

**68th Annual General Meeting of
The British Sub Aqua Club**

The meeting was held via MS Teams

Saturday 14th May 2022

Notice was given for the 68th Annual General Meeting of the British Sub Aqua Club ("BSAC") to take a place pursuant to Article 50 of the BSAC Articles of Association ("the Articles"), to be held on Saturday 14 May 2022 via MS Teams.

The Chairman of the Meeting (BSAC Chair) opened the meeting at 10.03 on 14 May 2022.

With 55 members present at the start, the AGM was quorate.

Annex A: reproduction of the slides presented during the AGM.

Annex B: record of the MS Team chat comments and questions made during the AGM (meeting organisational entries have been removed).

Annex C: questions and answers actioned before the AGM.

Attendance:

Andrew Shenstone	Duncan Locke	Leslie Singleton	Rachel Quinn
Andrew Walters	Edward Haynes	Lisa Shafe	Richard Slater
Brian Cumming	Edward Lloyd Wells	Maria Harwood	Richard Turner
Carol Warren	Edward Rollins	Martin Peake	Sara Robertson
Clare Peddie	Elaine Player	Martyn O'Driscoll	Simon Rogerson
Colin Clarke	Geoffrey Duggan	Mary Tetley	Stephen Dorricott
Damian Gascoyne	Graeme Cooper	Maximilian Ruffert	Stephen Orange
Damian Wozniak	Helen Howard-Jones	Mazlan Ami	Tony Marshall
Daniel Loch	Jake Williams	Nigel Clothier	Turgut Velettin
Dave Lock	Jane Maddocks	Pamela Parr	Vivien Shaw
David Brander	Janos Suto	Paul Tarn	Wayne Murray
David Clements	John Millest	Paul Valente	Wendy Meadows
David Irwin	John Ward	Peter Kenrick	Yohan Abeyesekera
Dominic Robinson	Krystal Garnett	Rachael Brown	
Apologies:			
Harry Gould			
Invited to attend:			
Chris Horan (HQ)	Pam Parr (Minute Taker)		

1	Welcome & Agenda
	Maria Harwood (MH) welcomed everyone to the meeting, introduced herself and informed attendees about the process for asking questions and for voting.
2	BSAC Honorary Secretary Report
	Edward Haynes (EH) asked for any questions about the minutes of the last AGM – there were none, so he proposed they be approved and signed off by the Chair.

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	He went over the Ordinary Resolutions and Special Resolution and opened the voting for anyone who had yet to do so. There were no questions.
3	BSAC Chair Report
	<p>MH started by reminding everyone about the need to change the organisation, because of a decline in membership, worsened by the pandemic, meaning there was a need to adapt and appeal to a wider demographic. She said there was also a necessity to look at ways of helping the environment, and to become more proactive. She outlined the basic strategic plan, detailing some highlights including Advanced Ocean Diver, governance changes and citizen science projects; she talked about the number of new members in 2021, saying there was more that could be done to increase this, and to improve retention of new members.</p> <p>MH went over some highlights from 2022 so far, emphasised the need for branches to ask for support if needed, and asked for anyone with expertise in some key areas to contact MT if they could offer their help.</p> <p>Attendee Damian Wozniak asked a question about an apparent discrepancy in membership numbers, which MH clarified.</p> <p>As she was standing down as Chair at the end of the AGM, MH then thanked everyone in the Council – and certain people in particular – for their help and support.</p>
4	2021 Annual Report & Questions
	<p>JS presented an overview of 2021, including an increase in income and a decrease in costs. He said overall it had been a break-even year. He said the long-term trend in membership is downwards, so there was a need to reverse the impact of the pandemic and start growing again. He showed a graph of the surplus and deficit figures, and gave a brief review of the relevant events of 2021, which included the digitalization of SCUBA, staff reduction and the recruitment of an HoDT.</p> <p>Attendee Damian Wozniak asked a question about accounting treatment HQ building which is for sale. JS confirmed that a sale was highly probable in the next year and that said he was happy to discuss further offline.</p> <p>JS reported that the auditors had no issues with the 2021 accounts. He gave a huge thank you to retiring Audit Chair Nigel Rogers and said a new Chair would need to be recruited.</p> <p>A question was asked through the online chat about offering monthly Direct Debit options, which may appeal to students. Various Council members pointed out this had already been discussed at length and dismissed mainly because most students like to pay for membership when they get their grants.</p> <p>JS continued by outlining how the new strategy will, among other things, aim to increase the number of female members. He went on to thank all the loyal members who had stuck with the organisation through the pandemic.</p>
5	National Diving Officers Update
	<p>As DA was unable to attend, the NDO's Report was presented by DR.</p> <p>DR gave a presentation on the main aspects of the National Diving Committee over the year, which included a large number of webinars, a developing programme of events, extensive training on equality, diversity and inclusivity, and a successful scheme through Sport England to increase the number of dive leaders. He said</p>

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	<p>there were plenty of new projects in the pipeline, new courses were being well received and lots of work was being done on snorkelling. He showed slides showing the winners of recent awards, including Safety Commendations, diver awards, instructor awards, the Wilkinson Sword award and Volunteer of the Year, and congratulated them all. He said DA offered his own special thanks to the Diving and Training team at HQ, the NDC, regional coaches and all volunteers.</p> <p>A question was asked via chat on progress on a new name for Advanced Diver – DR said no decision had yet been made.</p> <p>Attendee Damian Wozniak asked a question about the recommendation of a safety stop, and whether there was a valid reason for this. DR said he had already answered this offline. Short discussion – MH concluded this was not a topic for the AGM.</p>
6	Results of Ordinary & Special Resolutions
	<p>EH presented the results of the votes as follows:</p> <p><u>Motion 1:</u> To appoint Azets Audit Services as the Company’s auditors to hold office from the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting until the conclusion of the next general meeting of the Company at which the Company’s annual accounts and reports are laid before the meeting.</p> <p>For: 415 Against: 20 - 98% passed.</p> <p><u>Motion 2:</u> To authorise BSAC Council to set the remuneration of the auditors.</p> <p>For: 438 Against: 19 - 98% passed.</p> <p><u>Special Resolution – proposed by BSAC Council:</u></p> <p>The articles of association of the Company appearing on the Company’s website and headed “<i>BSAC Articles of Association May 2022 (For AGM Approval)</i>” be adopted as the new articles of association of the Company in substitution for, and to the exclusion of, the existing articles of association of the Company titled “<i>BSAC Articles of Association July 2020</i>”.</p> <p>For: 608 Against: 26 – 97.5% passed.</p> <p>EH expressed disappointment at the low turnout, but Jane Maddocks (JM) and MH commented that this was not necessarily an indication that members were unhappy, and that this sort of turnout was typical in such a situation.</p> <p><u>Election Results:</u></p> <p>EH presented the results of the recent elections, outlining the election process and showing members slides of the full results.</p> <p>There had been 2 nominations for Chair, and 3 (unopposed) for Council members. Turnout was 6.9% in voting for the Chair.</p> <p>Results were: Edward Haynes 687 Andrew Shenstone 665</p> <p>Edward Haynes was elected as Chair, with John Gibbons, Helen Howard Jones and Lisa Shafe elected as Council members unopposed.</p>
7	AOB & Questions
	<p>MH said in pre-AGM questions somebody had asked if the AGM could take place on a weekday evening instead of a Saturday morning, so a poll was taken on the chat about preferences.</p>

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	<p>Attendee Yohan Abeyesekera sent her thanks from Sri Lanka for the help BSAC had provided in setting up a new branch.</p> <p>As retiring Chair, MH expressed thanks to everyone in Council and HQ for their help and support over her term.</p> <p>Rachel Quinn (RQ), the Vice-chair thanked MH for her hard work in the role, especially in such challenging times.</p>
8	Chat questions
	See annex B.
9	Meeting close (11:30)

GDPR statement

This meeting is being recorded

Please be aware that your name will be recorded. The legal basis for using your personal information is to comply with legislation. The Minutes are available to the Public from bsac.com

Welcome

BSAC

Annual General Meeting
2022



Introductions

Speakers & moderator

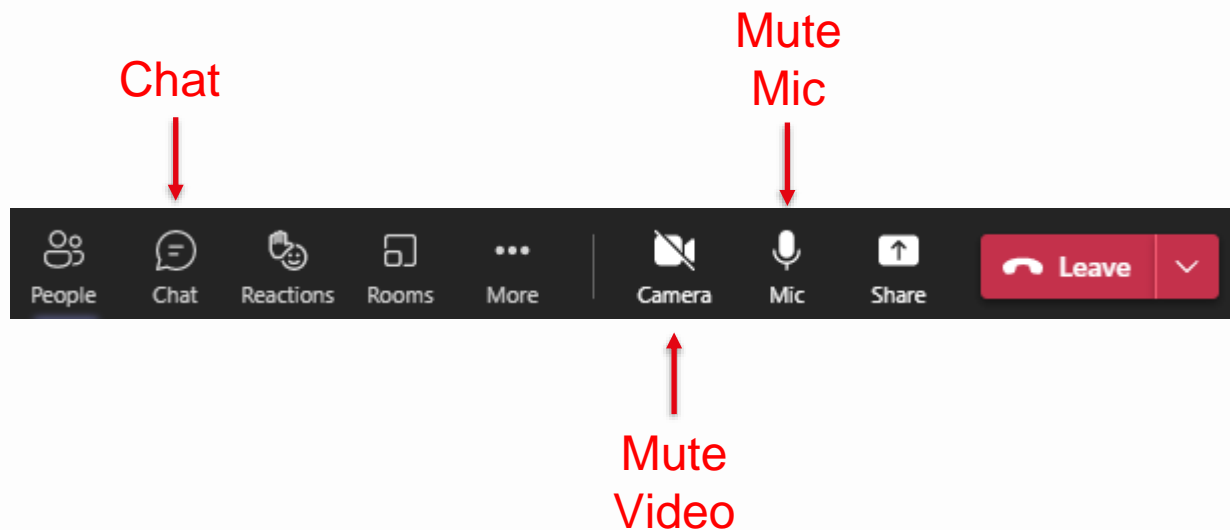
How the meeting will work:

- **Microphones & video will be muted centrally**
- **Asking questions**
 - Q&A in advance (on website)
 - Please use chat, even if just to say you want to speak, or raise hand
 - Will pause for questions at the end of each presentation
- **Voting on resolutions using Teams poll is now open. The link has been shared on chat window - voting closes at 10:40).**
- **Ad-hoc polls via forms**

Teams controls

Using Teams

- Microphone and video muted centrally
- Questions via chat only



Agenda

Time	Topic	Presenter
10:00	Welcome & agenda. Voting opens	Maria Harwood (Chair)
10:05	Secretary report	Edward Haynes (Hon Sec)
10:20	Chair update	Maria Harwood (Chair)
10:40	Voting closes	
10:40	2021 Annual Report & questions	Janos Suto (Treasurer)
11:00	NDO update	Dom Robinson on behalf of NDO
11:20	Declare results of voting	Edward Haynes (Hon Sec)
11:25	AOB & questions	
11:45	Meeting close	

Honorary Secretary Edward Haynes

Annual General
Meeting 2022



Approval of minutes

1. Approval of the minutes of the previous AGM

Questions?

Ordinary Resolution to appoint auditors

1. To appoint Azets Audit Services as the Company's auditors to hold office from the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting until the conclusion of the next general meeting of the Company at which the Company's annual accounts and reports are laid before the meeting
2. To authorise the BSAC Council to set the remuneration of the auditors

Questions?

