

BSAC Teesside 43 Branch CASC
Minutes of the 55th Annual General Meeting
18th March 2011 @ 10.30 hrs.

1. The Chairperson, Paul Nesbitt opened the meeting by welcoming all members to the 55th Annual General Meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence – these were received from Kev Wilde, Brian Malthouse, Carl Swinnerton, Mike Gardner

3. Approval of Minutes of 54th AGM – These were proposed by Mick Harrison and seconded by Nigel Watson as a true record.

4. Matters Arising - none

5. Chairperson's Introduction – Paul Nesbitt

It's that time again for the AGM a good sign that the start of the dive season isn't far away. Main event for the area was the purchase of the iron & steel-making facilities by SSI steel with the blast furnace due to be lit imminently. This has benefited some club members directly by means of employment but also the area by bringing much needed funds to the local economy, hopefully this may have a spin off to the club with more members.

The club has once again managed to retain a steady number of members with both new & old members participating in many areas within the club.

The clubs finances have increased aided by efforts by members & their families, most notable where the summer BBQ organised by Les Dixon the bonfire night fireworks. A lot of people were involved including Dave the human torch Reese with the fire- works & bonfire, Brian Malthouse with the raffle & my better half who sorted the food plus lots of others assisting

Other fund raising throughout the year included Easter egg raffles & the lottery bonus ball & car boot sales all organised by Brian Malthouse.

Brian's efforts have had a massive financial benefit to the club & will continue this year. So dig deep & buy those raffle tickets for Easter all proceeds go back into the club.

We have also continued with gift aid which allows the club to claim back tax on any donations by members this as well as applications for grants. Both have been dealt with by Hedley & although unsuccessful so far with grant applications we will proceed with further applications for 2012. Another scheme in which the club has joined with Hedley's help is the "easy fundraising" web site where a donation is given to the club for any purchase bought online, it is free to join & most of the leading high street & internet based companies are available. Again I would encourage all members to join this & continue supporting the club by donations of raffle prizes & with their efforts in organising events.

We also applied to RWE to try & get compensation for disruption to diving activities they are the firm putting in the Breagh gas pipeline, other than taking legal action it has fell on deaf ears. None the less I will also be chasing EDF energy for compensation due to disruption caused by the installation of the wind towers.

The committee decided to replace one of the club boats due to the on-going problems with the tubes, thanks to Gary McSorley we managed to get a bargain with a last minute bid on e Bay just above the reserve price. The boat is now due to be kitted out & we are looking for suggestions for a name, mine is 'Viagra' it's the right colour & the tubes stay erect! Hopefully with a new boat we might be able to get more local diving done this year I would encourage all to organise as many local dives as weather permits this again will bring in funds to the club.

The social side of the club continues but had a drop off in events last year I would encourage more effort from all to the levels of 2010.

Lastly the club needs a team of people to allow it to function the main members of this team are the committee who give up lots of their own time to ensure the club is a success therefore I would like to thank the following for all their efforts in 2011;

Kevin Wilde – AKA - DO, Training officer & Bar Manager

Thanks to Kev for all his efforts in all the roles above without his help the not attract new members to train & membership would therefore dwindle.

Kevin has announced his retirement from the dark side with the sale of his re-breather, he has already started to grow hair on the palms of his hands ready for joining the knuckle draggers.

Thanks again for your efforts in 2011 Kev.

Carl Swinnerton - Treasurer/Membership Secretary

Carl's 1st year in the role & he has done exceptionally well, so well in fact that it will prove difficult to remove him from the post in the coming years, especially as he now has a new BMW to pay for & seems to be having more holidays?

Thanks Carl for stepping up & taking over from Dave Rees last year.

Stuart Wintringham - Equipment officer

Stuarts continues to do well in the role keeping the boats & equipment working & ready for all to utilise for training & diving, Stuart has a busy couple of months in front of him to get 'Viagra' ready for the dive season, thanks Stuart for your efforts in 2011.

