

BSAC Teesside 43 Branch CASC 59th Annual General Meeting report 27th March 2016

The meeting was opened by the chairman welcoming all who attended.

Those Present:

Committee: Paul Nesbitt, Nigel Watson, Stuart Wintringham, Dave Winstanley, Mick Finnegan, Ally Hunt.

Members: Kev Wilde, Bill Hudson, Bill Graham.

Apologies:

Mick McPhillips, Brian Malthouse, Carl Swinnerton, Phil Bennett.

Last Year's AGM Minutes:

These were proposed as a true record of the event, nominated by Nigel Watson and seconded by Stuart Wintringham.

Matters Arising:

There were none.

Reports:

Chairman's Statement 2016

Good morning & welcome to BSAC43s 59th AGM this means that we complete our 60th year as a club something we should all be proud of & should celebrate the fact, looking for suggestions from the membership? Activity within the club has been limited for 2015 we have therefore set up a WHATSAPP group to keep in touch & help organise dives, plus with this in mind to try & improve the amount of diving we have instigated a yearly planner where we advertise in advance for local diving & indicate trips away.

Finances continue to be stable & will be gone into later on from Carls report this is once again supported by essential fund raising events organised mainly by Brian Malthouse, we have also looked at ways to reduce prices for pool usage which is an agenda item for later having lost the revenue from the 3x9s.

Social side with bonfire night & Indian meal in Middlesbrough for members plus dive trips away strengthens friendships within the club but it must be area we promote more to encourage activity within the club.

Membership remains an area we must address this is our main area of funding & we all should encourage friends & family members to try diving, plus advertise the club at work or public areas such as sports centres etc. Some advertising has already been done but we could do with someone from either from committee or membership to champion this to take forward.

A notable event from 2015 one was the closure of SSI with job losses having a major effect on myself & other club members, friends & families & business's in the Teesside area, we wish all well in seeking employment.

The committee has been looking at ways to improve facilities for members, it has therefore been discussed to look at either improvements to compressor such as Nitrox & filtration system or look at new systems. A sub-committee has been set up to action this with Phil Bennet, Nigel Watson & Stu Wintringham looking at the options with Mick McPhillips looking at possible grants to fund

Sadly 2015 seen the loss of one of our senior members Don Foster, after bravely battling cancer he lost his fight on Monday 16th November 2015. Don had been a club member for around 40 years & during this time served in various positions on the committee such as Chairman & DO he also stayed on as committee member despite being ill & was a great provider of help & information to myself & other members. We as a club mourn Dons passing & send best wishes to his wife & family.

Another old hand Rolly Church is still suffering from ill health we wish him & his wife Cynthia all the best for 2016

Thanks must go to those who help to run the club - the committee they are

Diving officer/Training officer

Stuart Wintringham

Lot of work by Stuart organising training including lectures, pool & diving also monitoring diving within the club keeps Stuart busy thanks for all his efforts in 2015

Secretary

Mick McPhillips.

Thanks to Mick for his secretarial duties in 2015 & good luck with grant applications for 2016! Thanks for help in 2015 Mick

Treasurer/membership secretary

Carl Swinnerton.

Clubs finances & membership ably handled by Carl does a fantastic job even with tax man on his back! Thanks to Carl for his work last over the last year

Equipment officer

Phil Bennet

Phil continues in his role of equipment officer & now with purchase of the "eternal flame" from Mick gives another option for trips & club dives. Also thanks for being the main organise of trips away for the club- thanks for both Phil

Web master/ADO

Nigel Watson

Regular updates of site keep Nigel busy with what is the best websites for a dive club, always willing to assist Stuart in training & others throughout the club ensures Nigel is kept busy throughout the year. Thanks to Nigel

Bar manager

Mick Harrison

Thanks to Mick for his running of the bar for last couple of years & relevant accounts! Micks shed is still under construction but once complete will create a Crèche for any local children visiting the Gare

Committee members;

Brian Malthouse

Still remains no1 fundraiser for the club, works tirelessly with bonus ball, raffles, car boots etc. to make money for this club. Thanks once again for your efforts Brian

PS anyone wishing to purchase tickets for Easter raffle or donate prizes see Brian after meeting!!!

Don Foster

Sadly, Don passed away but thanks for all help to the club over numerous years

Alex Bousfield

Thanks to Alex for his efforts over 2015 & hopefully will assist the club for many years to come

Ally Hunt

Lot of effort by Ally looking into pool sharing possibilities and helps out where he can thanks to Ally for his help over the year

Mick Finnigan

One of 2 new committee members who has fitted straight into club and seems to have been around for longer thanks for help in 2015

Dave Winstanley

Last but not least Dave another new member of the committee again has fitted straight in and thanks for help over previous year & more to come

Not forgetting

Once again thanks to all of the above but not forgetting all those friends and family who assist & support this club in its running & work at club events as well as putting up with all of us! Great big thank you to all of them

Report Compiled by Paul Nesbitt

Treasurers Report

Accounts for 2015: Starting 01/01/2015 Bank Balance: £5,370.97

Finishing 30/12/2015 Bank Balance: £5,647.82

Current Bank Balance: 28/02/2016 £5,340.75

We have made a profit of this year of £276.85 mainly down to the fact that we haven't had any unexpected bills or needed to make any large purchases. We have also made some savings on our insurance policies. Not to forget fund raising.

Our Insurance Renewals for the year so far: Boat Insurance = £231.11 payment made on 23/01/2016 compared to £224.26 last year & Public Liability Insurance = £503.00 payment made on 03/07/2015 compared to £791.32 the year before making a saving of £281.47.