Special Resolution

The articles of association of the Company appearing on the Company's Website via the following link: www.bsac.com/proposedarticles and headed “*BSAC Articles of Association May 2022 (For AGM Approval)*” be adopted as the new articles of association of the Company in substitution for, and to the exclusion of, the existing articles of association of the Company titled “*BSAC Articles of Association July 2020*”.

Not part of the special resolution: With a copy of the draft Articles is a detailed change document, also available on the BSAC website, at www.bsac.com/proposedarticles

Questions?

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Chair Report Maria Harwood

Annual General
Meeting 2022



Content

Strategic focus

Review of 2021

2022 so far

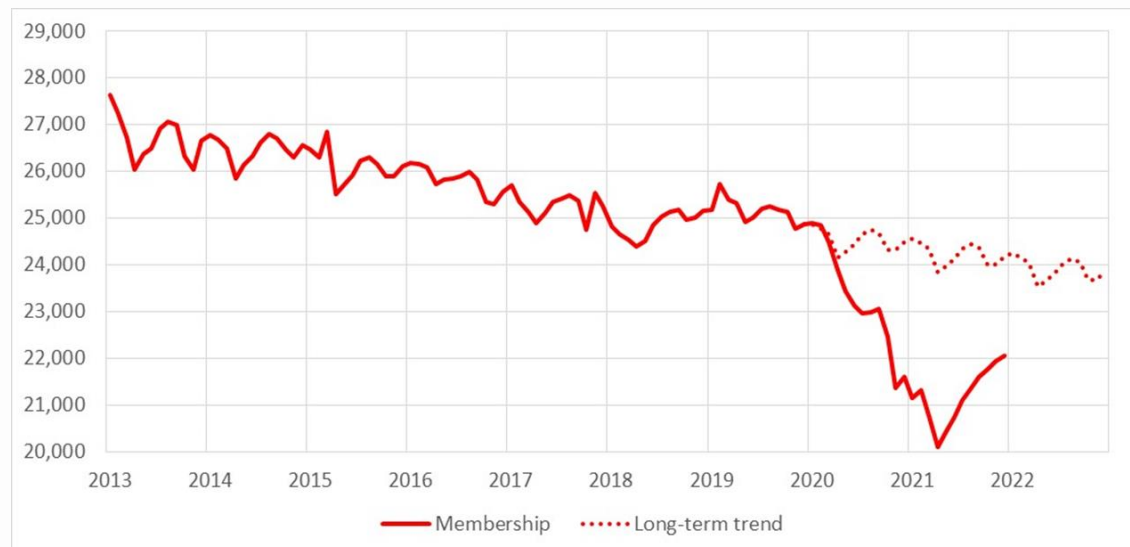
Thanks

Reminder - why we need to change

Industry & society trends

Declining & ageing membership

COVID magnified impact



Strategic Plan progress

Diving & Training

- Advanced Ocean Diver
- Branch – centre partnerships

Community

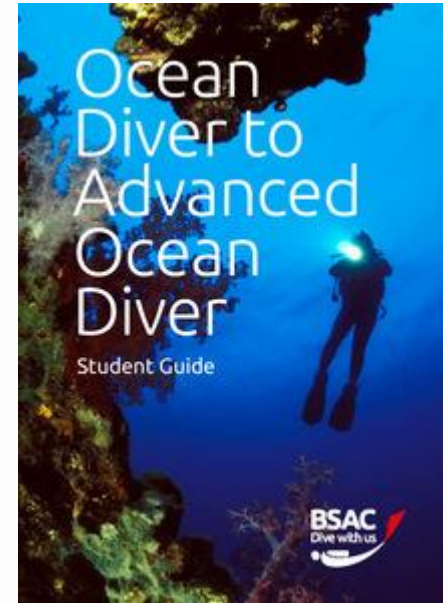
- Launch of App
- Know & Grow webinars

Environment

- Environment policy
- Citizen science projects

Delivery

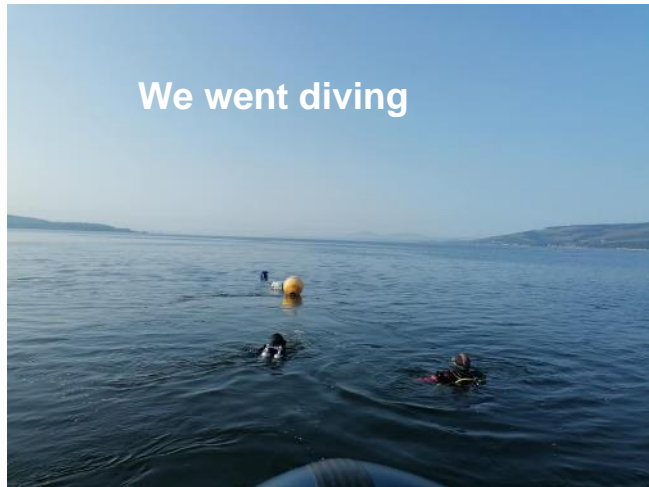
- Strengthening HQ team
- Governance changes
- Data driven



**Operation
Oyster** 



2021 in pictures



2021 in numbers

3,439 new members

653 Ocean Diver qualifications

146 ITS events

161 new OWIs

(72 qualified under Sport Eng)

26 centre-branch partnerships

60 webinars

**95 clubs signed up for
websites**

22,047 total members

3,936 total qualifications

1113 participants

6,635 total instructors

17 qualifications

4620 attendees

55 new live websites

We can all help

Recruit & retain members

- 944 left after 1st year, still unqualified (Covid impact?)
- Over 200 unanswered branch queries every month

Reach out for (& offer) help

- Know & Grow workshops
- DO workshops
- Realism re branch capacity
- Branch – centre partnerships
- Regional teams
- Other local branches

2022 – so far....



Advanced Ocean Diver



Operation Oyster Update
Webinar



ITS catching up for lost
time



Know and Grow:
Social media for clubs
Webinar

Can you help

Can you offer expertise in any of these areas?

- Marketing & Communications, especially digital
- Business development and securing external funding
- Community platforms
- IT solution architecture and implementation advice

Please email maryt@bsac.com

Thank you



Claire Howard
Council



James Mudge
Council



Gerry Anderson
Council



Nigel Rogers
Chair of Audit Committee



Celia Marlowe
Council



Andy Shenstone
Council



Phil Harrison
Vice president

Welcome (or welcome back)



Edward Haynes
Chair



John Gibbon
Council member



Lisa Shafe
Council member



Helen Howard-Jones
Council member

Thank you

To all volunteers, and HQ team – we wouldn't be here without you
All of you for sticking with us during difficult period



Thank you

Any questions



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Annual Report 2021

Annual General Meeting 2022



Key messages of 2021

Membership

- New members up 919 from 2,520 in 2020 to 3,439.
- Fully paid members up 453 from 21,594 in to 22,047.

Operating Income

- Operating income up 6% from £1.4m to £1.5m in part due to pack sales and instructor training recovering.

Expenditure

- Expenditure decreased from £1.6m to £1.5m, as savings on digital SCUBA continued as well as savings made in 2020.

Grant income

- Grant income of £107k was released to the P & L in 2021.

Overall impact

- Including the £107k grant, BSAC made a surplus of £100k.

Long term membership trend

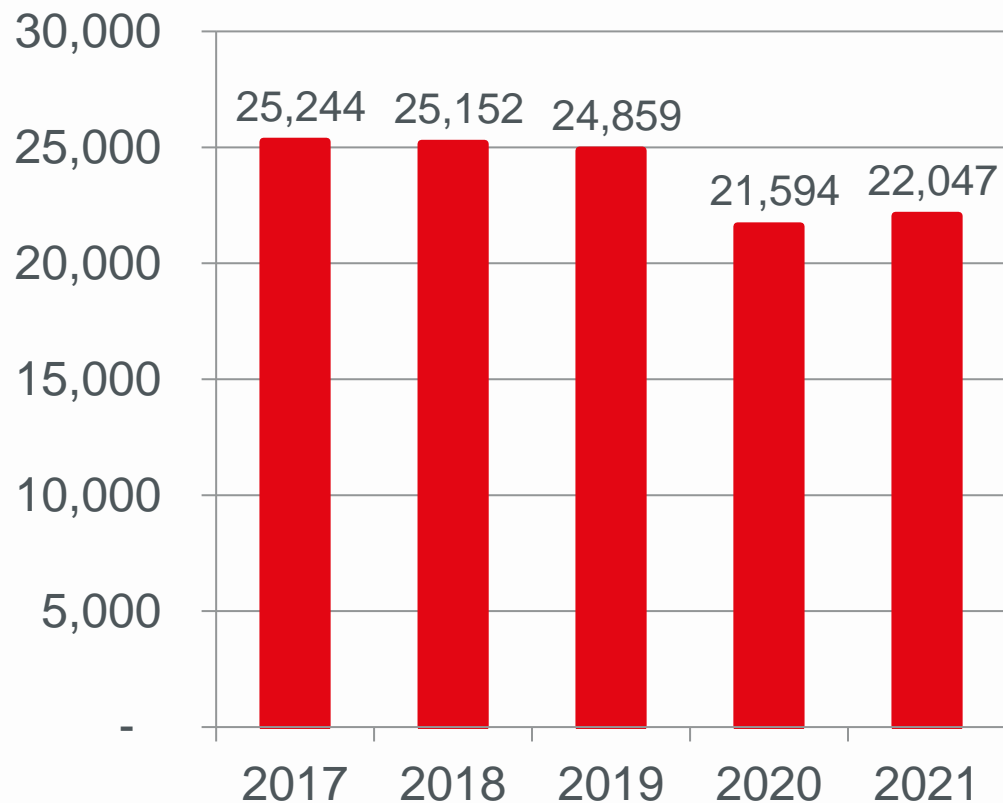


- Covid hit membership hard in 2020, especially new members.
- We have seen a bounce-back in 2021.
- We need to reverse not only the impact of Covid, but also the long-term decline.