Hedley Brammer- Secretary

Lot of effort in 2011 with applications for grants which has yet to reap the rewards he & the club deserve, hopefully this will come to fruition in 2012. As well as keeping me right Hedley works on the gift aid & set up easy fundraising membership for the club.

Oh nearly forgot Hedley also manages to take time out to look after the radios on the boats & keep Phil right on the more technical aspects

Thanks Hedley for your efforts.

Nigel Watson – ADO - Web master

Thanks to Nigel for our new & improved website glad to say that it is one of the best club sites in UK & now well utilised by club members. Also Nigel ably steps in for DO for Kev whilst he is absent which can be quite a lot!

Committee members

Thanks to all other committee members to Don Foster who brings his years of experience to the committee, to Mick Harrison who ensures we support diversity within the club as his picture behind the bar proves.

A massive thank-you to Brian Malthouse for all his fundraising efforts & his help at club events.

To Phil Bennett who brings a special childlike quality to committee meetings & has helped bring his expertise to help with purchase of boat equipment, I think Hedley helps him with this!

Lastly to Paul Kiss who is going to redouble his efforts this year as social secretary ably assisted by Tony "Gregg's customer of the year" Harker

As well as committee members other club members spend a lot of time & effort at the club.

Special thanks go to Rolly always willing to help wearing a smile. To Gary & Dan McSorley for their help in the purchase & storage of the new boat & to Dave Rees with his help on bonfire night & to all others who help with the running of the club or organizing diving thank you.

Lastly thanks to all friends & family of members who support the club in various ways.

6. Officer's Reports

6.1 Treasurer's Report – Carl Swinnerton

The clubs potential profit is due to the extra members we gained this year along with the summer BBQ , bonfire night , the donations made, gift aid organised by Hedley Brammer and fund raising i.e. Brian Malthouse's raffles & car boot sales and not to mention the bonus ball lotto!!!

At this point I would like to take the opportunity to thank Brian on behalf of all our members for all the work and commitment he has given this year!

This year the new boat needs the transom altered and fitting out , 2 batteries , radio , GPS and an engine purchased! but the sale of Growler should cover the cost.

BSAC have put a £2.00 increase on their yearly subscription from March 2012 so it could be an option for us to increase our membership subscription to cover inflation?

The clubs finances for the coming year are looking good as long as we keep up the fund raising, keep getting new members in and hold onto our existing members.

Report Compiled by Carl Swinnerton on 09/03/2012 for the 55th AGM to be held on 18/03/2012

Addition to Treasurers report:-

A discussion followed regarding if we should increase the club subscriptions to try to compensate for inflation. It was proposed that we should increase the subscriptions to £100 per year with immediate effect. This proposal received the support of the majority of the meeting.

6.2 Membership Secretary – Carl Swinnerton

On 30th December 2011 the Club have 50 members comprising of
36 fully paid Members.
4 Honorary Membership
2 Abated Members.
8 Associate Members.
During the year we have gained 10 new Members.
This has been a good year for the club but we still need to attract as many new members as possible to keep it afloat.

The Treasurer for the 3-9s Club has told me that he has given up diving for medical reasons and will be retiring from his post shortly. At this point he thinks the remaining members want to join our Club.

Report Compiled on 11/01/2012 by Carl Swinnerton

6.3 Diving Officer's Report – Kevin Wilde (Reported by Nigel Watson on his behalf)

Well here we are another years diving over and once again conditions around Redcar were not the best. As always though, if we can't dive here then we go find somewhere where we can.

The sites visited by our members last year included Oban, South Shields, the Farne islands, St Abbs, Cornwall, Turkey, Bali, & the Red Sea.

This year we have most of the above UK dives already booked and trips planned for America, Malta & possibly a live-aboard later in the year. Hopefully the new boats novelty value will tempt more diving out off Redcar this coming year.

Lectures for Sport diver have now been completed along with the relevant Nitrox lecture and we will be completing the Ocean diver lectures soon.

We are hoping to have a Wastwater training weekend in October, always a popular trip and a good chance to get the qualification book up to speed.

