

**STRATFORD UPON AVON BSAC**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 19 November 2015**  
**at Stratford Football Club at 9.30pm**

**1. Apologies for Absence** – 34 attendees with apologies received from:-  
Angie Deaves, Kelly Greener, Sophie Hastie, Nigel Maris, Clive Shepherd, Stan Russell,  
Richard Talbot, James Thompson, Russell Thompson, Nick Todd-Jones

**2. Minutes of the 2014 A.G.M.**

Proposed by Chris Prichard, Seconded by Sally Richards and were approved

**3. Chairman's Report – Hilary Wilson**

I think in all the years I have been a member of the club I can't remember having experienced such a challenging year as this one.

The pool closure was a major problem with no real solution, all the alternative pools had some problem, either too far away, not deep enough or inconvenient times available plus the logistics of getting kit from Geoff's garage for try dives was simply not viable.

We decided to go with the temporary pool so that all our existing members would still be near enough to the football club to meet and keep the social side strong. However, the pool turned out to be worse than we had been led to believe. The first week there were several scraped knees, the pool was little deeper than a bath and it was closed several times for various reasons. A few stalwarts kept going but it was shunned by most.

To try to keep the heart in the club we arranged alternative events like the night out on the Countess of Evesham which Lynne organised, Peter Neal's curry night, a Jaques Cousteau film night, complete with popcorn, courtesy of Emma, John Armstrong's talk about police forensic diving, Richard Talbot's great day out clay pigeon shooting and Les's 80th birthday which we managed to celebrate twice, so thank you all for your efforts to keep us entertained.

I am really pleased to say that almost all our members renewed at the end of March, Pete didn't let them get away easily, and the first night the pool re-opened we nearly had a stampede to get back in, so thank you all for being so patient and uncomplaining.

Despite the lack of a pool, Miles and Peter Neal have managed to keep the training going, mostly at Stoney Cove, using their 4 metre pool and quickly being able to move on to getting in the open water. I would like to thank both of them for their hard work and resourcefulness. They will go into details in their own reports but they have run Ocean diver, Sports diver and Dive Leader courses this year as well as Prich organising an O2 course.

Angie had the unenviable job of keeping prospective new members interested until the pool re-opened but she managed that admirably and we had an influx of new members in July.

You will also have noticed our updated website. Chris Hastie took this on and we now have a members directory on there as well as trip reports and the current diary. Looking at some of the other clubs sites, ours is one of the most up-to-date and interesting. He also set up the system for group e-mails to be sent out, this means that everyone in the club gets all the information that the committee send and any member can send out notices on the chat section, so no-one should be missed out. Even some of us older members appreciate the change and I'm sure that it will make a huge difference to the club in the future. So thank you Chris for the time you

have put into this for us. We again had a BSAC pod at the Birmingham dive show, Keith and Jeannie organised this for us, they made a great job of displaying information about our trips with loads of photos and maps of where club members have dived.

I'm also pleased to say that we now have storage at the football club for the likes of our stock of training packs, Resusci Annie, Prich's library and Geoff's charts. If anyone wants to borrow these, they are available on a Thursday night, just ask any of the committee for help.

At the risk of sending you all off to sleep, I must mention the issue with boat towing. I have spent many happy hours checking the D V L A website, BSAC website plus a few others, trying to understand the law. It is very complicated and, in view of the fact that it doesn't affect most of you, I don't intend to inflict a discussion on all of you. If any of you have any questions as to why we have come to the conclusions we have, please come and see me after the meeting has closed so I can show you all the relevant paperwork.

In conclusion, I would like to say that I very much appreciate the support and commitment I have received from the committee and thank you all for the work you have put in over the last year.

#### **4. Diving Officer's Report – Peter Neal**

First, I will give you a run-down of the club diving activities over the past year.

##### TRIPS:

After quite a cold start to the year we had our first trip to Teighnmouth arranged by Jon Arthur over Easter followed by trips which include the regular : .

Babbacombe. --- Jeannie Parnham

The Scillies --- Richard Wells

Hope Cove ---- Geoff Russell

Pembrokeshire --- Me

Porthkerris --- Mark Jeffrey

Several trips abroad – Hilary Wilson

Dive Statistics :

We did a total of 1330 dives. Which is up from 1197 in 2014 and 1225 in 2013.

This breaks down as follows :

UK Saltwater – 413 up from 354

UK freshwater --- 393 up from 255 mainly Stoney Cove

Overseas --- 524 slightly down from 588

I will repeat what I have said several times before, that I would like to see more people organising British Diving . This is where we practice all the B.S.A.C.training which makes us different from other training agencies.

I would like to thank all our instructors, especially those who gave their time to help at the Dive Leader assessment day at Stoney Cove.

##### INCIDENTS.

As most of you are aware, this year we have had two incidents that ended with members having treatment in recompression chambers. They were totally unconnected. This is totally unprecedented in club history and I'm sure we won't see this again. Thank you to my safety committee. Jon Hardman and especially Rebecca Waters who has done most of the work on the reports sent to BSAC HQ .

As I am moving from Diving Officer to Training Officer I want to remind club members that as Branch of B.A.S.C. we MUST follow their Safe Diving Policy which includes:

- Permission to dive MUST be sought from the D.O.for every dive trip as he or she is responsible for every diver.
- EACH and EVERY dive MUST be logged and submitted to the D.O.
- This discipline ensures safe diving and supports the D.O. in doing their job.