Membership

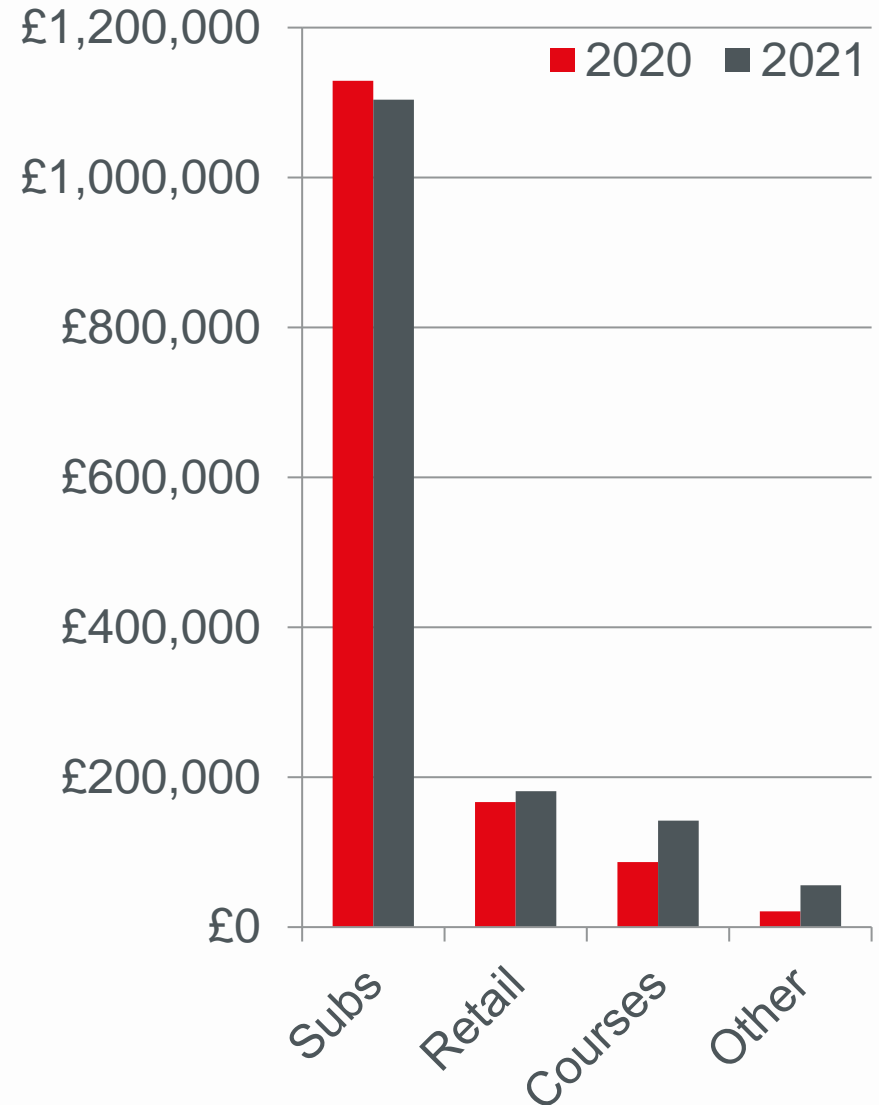
- Fully paid member numbers have increased by 3,310 for 2021.
- Covid restrictions eased in July which contributed to new members being up from 2,520 to 3,439.
- Renewals held up, especially Direct Debits.
- At April 2022 members are 22,120.

Members 2017-2021



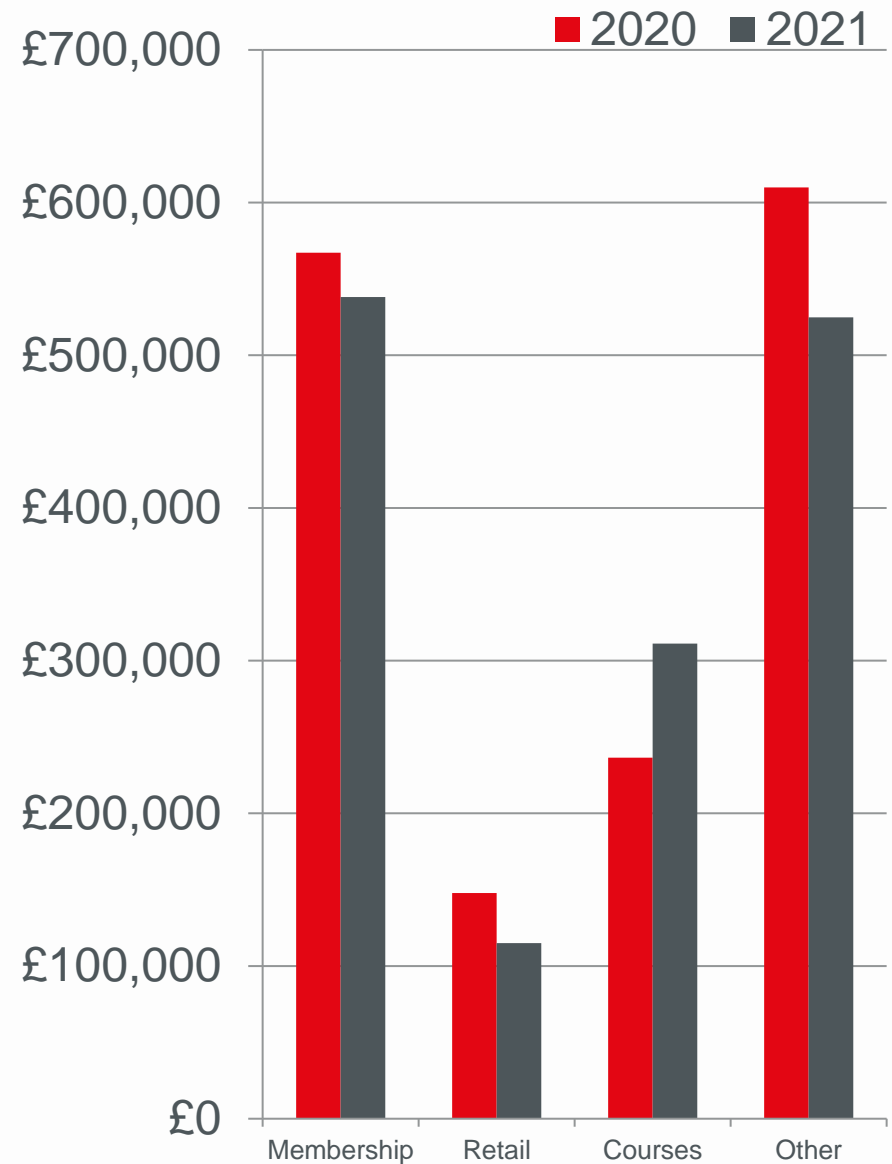
Income

- Income is largely driven by subscriptions. Income from subscriptions fell by £25k as average membership was down (although year end membership was up).
- Course income increased by £55k.
- Training pack and other sales increased by £14k.
- Overseas royalties and fees were up £33k.
- Overall impact was an increase of £79k (6%) from £1.404m to £1.483m.



Costs

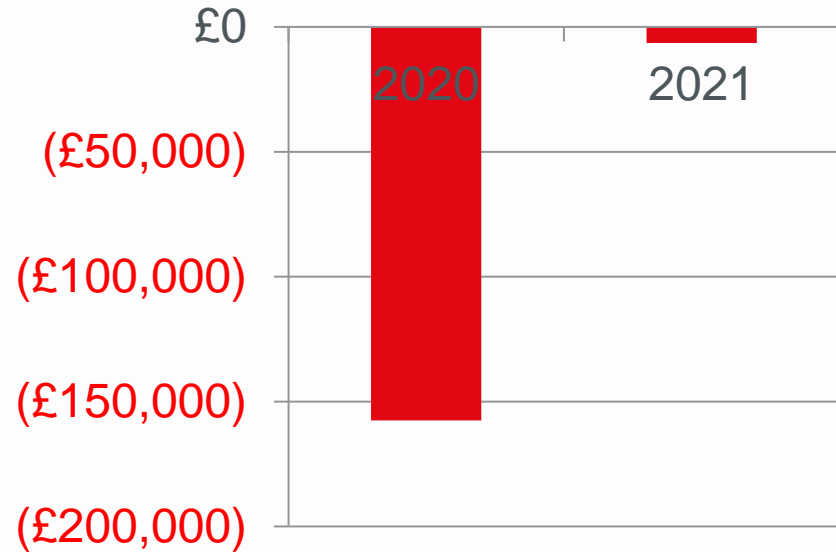
- We took action to reduce costs in 2020 and these savings continued into 2021.
- £29k from switching to a digital version of SCUBA for part of the year.
- £33k from cost of sales savings.
- Overall impact was a fall of £72k (5%) from £1.561m to £1.489m.



Overall Performance

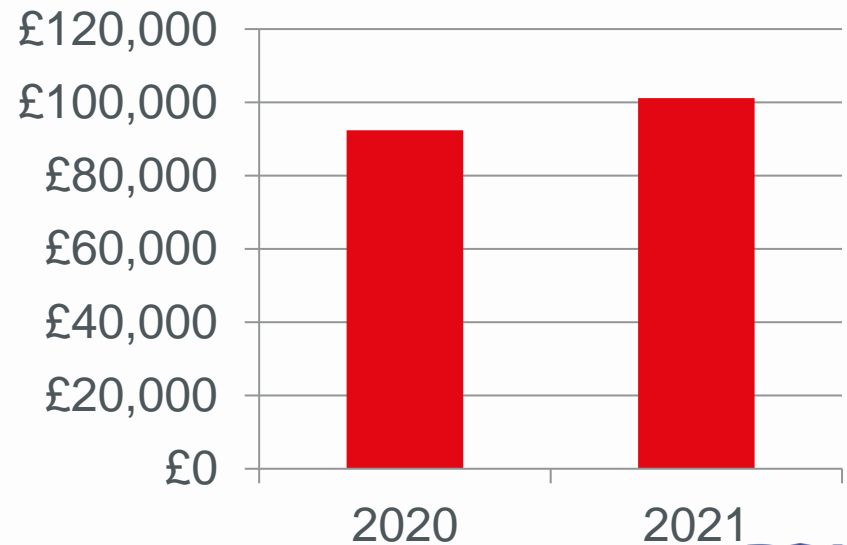
Pre-tax operating deficit (excludes grants)

- 2021 (£6,427)
- 2020 (£157,566)



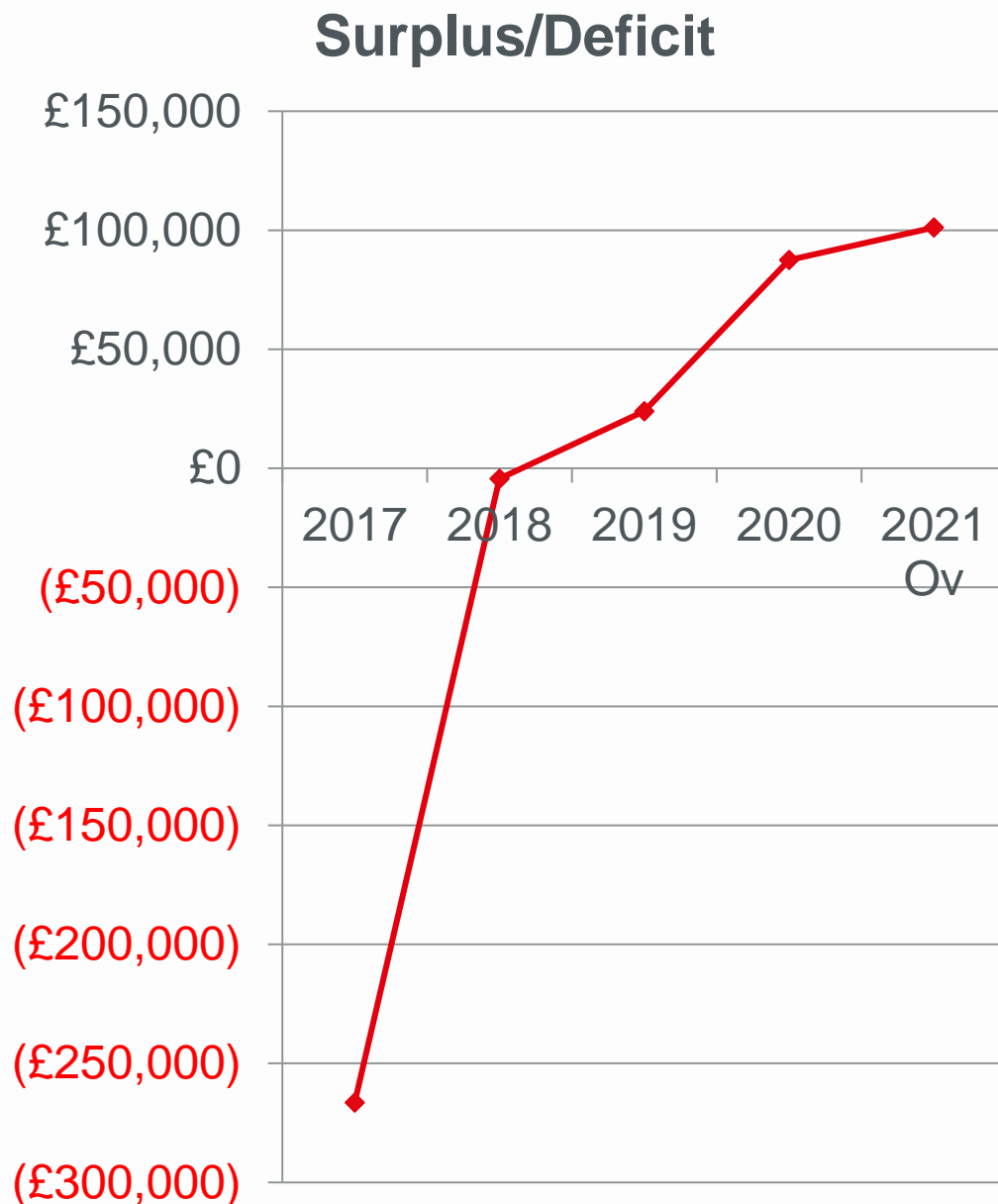
Post-tax surplus (includes grants)

