

Dave's first full year in the two posts has seen him settle well into the position, keeping the committee up to date on the state of the finances on a monthly basis.

He has a busy time coming up in May with the common renewal & will cope without fuss as usual. Thanks to Dave for his efforts over the last year.

### Bar Manager – Jeff Pape

Although not currently in the role I feel Jeff needs a special mention; unfortunately Jeff had to give up the post he has held down for the last Millennium due to ill health, although he struggled down each Thursday until it got too much for him.

I feel that the club owes Jeff special thanks for the countless years of selfless service to the cause. Thanks Jeff for all the years of effort.

### Web manager designer- Nigel Watson

Thanks to Nigel for a revamped website which is streets ahead of the previous one, this may in part be due to his new assistant Phil who has had a lot of input into the site this year. Latest news hot of the press is that new for 2010 there is going to be a darts & 8-ball pool section, courtesy of Phil.

Thanks to all the work Nigel on the new website (& Phil !!!)

### Committee Members

Last but not in any way the least goes thanks to the committee members who assist in all aspects of running a successful club. From serving behind the bar to working on equipment & the club itself & assisting at events, without their help the club could not function. Also as seen this year we need to quickly fill posts as officers need to give up their posts, without the commitment of committee members we would struggle in all areas of the club.

Thanks To Mick Harrison (sweet lips), Mike Gardner, Don Foster & our very own Phil the fireman Bennett

## **6. Officer's Reports**

### **6.1 Treasurer's Report - Dave Rees**

I assume you have read my statement of accounts for 2009, which shows a deficit for the year. The situation is not as bad as it at first seems.

We have a few anomalies that are not immediately apparent, but do deserve explanation.

*First, N Power.* Early in the year they increased our direct debit payments

This was reduced to after protest. A refund is due to the club.

*Secondly, BSAC.* Last May we set up the BSAC direct debit payment scheme. This has been a disaster for the club.

BSAC took their £50 subs from the members involved, then failed to take anything for the club.

Consequently we are short in club subs. This shortfall is being addressed to bring those members involved up to date.

*Thirdly, Tees Active.* The last payment of 2008 for the Pool was made in January 2009, meaning that cost shows in these accounts instead of 2008 accounts.

The deficit for this year is a deficit on paper only, as we have an overdue income. Had these matters been concluded during 2009 we would now be showing a profit for the year.

I must emphasise that this money has not been lost. It is at present in someone else's pocket instead of ours.

Having said that, I feel that club fees should be increased by a small amount, to cover inflation.

Fees for Associate Members should, in my opinion, be increased. Any A.Mem is entitled to use the Pool, at the moment for £15 per year. This must surely be the bargain for the year.

A fee of £50 would be more realistic, but as this is a huge increase, I would suggest an increase to £30.

Following a discussion where it was indicated that a higher increase may stop associate members renewing it was proposed by Don Foster seconded by Cynthia Church that we should have an across the board increase of £5, this proposal being carried in favour by the meeting.

The club fees are due no later than 1<sup>st</sup> May 2010.

The BSAC direct debit disaster was discussed and the treasurer requested that all who are on the scheme to cancel their direct debit and revert to the previous method of payment

*Please note - It is advisable that when the direct debit mandate is cancelled you should also inform the recipient that this has been done.*

## 6.2 Diving Officer's Report – Kevin Wilde

There's not really much to report from last year, we introduced a few new faces to the joys of diving and had quite a good year with club members visiting a number of different diving locations. The Farne islands, St. Abbs, Eyemouth, Anglesey, The Clyde, The Red Sea, Ireland, South Shields and Fresh water quarries; it was also nice to see the club boats being used a bit more in 2009.

Strangely, I kept hearing from ex members that they were sorry to hear our club no longer does much diving. To which I explained, the people saying that are just not willing to join in, and the dives were there to be had, I personally had 30 dives logged by the beginning of July and only sinus problems stopped me from adding to this total in the second half of the year.

2010 is already off to a good start with us having a great week in February to Tenerife where 6 divers from our club and two from Ireland had a great week logging 10 dives. Stoney Cove has also had the annual visit. Next up is Chuuk lagoon in March and Malta in June (Still paces available, see Les Dixon) with The Farnes, Abbs and Anglesey in the planning stage.

Over the last few years I've rattled on about us having a strong instructor team, which I am pleased to say was not left wanting when I was unable to complete in-water training due to my sinus problem, both pool and sheltered water training has been covered without any problem, And in the last couple of months the team have completed Sport diver lectures and now moved on to Ocean diver. So I give a big thank you to Mike Gardner, Paul Nesbitt, Nigel Watson & Stuart Wintringham for their invaluable help.

I feel almost redundant.

## 6.3 Training Officer's Report – Kevin Wilde none

## 6.4 Equipment Officer's Report – Roly Church

### RIB JUNO

The Juno is in the best condition; battery has been kept topped up and placed on charge over the winter. Two of the inflation points have no valve inserts, and may need two people to inflate; we do have some new valves some where in the club. Tubes do not leak; the Juno has kept air integrity over the winter.

