



RATAE SAC

MINUTES OF AGM
Tuesday 18th November 2003
The Lifeguardsman
Shepshed
8:00pm



Members present:

Robert Cuss, Rachel Wright, Kevin Wright, Mark Willoughby, Bryan Spence, Lesley Turnbull, Mark Hessey, Rod Hill, Mick Ward, Martin Crookes, Peter Hennessey, Paul Lucas, Ian Ellison, Cherie Wooding, Graham Stanbridge

1. Apologies:

Carol Harper, Lynne Wright, Mark van de Velde, Ted Tibenham, Ian Petchey, James Hennessey, Paul Lingard, Andrew Spence, Catherine Spence, Richard Spence

2. Minutes of meeting held 19th August 2003:

Minutes were accepted for the Quarterly Meeting held on the 19th August 2003

3. Matters arising:

No matters arising

4. Election of Committee Members:

Mark Willoughby was elected as Assistant Diving Officer (overseeing rules/safety etc)

Mick Ward was elected as the Welfare Officer

Lynne Wright was elected as Treasurer after the AGM

5. Chairs Communications:

Paul had nothing to report. The Chairman congratulated everybody who passed qualifications during the previous year.

6. Treasurer's Report:

A copy of the Accounts was circulated to all present. The club has a healthy bank balance of £1434.69. Thanks expressed to Cherie for such good financial housekeeping.

7. Diving Officer's Report:

The Diving Officer wished to thank all of those that helped during the DCI incident in Plymouth. Graham Stanbridge and Alison Ball were praised for their initial response and Rod Hill for helping out (even though he wanted to light up while the O₂ was flowing!!!).

Diving Officers Report – 2003 AGM Prepared by Mark Hessey

This year has seen another year of firsts; the first club visit overseas, the first bit of publicity in "Dive" magazine and the first DCI case in the club's history.

The year started off tremendously well with the club's inaugural visit abroad to Eilat in Israel. The organisation by Martin Crookes was first rate and I know that all those who went really enjoyed themselves.

There have been several other official and private diving experiences this year, including Plymouth, St. Abbs, Wales (both North & South), Scotland, Cyprus, France, and further afield such as Florida and I would like to thank those people who organised the club trips – it is very much appreciated – and would like to congratulate those members who used their knowledge and skills in far flung parts of the globe. It makes the instructors feel proud to know that what they have taught in a swimming pool in Shepshed and Stoney Cove has enabled people to feel confident enough to go diving anywhere in the world.

The shadow of DCI hit our club this year and we are extremely grateful that it was not more serious. I believe that the urgent action of the people involved helped Lesley to make what will hopefully be a full recovery. BSAC accepted in my report that the diving that Lesley had done was not to blame in any way for the DCI, more likely it was a result of Lesley's own physiology and she is now looking to see what can be done. It is a sobering affect that a high percentage of the population have a PFO (patent foramen ovale) and it is estimated that between 10-30% of the diving population may have some form of PFO.

Without encroaching on the Training Officers report I was pleased to see a healthy interest in the BSAC Try Dive in September and thanks go to all those who attended and helped. Thanks also go to those who helped out with the Disabled Day of Sport, which we participated in again this year; it is a positive sign of the club's willingness to get involved and help others who perhaps would never experience the thrill of diving.

I would also like to congratulate all those who have attained diving qualifications throughout the year – either through the club, through the excellent skill development courses that BSAC run or through their own energy and commitment – those qualifications are well earned.

As the year draws to a close it is a time for looking forward. This year I personally will be looking to complete my Advanced diver qualification at last, and I look forward to seeing a lot of you also move up the qualifications ladder.

8. Training Officer's Report:

Since taking over as TO, Bryan Spence has tried to raise the general standard of diving, with many divers progressing to higher levels. This included running a Dive Leader course.

The BSAC Try Dive event was a success and should be repeated annually.

In the last year 2 Ocean Diver, 2 Sports Diver and a Dive Leader course has been run, attended by 15, 10 and 6 divers respectively. We also have 1 Advanced Diver requiring a test and one other very near. The club has one more Assistant Club Instructor, 1 other waiting to attend and a third booked on the course. The club has also had attendees on several Skills Development Courses, included Nitrox, O₂ administration, Chartwork and position fixing, Dive Marshalling, Practical Rescue Management. We also have had a Flares awareness course at Hind Leys and a rescue day at Vobster Quay. Stoney Cove have also paid us a visit and demonstrated some of their kit.

A new training session of OD and SD will start at the end of January.

One training difficulty the club has experienced involves the marshalling component of the Dive Leader syllabus. Bryan Spence suggested a boat diving day for marshalling. This could be conducted somewhere like Penzance. Martin Crookes suggested Pembroke as an alternative.

Safety is becoming an issue within diving. Risk assessments need to be finalised. We don't need to follow the Health & Safety Executive, but do need to adopt the spirit of the HSE.

We require at least a Sports Diver to act as surface cover and lifesaver at the pool. If one is not available then we can't dive that evening.

9. Equipment Officer's Report:

- All kit is now in good condition, with the weekly rinsing of kit at the pool side improving things. Two sets of regulators have been serviced, as have some stabs and three cylinders.
- Oxygen can not be kept in the shed.
- The matter of insurance was brought up. Insurance for £6,500 will cost about £150 a year. It was suggested that membership could go up to cover this cost. Will increase membership from £24 - £30 to cover this insurance cost from 1/1/04.
- The fact that the garage door could be pulled open was noted - and subsequently raised at the Hind Leys Community College Sport Council Meeting.

10. Forthcoming Trips and events:

Mark Hessey and Alison Ball are getting married on the 3rd January 2004. They are having a New Years party to celebrate their wedding - all club members welcome. Congratulations and good wishes were expressed from all to both Alison and Mark. Alison also announced that she is pregnant with a due date in June.

Anglesey Ian Petchey has booked Anglesey for the 14th August. A £14 deposit is due. The total cost is £70 for 2 days diving plus the B&B cost. Anglesey is ideal for Ocean Divers as the diving is generally shallow.

Training Bryan expressed a need for a training trip some time this year to cover the marshalling element of DL and AD. A suggested date of May Day in Penzance. Martin Crookes noted that West Wales Dive School could also be used.

Farnes Rod has booked the Farnes for October

11. AOB:

Web site: No update of the club website has been done for nearly 2 years. This needs sorting. It was decided to request access to the website from Karl Kirk as the site needs urgent attention.

12. Date and Time of next meeting:

March 9th, Hind Leys Community College, Shepshed at 8pm.