- 2021 £101,165
- 2020 £92,390



Surplus 2017-2021

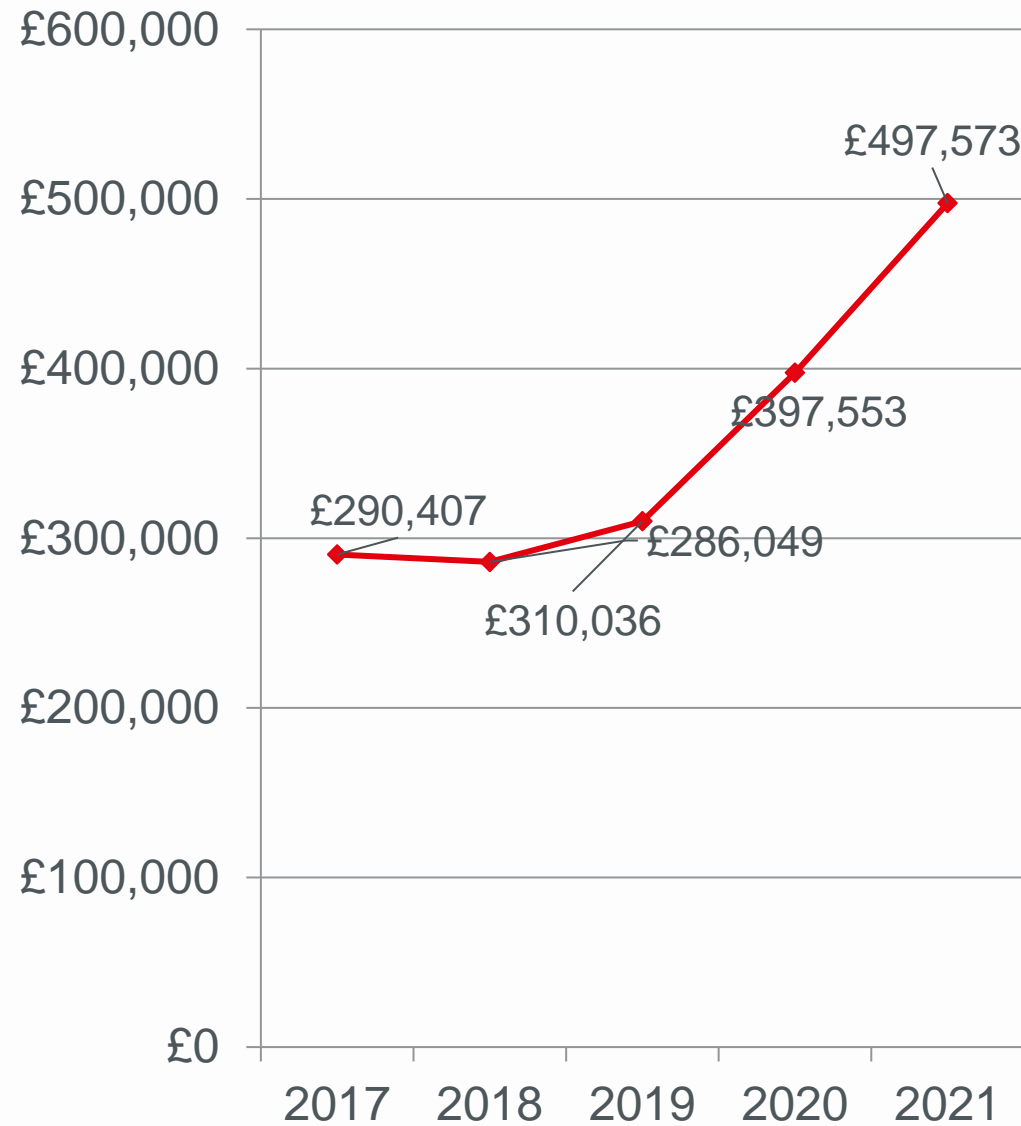
- We invested in the website & digital services between 2016-2018
- The operating deficit for 2021 was (£6,427) but after applying the grant income that improves to a surplus of £101,165
- Cash and budget for 2022 remains tight and is being closely monitored



Balance Sheet

- Reserves increased by £100k due to the overall surplus for the year

BS 2017-2021



Review of 2021

What happened?

- Digital SCUBA/ bi-monthly printed
- eLearning
- Online TIE's continued
- Webinars
- Sport England grant - £107k
- Sport England OWI/DL project
- Local authority grant - £25k
- Staff reduction
- Sale of HQ building fell through
- 2021 – 3 year rolling strategy 2022-2024
- Recruitment HoDT

Audit 2021

Outcome of audit

- Scope of Audit was reviewed to reduce fees.
- Auditors report a clean Audit Report with no issues raised at the audit review meeting.
- The independent BSAC audit committee are pleased with the auditors findings and with the strength of the financial controls in place.
- Management accounts continue to be presented to Council monthly and discussed in detail at board meetings.
- 1st quarter results for 2022 indicate a small surplus for the year, unless a decision to invest in strategy is made later in the year.

Thanks to retiring Audit Chair

Nigel Rogers



2022 and beyond

- 2022 has started well, but we are cautious given the current economic environment.
- Loyal members stayed with us during 2020 and 2021 and this is expected to continue in to 2022 so we build on that core base.
- New strategy is in place to deliver the change required to rebuild the organisation.

Questions?



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NDO Report Dom Robinson on behalf of Dai Atkins

Annual General
Meeting 2022



National Diving Committee

Steering Group

- Coaching
- Diving Activity
- Diver Training
- Instructor Training
- Safety
- Snorkelling
- Technical



Coaching

Branch, Regional and National support

- Special interest webinars
 - 220 webinars hosted
 - 8,000 attendees
- Reinstatement of PoE
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity training
- Excellent uptake of the Sport England funded scheme to develop more *Dive Leaders > OWIs*



Diving Activity

Diving with a Purpose

- New/reinvigorated group
- Projects
- Expeditions
- Branch & Group activities
- Environmentally aware training module
- Supports community & environmental aspects
- Engaging members at all levels of experience
- Developing links with others to widen opportunities, e.g. NAS, Seasearch



Diver Training

Our Diving Products

- Advanced Ocean Diver – complete
- Nitrox workshop(OD Level) - revised
- New courses
 - Primary Donate
 - Tables workshop
- Dive Leader review in progress
- eLearning platform
 - Foundation courses (DD, OD, AOD, SD)
 - AED Awareness
 - EDI



Instructor Training

Keeping the ITS Active!

- Hybrid online OWIC pilots
- Resumption of ITS activities
- ITS Resources on main website
- Sport England
 - Support instructor development
 - Predominantly OWIs but also engages AIs and higher to support the structure
- Instructor training webinars
 - ITs & Course Senior Instructors & Examiners



Safety

Keeping You Safe

- Return to Diving Guidance
 - Shore and boat diving
 - Pools and clubs
 - Instructing and group operations
- Medical Guidance
- Resuscitation Council guidance
- Safety webinar series
- 250+ AED Instructors recertified



Snorkel Training

Our Snorkelling Products

- SITCA materials revised
- New materials:
 - ASITCA
 - Snorkel Guide (in progress)



Technical

Staying at the Forefront

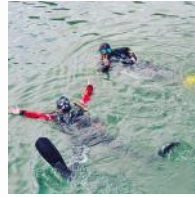
- New courses
 - Twinset Instructor workshop
 - MOD 2
- Involvement with RTC, CRISAG and ISO development standards for
- Technical Instructor Courses in ITS
- Highly active on social media



What About Diving?!!

On the up!

Some of us managed it!



Safety Commendations

CPR to pool trainee

- Jeremy Coton, Matt Pryme

CPR to diver in distress

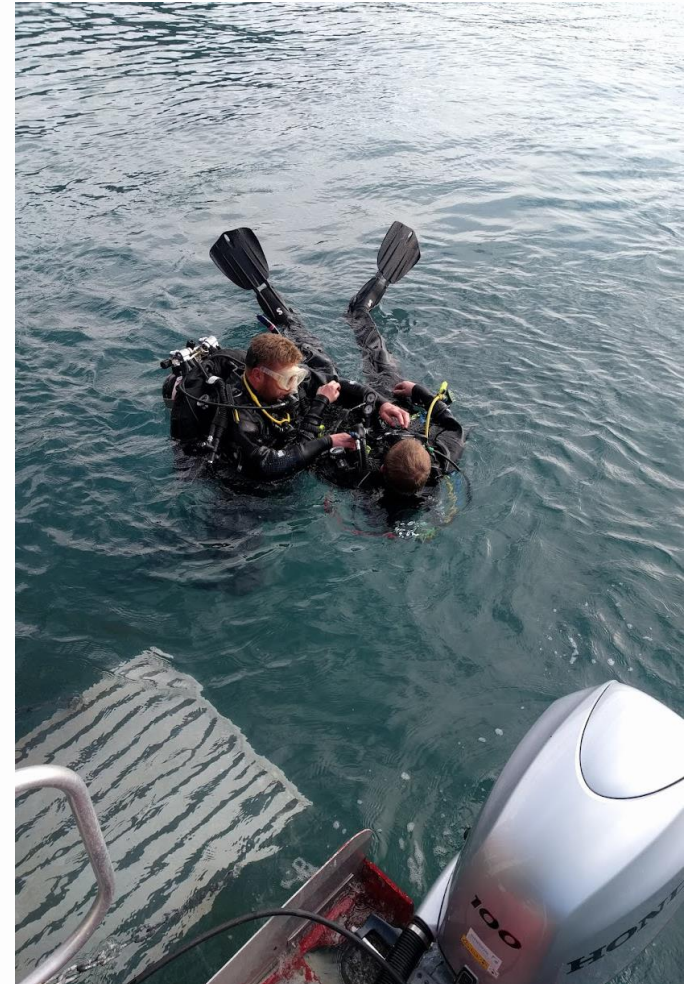
- Mike Morgan, Imogen Broad, Rhian Antony, Aidan Smith, Michael Bramham
Michael van Cauter.

