

Proposed amendments to Bye- Laws (Nov 2010) Of Stratford upon Avon Branch (0730) of BSAC

KEY: - Deletions highlighted in yellow and underlined; Additions in red;
Hilary's explanatory in green. Unchanged text in black.

5. Membership

We have added an extra class of Membership to include Junior Members as explained below.

(i) There shall be four **five** classes of membership:

(a) Full Diving Membership, for which any person 16 years of age or over shall be eligible.

(b) Social Membership, for which any person shall be eligible but which shall not entitle such a member to take part in snorkelling or any other activity involving his use of a breathing set, **nor any right to vote at a Branch Meeting.** **With our meetings being at the Football club, we do not have the means to take Social members. However, this might change at some time. It can be very difficult to decide what is a social and what is a diving related proposal, sometimes these can overlap, so we propose social members do not have any voting rights.**

(c) Student Membership, for which any person of the age of 16 or over shall be eligible provided that they are in full time education.

(d) Junior Diving Membership for which any person between the age of 12 and 16 years shall be eligible provided they have a parent or guardian who has been an active member of the club for a minimum of 2 years and takes an active role in their training. Always subject to the discretion of the committee.

We sometimes accept children of 12 and over to learn to dive but this has always been a grey area and against the club rules. We don't want to entirely rule out these children so feel that the inclusion of Junior Membership, in the format we propose, is a reasonable compromise.

(d) **(e)** Honorary Membership, which shall be conferred solely by the Committee and for which any person shall be eligible but subject to the total number of Honorary Members not exceeding five (5) at any time. Honorary Members who intend to dive are required to pay the B.S.A.C. portion of the annual subscription.

6. Management

(i) A Committee elected at each Annual General Meeting of the Branch which shall comprise four (4) officers and five (5) other members who all serve ex officio shall manage the Branch.

(ii) The four Branch Officers shall be the Chairman, the Diving Officer, the Secretary and the Treasurer. The duties of the Officers shall be as set out in the following Bye-laws.

(iii) The other Committee members shall be the Training Officer, the Equipment Officer, the Recruitment Officer, the Web Officer and the Social / Public Relations Officer.

The Committee may assign to those committee members who are not officers as specified in clause 6(ii) such specific roles and responsibilities as the committee deems necessary to ensure smooth running of the branch.

This proposal is to ensure that all committee members have roles assigned to them but this way the roles can be amended to include positions that suit the running of the club at that time and/or the skills of those who are prepared to serve on the committee.

11. Annual General Meeting

(i) The Annual General Meeting of the Branch shall be held in November each year. Notice of the meeting and the agenda thereof shall be sent by post or otherwise transmitted to all paid-up members **four** **five** weeks before the meeting.

We felt that the longer time for nominations worked well but decided that three weeks was enough and was a reasonable timescale to allow nominations and canvassing to take place. The other timescales have also been amended to comply.

(ii) The Notice shall identify those members of the Committee who are standing again and shall request nominations for Officers and the **other** Committee **members.in large.**

"In large" seems rather vague so it's proposed to amend to "other - members" for clarity.

(iii) To be valid, nominations must be [a] delivered to the Secretary in writing at least **seven (7)** **twenty one (21)** days before the meeting, [b] seconded and [c] endorsed by the Nominee to the effect that he is willing to accept the position if he is elected.

(v) The notice of the meeting shall also include the text of any motion proposed by the Committee. Any member may propose amendments to such motion and may make any further motion for consideration at the

meeting but such amendments and further motions must be proposed and seconded in writing and delivered to the Secretary not less than **fourteen (14) twenty one (21)** days before the meeting.

(vii) The right to vote at the meeting shall be restricted to Honorary Members, **and** Full Diving Members **and Student Members** whose current subscriptions are fully paid.

We have added student members into the voting rights as they are all over 16 and therefore should have this right.

(viii) **To promote succession it is desirable that** no Officer shall hold the same post for more than three consecutive years.

While the principal that no-one should serve in one position for more than three years is desirable, sometimes this is impractical, for instance if no-one else is willing to stand for a position, so we propose the above amendment.

16. Safety and Discipline

(iii) In the event of a diving incident involving a member, the details shall be reported to the Diving Officer by the **diver(s) member(s)** and the Expedition Leader, if there be one, as soon as possible.

(iv) If the Diving Officer considers it appropriate, he will request that the **diver(s) member(s)** involved and the Expedition Leader submit to him a written report on the incident within 7 days. The Safety Committee will meet to consider the reports within 14 days of the last of these being received by the Diving Officer.

If the Safety Committee considers it appropriate it will request a meeting with the member(s) concerned. Such member being given 14 days' notice of the Safety Committee's request for such a meeting. At any such meeting the Safety Committee and the member, should he choose to attend, will hear any member who can contribute to the understanding of the facts. The member shall be heard in answer, a reasonable adjournment to enable him to prepare a response being allowed at the discretion of the meeting.

At the conclusion of every review, the Diving Officer will advise the member(s) **concerned** of the decision and will simultaneously advise the Committee.

This was felt to be too vague so, again, this is to clarify the rule. We also changed "divers" to "members" to cover incidents which might include a non-diver.