- I ask that all of you do whatever you can to ensure that we improve in this area to help Miles carry out his responsibilities next year. Thank you.

## **5. Treasurer's Report – Geoff Russell**

Many thanks to Chris Prichard in assisting and auditing the accounts

### **SUMMARY**

#### **Income**

Subscriptions 12% up (c £1150 )– mainly due to new trainees joining in year. The net increase in membership last year was 9 with the total now standing at 67 current members. Our thanks go to Angie Deaves on recruitment and the many pool trainers and Try Dives.

Pool - A drop in surplus of c £300 due to the pool closure, as mentioned by Hilary. Again as in previous years the balance kept in surplus by Try Dives.

Events – Income again down due to not having a substantial fund raising event.

Training Course materials and kit hire – Increases of approx. 50% reflecting increase in training due to new members, and diligent control of kit resources by Jay Scott.

Club Wear- no sales this year.

Bank Interest – shows decrease not because we have less capital invested but due to a reduction in available interest rates and also that unlike previous years we have taken an interim statement rather than an end of term account position.

Donations – increase of c £200 due to Richard Talbot's clay shoot profit and various paid river jobs and salvage of phones etc and boat work. Which have been well reported by local press and raised club profile.

#### **Expenditure**

Pool kit servicing decrease of c 30%, due to less cylinder testing requirements and diligence of Jay in reducing servicing costs. Fully serviced demand valves and stab jackets are available for diving in open water.

Boats and trailers increase in costs of c £1500 (+50%). Primarily due to giving the club compressor a full service costing £1000. This is a one off cost which the committee consider to be a 3 to 4 year repeating cost to be anticipated.

Football Club membership. An increase of c £230 due to the Football Club re-negotiation as they insisted all Dive members become social members of Football Club. However we managed to agree that this costs includes all normal room hire requirements and additionally all Dive members receive discounted drinks and free entry into the £100 weekly Wednesday draw which is held and 7.30 p.m., - but you have to be there to win.

Publicity and River Festival – costs reduced by c £220 – due primarily to not boat hire costs as myself, Jay and Nigel Maris salvaged handbag for River Boat Hire company.

**Balance Sheet** - no erosion of capital and c £1000 up on last year

#### **Assets**

Assets purchased this year were minimal:-

1 Cylinder, along with testing 2 donated cylinders.

Assets also increased by donation of 2 cylinders from Prich and 2 Stab jackets from Mark Jeffries. And Jerry Kelly has also recently donated another cylinder to test.

#### **Treasurers Overview**

Overall surplus of £1020 compares favourably with surplus of £502 last year and negative in 2013 of - £1396 and negative in 2012 of - £1709

We still have a credit account with BSAC HQ of c £800 for training deriving from the 2012 Sport England Grant.

We had income of £675 for training materials but our purchase cost was nil as material came from stock paid for by the Credit Account with BSAC as above, Therefore our expenditure has been in any normal situation (if it weren't for credit) understated by £675. This situation is likely to be the same next year but come 2017 the credit will have been eroded and we will have to start paying for training materials out of income.

I am very satisfied with the control of income and expenditure as directed by the committee.

The club needs to target a surplus of approximately £2000 per annum in order to fund replacement of equipment without erosion of capital funds. There are a number of ways this could be achieved, which could be addressed by the members, i.e. -

- Profitable social events such as BBQ, Clay Pidgeon shoots etc.
- River salvage donations.
- Club wear.
- Successful grant applications.
- Sponsorship.

## **6. The Training Officer's Report – Miles Howarth**

As you are all aware, I took over the role rather suddenly in January, by which time the pool had closed.

This made training rather tricky, but with the help of Leamington club and Stoney Cove, we did some intensive training and skills sessions which resulted in signing off:

Graham Greener as Ocean diver, with Louise Jeffries and Glen Cadle very nearly completed. Paul Nash and Daniel Rowe as Sports divers.

6 members did the Dive Leader course with, Andy Bacon, Pete Talbot, Lynne Bunker and Clive Shepherd all signed off with the others very close to the completion of the course.

Pete Talbot, Richard Talbot and Lynne Bunker are also assistant instructors.

We now have 9 members working towards their Ocean diver qualification, most of them new members from after July when the pool re-opened.

Prich ran an O2 course during the early part of the year on Thursday evenings, which kept us busy while we didn't have a pool.

I would like to thank all those who gave their time and expertise to make this all happen.

## **7. Election of Officers and Committee Members for the forthcoming year**

The following nominations were submitted:

Chairman	Hilary Wilson
Diving Officer	Miles Howarth
Treasurer	Geoff Russell
Secretary	Sally Richards
Training Officer	Peter Neal
Equipment Officer	Jay Scott
Recruitment Officer	Lynne Bunker
Events Officer	Angie Deaves
Membership Secretary	Peter Talbot

All nominees were standing unopposed and therefore automatically elected.

## **8. Any Other Business.**

A personal statement relating to Peter Neal was read by Becky Waters.

Chris Prichard asked that the suggestion concerning our Bye-Laws as raised by Chris Hastie be considered. The new committee would look into this.

Hilary passed her thanks to the Committee.

The meeting closed at 2215.