Rescue & CPR

- Izaak Aitken, Scott Gillham, Paul Towers

CPR to unconscious diver

- Quentin Spottiswood and the Southern Scuba rescue team



Diver Awards

First Class Diver

- 2 successful candidates in 2021
 - David Ashmore
 - Stephen Winstanley
- *Most Meritorious – Dead heat!*



Instructor Awards

Open Water Instructor

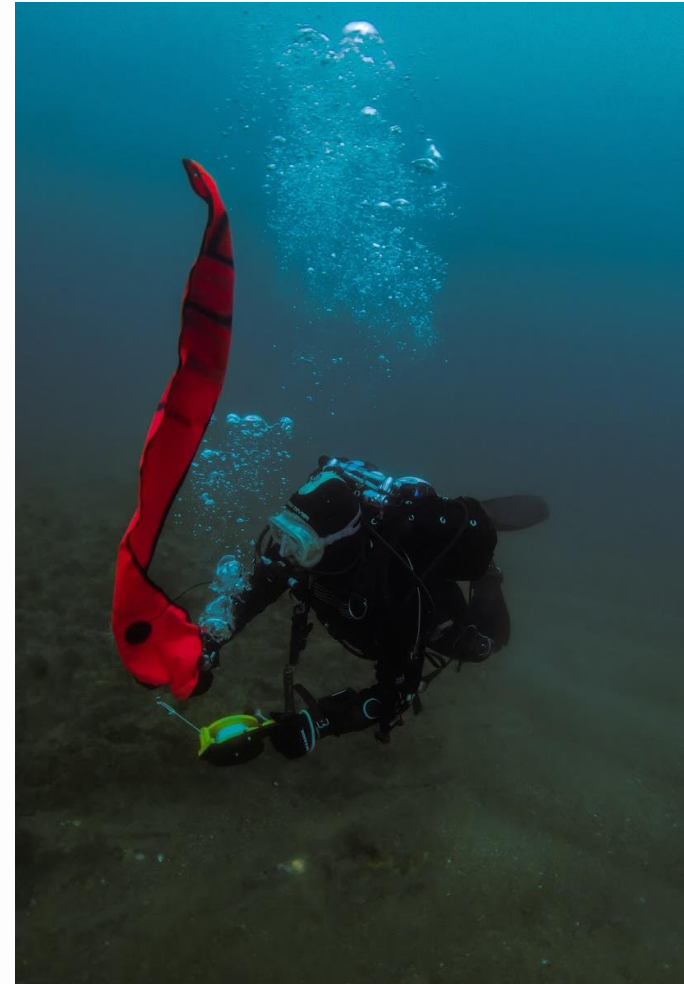
- 161 successful candidates in 2021
- *Most meritorious* - Alexis Moreno

Advanced Instructor

- 12 successful candidates in 2021
- *Most Meritorious* - Cara Nicholson

National Instructor

- 2 successful candidates in 2021
 - John Potten
 - Dave Woodward
- Most Meritorious - John Potten



Wilkinson Sword

Awarded annually to the candidate who has the most admirable performance in a BSAC nationally assessed examination

- Jacob Broughton-Venner



Volunteer of the Year

Presented to the BSAC member who goes that extra mile in the promotion of BSAC and their own club's aims and objectives

- Johnathan Hudson



Special Thanks

Staff and Volunteers

- Diving & Training Team - HQ
 - Jim, Adrian, Geoff, Diane & Jenny
- NDC
 - Coaching – Mark Paisey
 - Activities – Jane Maddocks
 - ITG – Ginge Crook
 - Safety – Jon Parlour
 - STG – Sophie Rennie
 - Technical – Sophie Heptonstall
- Regional Coaches
- All our volunteers



Questions?



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11:25	AOB & questions	
11:45	Meeting close	

Declare results of voting

Number of eligible voters	20,466
Total number of votes cast:	1,056
Turnout:	5.2%
Number of votes found to be invalid:	0
Total number of valid votes to be counted:	1,056

Announce results of voting Ordinary resolutions

Appointment of auditors

To appoint Azets Audit Services as the Company's auditors to hold office from the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting until the conclusion of the next general meeting of the Company at which the Company's annual accounts and reports are laid before the meeting

RESULT	No. votes	% of valid vote
For	415	98.11%
Against	20	1.89%
As they see fit	619	

Announce results of voting Ordinary resolutions

To authorise the BSAC Council to set the remuneration of the auditors

RESULT	No. votes	% of valid vote
For	439	98.20%
Against	19	1.80%
As they see fit	598	

Announce results of voting Special resolution

The articles of association of the Company appearing on the Company's Website via the following link: www.bsac.com/proposedarticles and headed "BSAC Articles of Association May 2022 (For AGM Approval)" be adopted as the new articles of association of the Company in substitution for, and to the exclusion of, the existing articles of association of the Company titled "BSAC Articles of Association July 2020".

RESULT	No. votes	% of valid vote
For	609	97.53%
Against	26	2.47%
As they see fit	421	

AGM 2022 Council Election Results

Voting Process

- Election administered by Civica as usual
- Nominees sent in their nomination which they checked before going live on Civica
- Any BSAC members entitled to vote were sent codes to vote on Civica's website
- **Members were reminded by email to vote**
- Publicity re the election was via normal channels (SCUBA magazine, BSAC Talk, blog, etc.)

AGM 2022 Council Election Results

Nominations

BSAC Chair

Two nominations

Council Members

Three nominations for four available Council seats, all **elected unopposed**

John Gibbons,

Helen Howard-Jones

Lisa Shafe

AGM 2022 Council Election Results

Voting: BSAC Chair

Edward Haynes - 687 votes - Elected

Andrew Shenstone - 665 votes

Number of eligible voters:	20,466
Total number of votes cast:	1,415
Turnout:	6.9%
Number of blank votes	68
Total number of valid votes counted:	1,352



Questions?



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AOB?

Opportunity for post-meeting Q&A

Email maryt@bsac.com

Thanks to retiring BSAC Chair

Maria Harwood

Keep in touch

bsac.com

[facebook/britishsubaquacub](https://facebook.com/britishsubaquacub) | twitter.com/bsacdivers

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**68th Annual General Meeting of
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Annex B

Chat record

[14/05/2022 10:00] David Brander

David Brander

Sara (Guest) could you please confirm your surname for the minutes?

Hi Sara (Guest) please confirm your surname, and/or membership number

[14/05/2022 10:01]

David Clements (Guest) has temporarily joined the chat.

[14/05/2022 10:01]

Geoff Duggan (Guest) has temporarily joined the chat.

[14/05/2022 10:01] Damian Gascoyne

Not Elizabeth Damian Gascoyne A817631

like 1

[14/05/2022 10:01] Dave L (Guest)

Dave Lock A041796

[14/05/2022 10:01] David Brander

Thanks Damian, Dave, Simon

[14/05/2022 10:02]

Edward Rollins (Guest) has temporarily joined the chat.

[14/05/2022 10:02] Vivien Shaw

Is there any sound? I can't hear anything at the moment

[14/05/2022 10:02]

Krystal Garnett (Guest) has temporarily joined the chat.

[14/05/2022 10:02]

Clare Peddie (Staff) has temporarily joined the chat.

[14/05/2022 10:02] Lloyd Wells (Guest)

Lloyd Wells A790641

[14/05/2022 10:02] David Brander

Vivien Shaw

Is there any sound? I can't hear anything at the moment
we're about to start, no audio yet but shortly!

[14/05/2022 10:03] Peter K (Guest)

Peter Kenrick A302120

like 1

[14/05/2022 10:03] Yohan Abeyesekera

Yohan Abeyesekera A858541

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like 1

[14/05/2022 10:03]

Damian Gascoyne (Guest) no longer has access to the chat.

[14/05/2022 10:03]

Sara (Guest) no longer has access to the chat.

[14/05/2022 10:04]

Sara (Guest) has temporarily joined the chat.

[14/05/2022 10:04]

John Ward (Guest) has temporarily joined the chat.

[14/05/2022 10:04] Sara (Guest)

Sara Robertson

[14/05/2022 10:04] David Brander

Thanks Sara!

[14/05/2022 10:04] David Brander

Audio has started!

[14/05/2022 10:05]

Damian Wozniak (Guest) has temporarily joined the chat.

[14/05/2022 10:05] Simon Rogerson (Guest)

Morning!

[14/05/2022 10:05]

John (Guest) has temporarily joined the chat.

[14/05/2022 10:13]

Edward Rollins (Guest) no longer has access to the chat.

[14/05/2022 10:13]

Edward Rollins (Guest) has temporarily joined the chat.

[14/05/2022 10:18] Damian Wozniak (Guest)

Q

like 1

[14/05/2022 10:20] Damian Wozniak (Guest)

mic

[14/05/2022 10:20] Damian Wozniak (Guest)

unmute

[14/05/2022 10:21] Damian Wozniak (Guest)

sorry cannt unmute

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[14/05/2022 10:21] Damian Wozniak (Guest)
still cannot unmute

[14/05/2022 10:22] Damian Wozniak (Guest)
all I have than only meeting organisers can unmute

[14/05/2022 10:22] David Brander
I had allowed mic on the wrong Damian, but have fixed it now, you should be able to unmute

[14/05/2022 10:22] BSAC Vice Chair
Damian Wozniak (Guest) please type your question here for the presenters to answer

[14/05/2022 10:23] Damian Wozniak (Guest)
member number increases seem to vary between accounts and presentation

[14/05/2022 10:24] Damian Wozniak (Guest)
David I need to be able to unmute

[14/05/2022 10:24] Damian Wozniak (Guest)
at last unmuted

[14/05/2022 10:24] David Brander
you're unmuted now

[14/05/2022 10:24] Damian Wozniak (Guest)
yes this time was highlighted

[14/05/2022 10:25] Damian Wozniak (Guest)
please keep it unmuted and I will be quiet when necessary

[14/05/2022 10:25] David Brander
I muted you again for a moment as we can hear you typing

[14/05/2022 10:25] David Brander
we'll get to your question in a moment

[14/05/2022 10:25] Damian Wozniak (Guest)
ok

[14/05/2022 10:29] Andy Shenstone (he/him), Advance HE
Many thanks Maria

[14/05/2022 10:37]
Mazlan Ami (Guest) has temporarily joined the chat.

[14/05/2022 10:39] Damian Wozniak (Guest)
Q
like 1

[14/05/2022 10:40] David Brander
Hi all - voting has now closed!

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[14/05/2022 10:44]

Duncan Locke (Guest) has temporarily joined the chat.

[14/05/2022 10:44] Damian Wozniak (Guest)

David cannot turn my camera off at my end as you 'grey'ed'

[14/05/2022 10:44] David Brander

don't worry, its turned off automatically when you're moved back into a member mode 😊

[14/05/2022 10:45] Krystal Garnett (Guest)

Not a question but just a comment re: encouraging new members and making the club more accessible for younger demographics and those just discovering diving - should we have an option for monthly d/d for membership? For students in particular, annual membership can be a barrier, and newcomers to the sport who aren't sure if it's "for them" are facing a bigger commitment up front than need be.

like 2

[14/05/2022 10:47] Damian Wozniak (Guest)

David again a bit of a hassle as the 'tool' bar is mid screen and keeps disappearing. How do I put it at the bottom or somewhere so it stays open?

[14/05/2022 10:47] Andrew Walters (Guest)

I'd second that suggestion from Krystal. I too would like to see the option of a monthly DD rather than annual.

[14/05/2022 10:47] BSAC Vice Chair

Hi Krystal Garnett (Guest). We have discussed this at length at Council. Our feedback from Uni reps has generally been that students like to pay upfront when they receive their funding rather than try to budget over year.

[14/05/2022 10:49] David Brander

Damian Wozniak (Guest)

David again a bit of a hassle as the 'tool' bar is mid screen and keeps disappearing. How do I put it at the bottom or somewhere so it stays open?