I am happy to be Dive Officer again in 2012, hopefully with Nigel once again as my assistant DO and Paul & Stuart my assistant instructors, Thank you all for your help over the last year.

Addition to DO's report :-

Diver of the Year – this is awarded to Brian Malthouse for all his efforts throughout the year.

6.4 Training Officer's Report – Kevin Wilde (See Diving Officers report)

6.5 Equipment Officer's Report – Stuart Wintringham

Last winter both boats had a problem with the hydraulic steering seizing. I stripped the steering down and greased it all, re-bled it all and it would seem to be fine this year.

One battery no longer holds its charge and the other has been sold with the Growler so we need 2 new batteries.

Now the big news we have a new boat for the 2012 season, I am sure everyone has been keeping up to date with this on the club forum. We need:

The transom filling in

New engine

Fuel tank

GPS/Sounder

Batteries (x2) both boats

And I think there has been mention of dare I say it Radios (x2)

If people find a good deal on anything if you could put a post on the club forum along with links to the retail outlet this would be a great help.

Gary Snaith volunteered to give a battery he has to the club for one of the boats.

6.6 Bar Manager's Report – Kevin Wilde

Bar sales were down on 2010.

I avoided putting prices up last year even though there was the VAT increase in January, as we were getting good deals on most of our stock, but sadly this year I have increased the cost of soft drinks, tea and coffee by the princely sum of 15p per can or mug. This is still about half the price of local cafés and therefore good value.

I keep introducing new lines, Ginger beer, pork scratchings and Bacon Bites are the latest to see if I can tempt your taste buds, and I am happy to buy any new products on a trial basis if you have any requests.

Finally, there are a number of people who serve behind the bar and I would like to thank them all for their efforts, we sometimes forget that they are volunteers.

Free drink.

6.7 Other Reports – Hedley Brammer

Gift Aid & Other Funding report for 2011 (Secretary)

Gift Aid

Gift aid has now been claimed for 2011 and we have done noticeably better than the previous 2 years. Thanks to everyone who have helped to achieve this and especially to Brian M who has made an important contribution towards this success, so very well done to him.

If anyone is interested in this please contact me (*HB*) so that it can be discussed and we could therefore increase our income even more with virtually no effort.

Other Funding

We have put 4 applications in so far but unfortunately 3 have failed and we should here about the 4th later this month. The competition for the different fund pots is very high and therefore a lot of people become disappointed. We are working on another funding applications with help from Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council Sports Development Team and have to keep trying.

Again anyone who may wish to discuss this matter at any time please see me (*HB*) or contact me by e-mail with ideas.

We have an account with Easy Fund Raising but have only 7 members on the list at present and 2 of these are not club members. It is a very easy way to raise more money for the club by simply buying on-line through Easy Fund Raising from all the normal retailers. Every bit counts.

7. Election of Officers & Committee Members -

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| Chair | Paul Nesbitt |
| Treasurer/Membership secretary | Carl Swinnerton |
| DO | Kev Wilde |
| Equipment officer | Stuart Wintringham |
| Bar manager | Kev Wilde |
| Secretary | Hedley Brammer |
| Committee members | Phil Bennett |
| | D Foster |
| | M Harrison |
| | Paul Kiss |
| | B Malthouse |
| | Mick McPhillips |
| | N Watson (ADO & Web Master) |

8. Any Other Business

Mick Emmerson raised the matter of the appearance of the clubhouse and the way it is perceived by prospective members. It was considered that the condition of the interior left a lot to be desired and with some effort we could make it much more appealing. Mick Emmerson agreed to look into what needs to be done and try to get it organised.

The condition of the boathouse door was also raised as it is now starting to suffer from the harshness of the weather conditions and proximity to the sea. It was thought that it could be an expensive job to do and we need to look carefully at the job. Various replacement ideas were discussed but it was felt that we need to look at the job to see how best to deal with it.

9. Chairperson's closing remarks

Paul thanked everyone for attending the meeting, hope we have a good safe diving year 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, raising funds for the club.

The meeting closed at 11.20am.