### RIB GROWLER

The Growler is in a poor state, air integrity of the tubes is poor. Every time the Growler needs to go to sea the tubes need inflating, but will last the duration of a full days diving, next day will need re inflating. The Growler also has valve inserts missing but can be inflated with help from another person. The Growler and the Juno are over 20years old, the Growler was second hand when purchased so is older.

### BOAT TRAILERS

Both boat trailers are in a poor condition and are not fit for use on public roads.

Corrosion, No Mudguards, No Brakes, Tyres are still legal. Trailers are adequate to tow the boats down to the slipway only.

### COMPRESSOR

Compressor has had no problems and is running ok, sometime this year we need to do an air purity check, the molecule sieve and activated charcoal has only been changed twice in 15years it may need changing again.

It is my understanding that the battery is dead. This has been replaced and the replacement did turn it over but it will not start, there is a possible problem with the starter motor which is to be looked at.

### POOL TRAINING EQUIPMENT

As I took over the post of equipment half way through the season I have not had access to pool training equipment cupboard.

### MISC

I have surfed the web and found two sites on repairing tubes. One sites supplies a rib inner tube that fits inside the old tube, the other is an inflatable boat sealant.

### INFLATABLE BOAT SEALANT

[www.rib-shop.com](http://www.rib-shop.com)

A discussion about the trailers followed about if we should replace the trailers so that we could start taking the boats to other locations for diving. With trailers at about £2000 each it was felt that the amount of usage they would get at other locations would be very limited. We will keep this in mind for future consideration.

### 6.5 Membership Secretary – Dave Rees

At this moment in time we have 46 paid-up members, comprising 5 non-diving and 39 full members.

Of these 7 are honorary members.

During the year we have gained 4 new members, and I would urge all our members to do their utmost to recruit new blood into the club. We need to increase our membership numbers to remain viable at the present costs.

The alternative, of course, is to increase club subscriptions to a level where we are not dipping into our funds each year just to pay our way.

### 6.6 Bar Manager's Report – Kevin Wilde

As you all know Jeff has had to step down as bar manager through ill health, obviously without him the happy hours are just not the same.

Being part of the fixtures and fittings and under normal circumstances no one would ever have stood against Jeff for the post. He did, without any doubt do a great job. and I'm sure I speak for everyone here when I say thanks to him for the great service he has provided over the years to the club.

Unfortunately for you horrible lot, I have stepped into the roll, you may ask did I jump, or was I pushed? with the help of various committee members and occasionally Arlene (when I can drag her away from come dine with me on the telly,) I have been trying to fill his shoes.

Thankfully Cynthia has stayed on as license holder.

But I have stripped her of fire duties.

We had a good year in 2009 with bar sales up for the second year running.

Copies of the full bar accounts are of course available for your perusal.

As I have only been in the job for a couple of months this is a nice short report.

I look forward to seeing you all spending your hard earned cash in 2010, and to put you in the mood there will be a free drink after the AGM for all attendees.

### 6.7 Other Reports – Hedley Brammer

I have been checking the radios during the year. Initially there were problems with Juno's set-up which have now been resolved and both radios are now working well. I may have to consider retuning the aerial on Juno as this is sometimes showing higher readings than are desirable. Growler's radio is by far the best.

A gift aid application will be submitted shortly and this will be added to the club funds. It is my understanding that some of the honorary members put in more than was required of them. We could have claimed gift aid on that if they had come to see me first and discussed it.

It was asked if we could reduce the fees to a more nominal amount and give the rest to the club as a gift and thus generating more gift aid. The theory may sound good as the gain at present is 28% of all gifts. Unfortunately this would leave us open to prosecution for fraud and even worse could leave us short because some may decide that they don't wish to pay the gift amounts requested.

When it comes to donating anything to the club by any private individuals or business before doing so please come and see me so that the paper work can be sorted out properly, as there is money out there which we can claim to boost our funds. As a CASC we can claim gift aid in a similar way to charities.

I have had my attention drawn to an advert in Dive magazine regarding "Mars Funds Sports Clubs" on page 10. We need to look at this and consider the wording we should use to try to win some of this money. The question is "How could the Mars refuel drink help you play longer?" in a maximum of 200 words. Please consider this matter and see if we can come up with wording which would help us win some money for the club.

## 7. *Election of Officers & Committee Members -*

Chair	P Nesbitt
Treasurer/Membership secretary	D Rees
DO	K Wilde
Secretary	H Brammer
Equipment officer	S Wintringham
Bar manager	K Wilde
Committee members	N Watson, P Kiss, M Harrison, P Bennett, D Foster, L Dixon

## 8. *Any Other Business*

The Forum pool should be reopening in January next year. It is supposed to have a sinking floor to allow us to have the required depth to do some of the training, doing this in the present pool does not give us sufficient depth for the lifts we do from the bottom. This is presently being done at alternative locations in sheltered waters. There is to be a lane restriction shortly at our present training pool for which we will have a reduced bill for that period.

As part of fund raising Pat will be producing Christmas cards, some for ordering and some for direct sale. We have started planting seeds of tomatoes and herbs and will be bringing the plants down to the club for sale all profits being donated to the club.

## 9. *Chairperson's closing remarks*

Paul thanked everyone for attending the meeting and we are looking forward to doing various events. Please bring your ideas to the committee to promote the club and help us to organise events.

The meeting closed at 11.30am.