I'm afraid I can't help you with that as I'm not a Teams developer! My best suggestion is to leave and rejoin to be honest and see if it sorts itself out.

[14/05/2022 10:49] Damian Wozniak (Guest)

thanks will keep managing it

like 1

[14/05/2022 10:50]

Geoff Duggan (Guest) no longer has access to the chat.

[14/05/2022 10:54]

Layne (Guest) has temporarily joined the chat.

[14/05/2022 10:56] David Brander

Layne (Guest) could you please confirm your name/membership number for the minutes?
thanks

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[14/05/2022 10:58] Andy Shenstone (he/him), Advance HE

Dom - Ive got one more AoD for you should get signed off in the next fortnight 😊

[14/05/2022 10:58] Andrew Walters (Guest)

Any word on the new name for AD's?

like 1

[14/05/2022 11:01] Layney (Guest)

Layney Player A864424

like 1

[14/05/2022 11:01] David Brander

Thanks Layney!

[14/05/2022 11:05]

Vivien Shaw no longer has access to the chat.

[14/05/2022 11:07]

vivienshaw3 (Guest) has temporarily joined the chat.

[14/05/2022 11:09]

Jake Williams (Guest) has temporarily joined the chat.

[14/05/2022 11:09]

vivienshaw3 (Guest) no longer has access to the chat.

[14/05/2022 11:10]

Vivien Shaw has temporarily joined the chat.

[14/05/2022 11:10]

Rachael Brown has temporarily joined the chat.

[14/05/2022 11:12] BSAC Vice Chair

As a member - I really appreciate the specific highlighting of snorkelling activity by Dom - it's a really important activity that provides a route into diving and provides more flexible options for everyone to participate. As Council lead for strategy, be assured it is seen as a strategic priority.

[14/05/2022 11:12] Damian Wozniak (Guest)

Q

[14/05/2022 11:13]

Geoff Duggan (Guest) has temporarily joined the chat.

[14/05/2022 11:17] Paul Tarn (Guest)

look up the doppler observations that show bubble formation which is much less after a safety stop - don't waste your time getting into this here

[14/05/2022 11:17] David Brander

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BSAC recommends that if it is safe to do so, you should do a safety stop of at least one minute at around 6m. Longer safety stops are even better. However, safety stops are optional, and there may be some circumstances when it is more sensible to omit the safety stop and ascend directly to the surface, for example if you are running low on gas or if sea conditions make maintaining accurate depth control difficult.

<https://www.bsac.com/safety/safe-diving-guide/decompression/#article-204>

Safe diving guide

[14/05/2022 11:17] Paul Tarn (Guest)
move on please

[14/05/2022 11:17] Damian Gascoyne
Take this off line please

[14/05/2022 11:18] Sara (Guest)
Agree with Paul and Damian - inappropriate detail for AGM.

[14/05/2022 11:19] Krystal Garnett (Guest)
Agree with Sara and Paul. This is not a topic for the AGM

[14/05/2022 11:20] David Brander
if you wish to talk with Dom more about this please email domr@bsac.com

[14/05/2022 11:21]
Duncan Locke (Guest) no longer has access to the chat.

[14/05/2022 11:22] Damian Wozniak (Guest)
unfortunately this is an ongoing problem that people have no reasons apart from usual blandishments of "safety" and "risk assessment" and "that's the way it's done" AND it is NOT a "pub discussion"

[14/05/2022 11:22] David Brander
Your question was raised prior to, during and can be raised again after the AGM.

[14/05/2022 11:24] Andy Shenstone (he/him), Advance HE
Congratulations Edward
like 1

[14/05/2022 11:24] David Brander
Turgut (Guest) please confirm your name and membership number for the minutes. 😊

[14/05/2022 11:24] Damian Gascoyne
This is not a problem a safety stop is not mandatory don't make a thing out of it!!!

[14/05/2022 11:25] Jane Maddocks
It is possible that low voting numbers actually reflect the possibility that most members are content with their membership and really do not wish to be involved in the issues we are looking at today. the membership they have allows them to go diving-and that is what is important to them. Low voting numbers are not necessarily a bad thing.

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like 2

[14/05/2022 11:25] Mary Tetley

We have engaged leading up to the AGM on the pre questions as well

[14/05/2022 11:26] Damian Wozniak (Guest)

David, yes I would like to hear more what Dom and Janos can say.

[14/05/2022 11:26] John Ward (Guest)

Dive tables and computers use theoretical data only. The last 10 metres are the most dangerous part of an ascent. The recommendation of a safety stop ensures that the body degassing can catch up if the ascent has been too fast. Also, we have a vast difference in the experience of divers and therefore we need to ensure that all divers follow safety protocols. This should not be a topic for debate as every major scuba diving agency recommends a safety stop.

[14/05/2022 11:27] Chris Horan

[Click here to participate](#)

Fill | BSAC AGM 2022 - Short poll

[14/05/2022 11:27] Damian Wozniak (Guest)

yes but WHY a safety stop, proper reasons not "safety" "risk" etc

[14/05/2022 11:28] Mary Tetley

Fantastic to hear from you

like 1

[14/05/2022 11:28] David (Guest)

please in relation to the scheduling of the AGM can consideration be made for time of day: an AGM at 4-6pm on a Saturday would allow most to dive AND attend the AGM

like 1

[14/05/2022 11:29] Krystal Garnett (Guest)

Lovely message - greetings to Sri Lanka from Cornwall!

like 1

[14/05/2022 11:29] Damian Wozniak (Guest)

the "topic for debate" is a VALID reason for WHY?

[14/05/2022 11:29] Simon Rogerson (Guest)

Congrats to the new branch from Sri Lanka. Please write about your experiences and get in touch with SCUBA mag

like 1

[14/05/2022 11:29] Richard Slater (Guest)

Great to hear from someone from Sri Lanka!

like 1

[14/05/2022 11:29] Sara (Guest)

Chris Horan sorry, can't open link - weekday evening would be preferable. Thank you

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[14/05/2022 11:29] Andrew Walters (Guest)
It is just me that can't get the link to work?

[14/05/2022 11:29] David Brander
Thanks Yohan! Great to hear from you
like 1

[14/05/2022 11:29] Martin Peake
Worked for me 2nd time

[14/05/2022 11:30] Krystal Garnett (Guest)
Right click it and select "Open in new tab" - works then

[14/05/2022 11:30] Leslie Singleton (Guest)
Right click on the link

[14/05/2022 11:30] Simon Rogerson (Guest)
Well done Maria.

[14/05/2022 11:30] Andrew Walters (Guest)
Thanks Krystal

[14/05/2022 11:30] David Brander
if the link doesn't work just post in chat :) it's informal so no problem

[14/05/2022 11:30] John Ward (Guest)
"Click here" not working. No preference to either weekends or mid week evenings.

[14/05/2022 11:30] Martyn
Thanks Maria.

[14/05/2022 11:30] David Brander
also happy birthday Simon ;)

[14/05/2022 11:30] Edward Rollins (Guest)
I would support evening meeting

[14/05/2022 11:30] Helen Howard Jones
Great work Maria

[14/05/2022 11:31] David Brander
<https://forms.office.com/r/WCp43KWfsf>
Fill | BSAC AGM 2022 - Short poll

[14/05/2022 11:31] Leslie Singleton (Guest)
Thank you for a good meeting and good luck Maria

[14/05/2022 11:31] Krystal Garnett (Guest)
Evenings are great, just not friday as we have club dives on friday evenings :)

[14/05/2022 11:31] Andrew Walters (Guest)

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Thanks Maria! Enjoy the extra diving time!

[14/05/2022 11:31] Sara (Guest)
Thank you, Maria!

[14/05/2022 11:32] Clare Peddie (Staff)
Thank you Maria

[14/05/2022 11:32] Clare Peddie (Staff)
mistake

[14/05/2022 11:32] Mary Tetley
Thank you everyone for attending

[14/05/2022 11:32] Sara (Guest)
thank you BSAC team

[14/05/2022 11:32] Andy Shenstone (he/him), Advance HE
Cheerio

[14/05/2022 11:32] Jane Maddocks
Thanks Maria-.

[14/05/2022 11:32] Damian Gascoyne
Than you 😊

[14/05/2022 11:32] David (Guest)
thank you all

[14/05/2022 11:32] Martyn
Thankyou

[14/05/2022 11:32] Krystal Garnett (Guest)
Thanks Maria :)

[14/05/2022 11:32] Stephen Dorricott (Guest)
Big Thank you to Maria and her team

[14/05/2022 11:32] David Brander
Thank you all. See you next AGM!

[14/05/2022 11:32] Yohan Abeyesekera
Thank You

[14/05/2022 11:33] Wayne Murray (Staff)
Thanks to Maria and everybody. Great to see BSAC doing so well despite the challenges.

14/05/2022 11:51 Meeting ended: 2h 25m 21s

Membership and fees, strategy and governance

Question: *"Why does practically everyone refer to scuba diving as a "sport" when there is NO competitive element, whatsoever, in scuba diving (which would define a "sport")? It should be referred to as an "activity" or "pastime" (as described by Kirsty Andrews, in May 2022 SCUBA magazine, but later unfortunately referred to as "sport")"*

This is a really interesting point. We do refer to scuba as a sport. We are a National Governing Body of sport and recognised as such by Sport England. A sport does not have to be competitive, it can be a non-competitive sport. Of course, we can be described as an activity or pastime as well and some do as you have seen by Kirsty Andrews.

Question: *"What are you doing to be compliant with Sport England Good Governance?"*

This work was started many years ago and has a limit of no more than 12 on the board, external appointments and many other recommendations to have an effective board, especially for the size of BSAC.

The latest article changes are "no less than 13 elected", which when you add HQ staff and VPs is well in excess of the recommended 12 to be effective."

Thanks for this question. Council held two workshops in 2021 devoted to reviewing existing governance arrangements. This included conducting a 'gap analysis' against the guidance from the Sport and Recreation Alliance. This resulted in a number of proposed changes to the Articles of Association and these have been recommended by Council to the membership for adoption at this year's AGM (one aspect of the proposed changes to the AOA clarifies that Vice Presidents are not members of Council / Directors and hence they do not count towards the total number).

Council is committed to further modernising existing governance arrangements, and applying, where practicable, the guidance issued by the S&RA. Any such changes require engaging with and approval by BSAC's members. Issues for consideration by the incoming Council should include not only size but also the composition and the opportunity to introduce independent members as is increasingly the practice in similar bodies. Improving governance is very much a journey and the changes in the Articles this year are a step on that journey.

Question: *"Please tell me the figures for membership over the last 10 years. What is the average % decline in membership over this period?"*

The average annual decline of total members from 2012 to 2022 is 2% per year.

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Year	Total members	% increase / decline on previous year
2011	27,654	
2012	27,567	0%
2013	26,668	-3%
2014	26,552	0%
2015	26,120	-2%
2016	25,560	-2%
2017	25,244	-1%
2018	25,152	0%
2019	24,859	-1%
2020	21,594	-13%
2021	22,047	2%

Question: *“Why is there no BSAC discussion group? There used to be one. The only groups available to divers in the UK are not particularly supportive of BSAC and do not always provide good role models for BSAC members.”*

“Can we please reconsider restarting the BSAC Forum. I've lived outside of UK for my entire time with a BSAC membership and the forum was a nice easy way of keeping in touch with active members. Please remember that its difficult to keep in touch and keep abreast of BSAC especially if the country in which you reside has no BSAC clubs or schools.”

We do have certain discussion groups, eg consultation groups over the Articles, discussions with Universities and other specific discussion groups.