The Bar takings banked for 2015 stand at £552.00 banked in December 2015 but some of that might have been carried over from the year before! I'm sure Mick's report will cover this in more detail.

With the loss of 3-9s sharing the pool and the pool fee's going up the pool is now costing us £39.15 per week! I think this item is on the agenda to be disgust in more detail.

The club has had a late submission penalty of £100.00 from HMRC's for not submitting a Corporation Tax Return for 2014 as requested! I have appealed against this on the ground that we didn't receive a request and that the late submission notification even arrived via BSAC's head office when they have my full details on file! I have copies of the letter of appeal and Tax Return on file if requested. The Tax Return has now been filed and pending.

The Club still needs as much fundraising as ever so could we all try to take a leaf out of Brian's book. He's raised the figure of £1,087.60 in 2015 compared to £669.00 the year before and still going this year. "Well done Brian".

BSAC have not increased their Membership Fee's this year so I think we should leave our Club Fee's set at £100.00 for diving members but possibly put the small increase on our associate and honorary members fee again as agreed at last year's AGM.

Report Compiled by Carl Swinnerton

Membership Secretary's Report

At this present time the Club has 34 Members comprising of: 24 Full Paying Members, 4 Honorary Members, 1 Junior Member, 2 Joint Members, 3 Associate Members.

I anticipate a slight drop in existing club membership renewals this May due to a few long standing members having on going health issues and the lack of interest from other members.

Let's hope for an influx of new members and some great weather conditions for the season ahead.

Report Compiled by Carl Swinnerton

[Diving Officers Report](#)

Probably the most memorable thing for me in the last years diving calendar, was our trip to Scapa Flow. This was organized by Phil and proved memorable for both good and bad reasons. Good because we all got to dive some impressive wrecks and bad because someone nearly burnt down the accommodation. It was however for the most part a successful trip.

Club diving would seem to be on the decline at a local level, so a new initiative has been put in place to try and remedy the situation. A Rota has been produced for dive managers to each take a turn in the organisation of future dives with the club boat, after all we have a really good boat now we might as well make good use of it. I hope we will all play our part in trying to turn things around and make this club what it was and what it should be, an active diving club. I believe we can, and should, all play our part in the organisation of club diving, no matter what your diving qualification or experience. If you want to dive something don't just sit back expecting others to organise it and do something about it yourself, even if the most you can do is make the proposal. There is always advice and help available within the club for people that need it.

The club is looking into the possibility of upgrading the filtration on the club compressor, with a view to us getting a blending panel and O2. Hopefully this will encourage new members to join the club, and in turn higher revenue. I myself am going to do a blending course and hope others will to, anyone that is interested if you let me know and I will be happy to organise it. I am of the view that we should as a club be able to offer everything from air to trimix.

Report Compiled by Stuart Wintringham

[Training Officers Report](#)

Lectures are currently underway for Dive Leader and as mentioned above I intend to organise a blending course. If anyone is in need of any training if you can let me know and I will endeavor to get it organised. Michael has been on a boat handling course at South Shields, all of this training helps to facilitate more diving within the club and can only help. I would encourage anyone that needs any training to go for it. I would like to see more people feel able to put themselves forward to become club instructors. This is because training is a key element in the decision to join a club, for most newcomers. Hopefully 2016-17 will be a busy year for me and my fellow trainers.

Report Compiled by Stuart Wintringham

[Equipment Officers Report](#)

None submitted – Phil Bennet

[Bar Managers Report](#)

None submitted – Mick Harrison

AOB:

- Don Foster was discussed and a suggestion that it would be nice for an article to be submitted for publication in the Dive magazine. Paul Nesbit volunteered to deal with this and would contact Don's some Simon for some contents.
- Promotion of the club was also discussed and it was stated that posters were available and had already been put up in some public locations. Bill Hudson volunteered to arrange to have one put up at Billingham Forum.
- Having the AGM at the current time of year on a Sunday was discussed, with this year's being on Easter Sunday and last years was on Mothering Sunday. Both resulted in very poor turnout by the membership etc. It was proposed that starting in 2017 the AGM should be held on a Thursday night where more members will likely be able to attend. It was agreed therefore that starting in 2017 the AGM will be held on the last Thursday in March, time to be agreed.
- The current pool arrangements and sharing with other clubs, both us sharing and may us moving to another location was discussed. Discussions with another local club had already taken place and the costs savings to us due to the favourable rate we get then the savings would be negligible. There were the benefits of this other local club give us a closer location, but the pool is on 2m deep. The conclusion arrived at by those present was that we should continue to remain at Billingham Forum, but look at share with another diving club. Ally Hunt volunteered to approach Billingham Forum and find out which other dive clubs used their facilities.
- It was stated by a member that other clubs get subsidised for training new prospective members and that we should investigate this further.
- The new Rota for proposed diving throughout the year was discussed and explained by Paul Nesbitt, in the hope that we can get more diving in 2016.

Election of the Committee:

The existing posts were offered to others, but there were no challenges to these and so they remain as is, with the exception of some committee member changes as follows;

Chairperson	: Paul Nesbitt
Treasurer/Membership secretary	: Carl Swinnerton
Secretary	: Mick McPhillips
DO/Training Officer	: Stuart Wintringham
Equipment Officer	: Phil Bennett
Bar Manager	: Mick Finnegan
Committee Members	: Nigel Watson, Dave Winstanley, Ally Hunt, Kev Wilde, Alex Bousfield, Brian Malthouse

The meeting was closed by the chairman thanking all who attended.