We are looking for the future at a community platform or something where members can chat and ask questions and share ideas but this is some off happening yet. In the meantime, we can offer groups to catch up, share ideas if you would like to be involved or have a particular subject you want to discuss we can organise a session where we can discuss with other members at a Teams meeting. Please do let me know at maryt@bsac.com.

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Question: *“Why were all the amendments to the Articles put together as a single vote instead of allowing members to vote on individual changes? They cover a broad range of changes and should have each been an independent vote.”*

“Each of the changes to the Articles of Association should have been treated as individual changes and members should have been allowed to vote on each of the changes individually, rather than them all being grouped into one vote. Why was the vote set up this way as an “all or nothing” selection?”

Council created an Articles of Association (A-of-A) team to amend the Articles, to:

1. Remove gender references.
2. Clarify meaning of: Director, Board, Council, and Vice President
3. Identify any contradictory Articles and propose resolution.
4. Enable the CEO to be an ex-officio director, within current minimum Board numbers.

The A-of-A team discussed voting options. The main thrust of the amendments were items 2 and 4, which are intrinsically interlinked. For example, if the CEO doesn't become an ex-officio director and Council member the other changes would be undermined. The removal of gender references and contradictory Articles is pure administrative tidying up. The single vote option was presented to Council in January 2022 where it was approved unanimously.

We did discuss doing it individually or all together. There were pros and cons for both ways. We also discussed this with CES. It was unanimous that keeping it altogether kept it clear and concise.

Question: *“The average BSAC club is both aging and male-dominated. What is the club intending to do to broaden the appeal of diving, particularly in the UK, to more people?”*

There are several initiatives both underway and in planning to broaden the appeal of diving, particularly in the UK. Here are a few of them...

There are a few environment-related projects underway. It is widely known that young people care greatly about the environment. Strengthening BSAC's role in the conservation of the underwater environment and enabling young people to get involved will arguably broaden our appeal to young people and others. BSAC is already working to get more school children into snorkelling, protecting the marine environment and outdoor adventure through a new school outreach programme (see news article in May issue SCUBA, page 13). Another project underway is developing two new courses, designed with young people in mind, in conjunction with a marine charity. The new courses, one onshore surveying and another on underwater surveying, are in development with the view of facilitating citizen science to support environmental causes. The BSAC Operation Oyster project was also launched and has appealed to schools, parents and young people alike. These projects are all in their infancy but are gaining traction and show a lot of promise in broadening the appeal of diving to more people.

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From an online marketing perspective, work has taken place recently to reach out to new audiences. This started with a social media campaign on Facebook, Instagram and TikTok (Boxing Day 2021 to end of March), which generated significant engagement and click-throughs with 18–35-year-old audiences.

Work continues with our university branches. This key group of members is already a more diverse and younger group. Work will continue to support and engage these members so we can better understand and deliver on what they want and need, to keep diving and training with BSAC.

More broadly, as part of the current strategic plan BSAC is looking at cultivating a more accessible and inclusive culture throughout the network and that will include work to attract and retain more people identifying as female or non-binary, and younger people. We are also looking to increase the numbers of divers of all genders who may feel that diving is not accessible to them e.g. due to them living with a disability.

We've put together an IDEA (inclusivity, disability, equality and accessibility) Team to improve inclusion and accessibility across the BSAC community.

The team will continue to build upon the work that started with updating BSAC's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) policy and online language awareness course released in 2021. The new team will engage members and work to make recommendations for the organisation, with the aim of making our community more welcoming and accessible to all.

Question: *"Weekends are for diving - can AGMs be held on a weekday?"*

The idea is interesting! No plans at the moment to run an AGM on a weekday. We do try to look at the tides at the weekend's Springs/Neaps but not on weekdays. It is something we could look at but during the week many people are working.

Question: *"How do Council see the BSAC in 5 years?"*

Can we work with the HSE to develop commercially accepted qualifications to teach within recreational diving? This would level us up with PADI more readily."

The HSE already recognise BSAC instructor and diver grades for meeting the requirements for teaching recreational diving within BSAC commercial centres.

The NDC is continually reviewing the options for development of additional training and promoting recognition of existing BSAC qualifications to other markets. Council Strategy requires any new project to consider all aspects when proposing development of new areas including analysis of potential customer demand, development costs, member benefits and potential returns before agreeing on budget allocation and initiating any new project.

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Question: *“If gender references are removed, how would Council expect this work on liveaboard shared accommodations and changing rooms?”*

We have made the language gender-neutral in the Articles, and aim for the same in our training materials etc. where we are referring to people in the abstract.

We are not suggesting that gender references be removed when booking shared accommodation, etc, as this will be down to how clubs, facilities and liveaboards run their business.

Question: *“I am a newly qualified ocean diver but when I see people diving for us, I see people are mainly the older generation. When younger people do join a club, it can be off-putting as there is nothing in common. What strategy is there to attract younger people who are going to be the face of future diving.”*

This is a good question and an important area of focus in the current BSAC strategy. A plan is taking shape to attract and retain more young people into BSAC, specifically in the 19-35 bracket, for which targets have been set for 2022 and beyond. The plan has involved (and will continue to involve) increasing our understanding of current and potential younger member needs and aspirations and tailoring services and initiatives to meet them.

Some work has already started. There will be no ‘quick fix’ to address this challenge, and the work will involve a combination of initiatives over time, that will be measured and adapted as appropriate. The scope of this work will include (but not be limited to):

- Supporting and growing our university clubs
- Delivering new practical ways to generate increased member value for 19-35s
- Retaining university members once they graduate
- Recruitment and retention of young people support for non-university clubs
- Embrace technology more effectively to deliver a more personalised and valued member experience
- National social media campaigns attracting more young people to our community

There will also be wider initiatives in support of attracting and retaining more young people, including strengthening BSAC’s role in the conservation of the underwater environment and enabling young people to get involved. Some work has already started here with:

- A new school outreach programme to get more school children into snorkelling, protecting the marine environment and outdoor adventure.
- Developing two new courses, designed with young people in mind, in conjunction with a marine charity.
- The BSAC Operation Oyster project was also launched and has appealed to schools, parents, and young people alike.

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Additionally, BSAC has put together an IDEA (inclusivity, disability, equality, and accessibility) Team to improve inclusion and accessibility across the BSAC community. This is important work for our community, so BSAC is inclusive and welcoming to all. In the context of answering this question, these values are particularly important to younger generations.

Question: *"Has national TV advertising for membership ever been considered?"*

"Many 'Club based' volunteer dependent sports are suffering membership crises. so maybe an advert that brings those sports together could widen interest in outdoor sports."

No, TV advertising for membership has not been considered by BSAC. It has been used by Sport England on occasion but for focused This Girl Can campaigns rather than a more generic sports club membership approach. Even the most modest TV campaigns would need a budget of around £100k so they are not an easy thing to get off the ground.

BSAC did, from Boxing Day 2021 through to the end of March 2022, run a social media campaign to reach new audiences with the aim of recruiting new members. This involved a series of targeted ads on Facebook, Instagram and TikTok and generated significant engagement and click-throughs with online audiences.

On a side note, BSAC's January to March 2022 new member figures were the highest they'd been in ten years suggesting that we are reaching out to people fairly successfully, although of course we always look to do better.

Question: *"Diving offers mobility freedom and pain relief to those with disability. How much has BSAC contributed (monetary or otherwise) to Diving for All charity projects to help assisted disabled persons in 2021?"*

BSAC HQ has not directly contributed money towards any diving for all charities. However individual clubs have raised money over the years.

Diving For All is about volunteers who have gained qualifications at their own expense and are now giving their time and experience in helping those with disabilities learn to dive, become instructors themselves and ensuring that disabled divers should be included in everything the same as any other club member.

Question: *"Can consideration be given to a 'lifetime' membership for people who no longer dive actively i.e. mainly those who have given up due to age or health. Many wish to stay involved with the organisation to keep up-to-date but do not otherwise benefit from their membership. A one-off payment for life membership (as other organisations offer) would be a nice gesture."*

There is an option for lifetime membership, please contact Mandy at mandyr@bsac.com for more information.

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Question: *“Provision to be made in BSAC Articles for assessment of suitability of nominees to posts on BSAC Council where a nominee is currently under investigation by the Disciplinary Panel, either jointly or severally; and until such time as there has been an outcome.*

This will include conduct that may contravene the stated aims, principles and spirit of the NGB in addition to potential criminal conduct. In furtherance of which, to rewrite BSAC Policy to demonstrate a firm commitment and responsibility to member protection and for any complaints resolutions to support the principle of inclusion.”

Council will keep under review any changes which ought to be made to the arrangements for nominations. However, elections to Council are a democratic process. It may not be fair to exclude someone from standing simply because an allegation has been made against them, or require that all allegations be publicly aired before it has been investigated or resolved.

The Articles of Association say that a person’s BSAC membership has either been suspended or removed, they cannot stand for Council or serve on Council. This ensures that only final disciplinary findings or matters so serious that an independent disciplinary panel have decided to suspend will prevent someone from standing. There is no perfect solution but it strikes a fair balance. Suggestions such as rewriting of Articles and changes to policy would need to be put forward to the membership as a Special Resolution.

BSAC is not able to publish questions where they relate to a confidential commercial or disciplinary issue, out of fairness to the members involved and in the best interests of BSAC.

Question: *“With regard to "new" Article 86, I note that it is each Branch's Committee which nominates a Dive Manager to supervise a dive. However, I understand that the NDO delegates responsibility to each Branch DO for safe diving within a Branch. Why therefore is it not the responsibility of the Branch DO (not the Branch Committee) to nominate the Dive Manager?”*

The purpose of the Article is to help clarify the broader responsibility and authority for ensuring properly managed diving activities, including the appointment of a Dive Manager.

The wording was changed from Expedition Leader to Dive Manager for consistency of terminology, however, thanks for highlighting this anomaly, which we missed. You are correct the Branch Diving Officer, with delegation from the National Diving Officer is the individual that appoints Dive Managers, not Branch Committees. This will be corrected on the next A-of-A amendment.

Membership benefits

Question: *“Why do we pay for 3rd party liability insurance? Has there ever been a claim on this policy? If so what are the circumstances that led to the claims and was any claim successful?”*

If it is believed that 3rd party liability is necessary can we investigate the establishment of a captive insurance company?

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The BSAC liability insurance is in place to protect members when they are unintentionally negligent, causing injury or damage to property. This can be when using public premises, dive centres and any other facility when diving, training and for club events. The cover is worldwide (excluding USA/Canada, and UK Sanctioned countries). There is an existing claim, with unlimited legal fees to support the member being sued. This member would have lost their home, livelihood and all of their assets, just with the existing cost of the legal fees, and the case is not concluded yet. There have been similar cases in the past relating to injuries and fatalities, the claims paid out is in the millions not thousands of pounds. These have related to injury, loss/damage to property and fatalities.

Most public bodies require a minimum of £10m cover to hire/use their facilities and so for clubs to buy that cover themselves would be cost-prohibitive for them, the compressor insurance alone is expensive. The BSAC policy also covers try dives (non-members), something most insurance companies will not consider offering cover to clubs for.

Typically insurance of this value to include cover for SCUBA diving would be in the region of a minimum of £120-£150 per annum, but there are very few insurers willing to offer cover and accept this type of risk on an individual basis, with the breadth of cover the BSAC policy includes.

Question: "Back in 2018, when the BSAC website was updated - the Travel Club section was dropped without any consultation with the members - which I felt was not a very democratic move - considering we're a 'club'. As in its day it as very popular with our members - and had 'hits' from other agency members alike, as it was unique to us - the BSAC and there was nothing else out there like it. Case in point was: 'Trip Reports'. At the time our motto being: 'reports written by divers for divers' - and it was a good one. Well not anymore it seems? It contained a wealth of experience and information for members young & old - especially from our partner members abroad. So: is there the faintest possibility we'll get our Travel Club section back again? I did enquire about its re-instatement at the time - but was ignored.

I've been a member of the club for over 25 years, and now feel the club is too 'inward looking' and isn't giving anything back to the more experienced members - possibly another contributory factor to recent loss of membership? Just my take on things."

The Travel Club was not transferred to the new website that was launched in 2017. It did in the end come down to looking at the cost and benefit. In its last few years, very few people were viewing the content. The 100s of pages of destination content was years old and much of it was out of date. When it went, we just receive feedback from one member wishing it was still there.

That said, it is not a closed-door! We do think this has a lot of potential, but we'd need to do some research to test appetite and look into how technology could be embraced to deliver a valued and cost-effective solution.

Question: "Can BSAC invite submissions from publishers to revitalise the BSAC diving magazine?"

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We invited submissions in 2020 and concluded that In2Publishing Ltd was the best option. However if you have any feedback you would like to submit to us about the design and content, please do send it to maryt@bsac.com and we can share it with the publisher.

Club support

Question: “The covid pandemic has caused all sorts of difficulties for clubs but the loss of many swimming pool/meeting facilities is having a direct impact of branches being ably to offer try dives and deliver training. Many swimming pools are closing or choosing not to hire to divers. What can BSAC do to assist clubs with this issue?”

We have been trying to support clubs that have experienced these problems. There are various ways we can help depending on the size and location of the club. Where possible we have tried to “twin” branches up with another branch, centre, or Uni which has a pool nearby. We have also offered for other branches and centres to help train their members if required. The branch/centre scheme is something we have developed to support branches and centres and this is proving very successful with certain clubs/branches to send members to their local BSAC centre, train and then come back to the branch so they can go diving.

If you know of any clubs/branches that need help, please do let us know at maryt@bsac.com.

Question: “Why has BSAC provided personal data (email addresses) to a 3rd party provider to enable them to approach members to create websites? Why have they failed to respond to emails on this subject? Have there been any investigations by the ICO regarding GDPR on this matter?”

We'd like to reassure members that BSAC takes your information and GDPR compliance seriously. BSAC has recently trained all staff, so they understand what compliance and protecting member data means, in the context they work in.

For the benefit of members reading this, we have been in touch with the member that asked these questions to find out more about the circumstances and to see the emails that allegedly have not been responded to, forwarded to us. We have, however, already been in touch with the supplier in question, to raise this and discuss the ongoing importance of GDPR compliance.

As per BSAC's Privacy Policy, on occasion BSAC may share your data with “Business partners to provide you with a range of benefits, like, travel insurance, boat insurance, holiday discounts, etc.” However, in this instance, the third-party provider in question does not have permission to email BSAC members unless the member has positively opted in with the supplier directly.

There have not, to our knowledge, been any investigations by the ICO regarding GDPR on this matter. When we receive further detail on this matter we will look to take any appropriate action.

Question: “Throughout the years and especially during lockdown, BSAC has stressed their support for and the importance of branches. However, I have concerns that whilst there are lofty

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words to this effect, there have been a number of instances where things have been introduced which have been inadequately communicated to branches in advance of them being announced.

As examples:

- Advanced Open Water Diver was introduced without any Officers of the branch being aware that this was in the pipeline and when circulated only went to Instructors and not branch Committees.*
- The introduction of the EDI Course being notified by the then Eastern Region Coach on the ER Facebook Page and then in the pages of SCUBA before being notified to branch Committees.*
- The introduction of the adjusted training for 10-year-olds possibly being trained in a limited way (which bearing in mind that the introduction of diving for 12-year-olds was voted on at least three times at AGM's came as a surprise when it was introduced without such a vote);*
- The introduction of a Code of Conduct policy, which again we learned about from SCUBA.*
- Finally, we had an increase in BSAC subscription rates in March, and we at Branch Committee level still haven't had any official notification of this.*

So the question is why when we are a diving club, do we insist on apparently ignoring the Committees of its branches and what steps going forward are going to be taken to address this obvious problem?"

There is of course no intention to ignore committees and we're very sorry you feel that way. We are however grateful that you have raised this so we can look to improve as we don't want committee members feeling despondent. It is of course important Branch Officers receive timely notification of any launch or announcement that has a bearing on club life.

To shed a little light on the examples stated, most of the communications above were through the pandemic. This was a difficult time for many different reasons and some projects, notably the EDI course and code of conduct policy, were indeed launched to all members at the same time. The other items were communicated to selected branch officers ahead of all members.

There are some 'learns' here to be taken forward here, which are twofold. Firstly, we'll look at including all Branch Officers, not just selected ones, on these heads-up type emails. Secondly, internally (Council and HQ) we need to ensure all new launches (or notifications of similar nature to those above) go via the communications team so we can ensure the right members are communicated to at the right times.

Question: *"Clubs can be breeding grounds for cliquey, bullying groups to gain power under the committee and force out members who they don't like despite the fact that they are big*

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contributors to a club. Going forward, what safeguards will BSAC put in place to challenge isolated reports of committee bullying and isolation of members from the rest of the club?"

If this type of behaviour is informed to BSAC HQ, we look at helping/supporting the branch and people involved. We are currently looking at putting together a grievance procedure which will allow people to complete and submit to enable this to be looked at/investigated if needed.

In order to ensure BSAC are able to effectively deal with any grievance, it is essential that supporting evidence is provided including confirmation that all efforts to resolve the matter at branch level have been exhausted.

Question: *"Are there any plans to open more overseas clubs?"*

BSAC itself doesn't open clubs (known officially as 'Branches'). As in the UK, if a group is able to meet the criteria, anyone is able to start a BSAC branch/club. Currently, no specific activity is planned to encourage more clubs to be formed overseas.

Safety and medical advice

Question: *"How can BSAC define a better solution for diving safety? In relation to the mixed types of agency, and the dissimilar teaching practices. Surely it would be something at the top of the agenda to try and smooth the understanding of safety while diving. Perhaps a move forward, and a standardised practice with BSAC being the leaders in this?"*

There are already benchmarks in existence for some degree of 'standardisation' within diving internationally in the form of a range of ISO standards for a wide range of diving training courses. BSAC has played a major role in the development of these standards and continues to do so with the current range of standards for rebreather and scientific diving currently in development.

It must be noted though that even within BSAC training there are necessary variations in techniques throughout the wide and increasing range of disciplines within recreational diving and the different environments encountered. In simpler terms 'using the right tool for the right task'.

Question: *"I would like to know if Council has considered, or intend to consider the current approach to diving with Diabetes, and the fact that the sign off process is unnecessarily cumbersome and makes no distinction between type 1 insulin-dependent and type 2 non-insulin-dependent. I feel this is relevant in an environment where we now have considerable knowledge and data thanks to Dr Chris Edge, and where we are at risk of further depleting the dwindling membership by not re-examining this process and making appropriate representations to the UKMC etc."*

BSAC takes its advice on diving medicine matters from the UK Diving Medical Committee (UKDMC). Dr Chris Edge is one of the committee members and the guidance we advocate

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being followed by our members, as recommended by Dr Edge can be found at <https://www.ukdmc.org/medical-conditions/diabetes-mellitus/>.

Further information may also be found on the DDRC website (<https://www.ddrc.org/diving/can-i-dive/can-i-dive-diabetes/>).

Diving and training

Question: *"How does Advanced Ocean Diver improve training? I can't see a significant difference between it and Sports Diver. It will add to the divers burden. It seems like a cynical addition to gain revenue."*

"Why do we need the Advanced Ocean Diver qualification?"

Advanced Ocean Diver (AOD) is an optional qualification that can be used to extend the depth limits of divers as they progress towards Sports Diver. Many branches report that this is exactly what they need to keep trainees enthused and also allow them to participate in more diving.

Other than the two depth progression dives (AOX25 & AOX30), the training required to progress from Ocean Diver to Advanced Ocean Diver and then to Sports Diver is the same as that needed to go from Ocean Diver to Sports Diver so there is no additional burden whichever route is taken. The cost is also the same.

- Introducing AOD webinar on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pcOCHQEbdCw>)
- Advanced Ocean Diver support (needs instructor login) (<https://www.bsac.com/advice-and-support/instructor-support/advanced-ocean-diver-support/>)

Question: *"The Ocean Diver training model is not working - everyone from instructors to students are getting frustrated, recruitment is low and attrition is very high. The group where BSAC can really target growth is converting experienced divers from other agencies to the lure of cold water diving. My wife and I joined from PADI as experienced AOW divers. Imagine our frustration when we were told our qualifications were only equivalent to Ocean Diver - top that with the slow training in the club model - we very nearly left. We are now DLs and partway through our instructor training, we are seeing the same frustrations in new recruits."*

We were very excited to see the new Advanced Ocean Diver course, because we thought PADI AOW would be equivalent and therefore we would FINALLY have a quick, efficient and attractive way to bring experienced PADI etc divers into the BSAC training system. So why is PADI AOW still showing as equivalent to Ocean Diver? Let's please get this equivalency sorted and embark on a recruitment drive to bring large numbers of PADI and SSI experienced divers in to the clubs and get them converted to Sports Divers in a weekend or two. We are nearly there! Does the council commit to getting PADI AOW as an acceptable entry qualification for the Advanced Ocean Diver to Sports Diver top up course and if so, when will this go live? Thanks."

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BSAC recognises other agency qualifications and divers can dive within the limits of the qualification they hold.

We also encourage branches to recruit other agency divers and information is provided on the website to support welcoming other agency trained divers (<https://www.bsac.com/advice-and-support/club-support/diving-support/welcoming-other-agency-trained-divers/>).

The key reason that PADI Advanced Open Water (AOW), and similar from other agencies, is not considered a direct equivalent to Advanced Ocean Diver (AOD) is that they do not include nitrox and may not contain SMB/DSMB training.

BSAC allows instructors to consider whether other agency qualifications can give credit towards the next grade. In the case of PADI AOW, it is possible that the depth achieved during the Deep Adventure Dive and specialities such as Delayed Surface Marker Buoy Adventure Dive may reduce the training required to achieve AOD (and Sports Diver). Further information on this is contained within the relevant Instructor Manual(s).

Question: "From working abroad as an instructor teaching BSAC courses, I find that the material (in particular the theory parts) have a UK-oriented wording that is not appropriate and not particularly helpful when teaching courses. Are there any plans to address this?"

If there are specific areas that you feel could be worded differently then they will be considered during our periodic reviews of course materials. Please submit comments to domr@bsac.com.

Question: "Are there any plans for better inland winter and summer diving pool that could be funded by the sports council? lottery For BSAC? As there was oceanic in Dunkeswell that was bought up sadly. Would have been perfect. I have mentioned this before when I joined BSAC, but the ball was thrown back in my court.

As in the southwest between Exeter and Weymouth/Portland there is nothing other than a pool at Portland 3.5mts that was for navy divers, now taken over and BSAC has limited use and even that is under question, so I understand.

We need an indoor/outdoor training lake and pool that is deep and level staged. As other places are so far to travel."

There are currently no plans that we are aware of for more inland sites and summer diving pools. Unfortunately, the provision and operation of such a facility is beyond BSAC's financial means, even if external funding were available.

Question: "I, like many older divers, do not wish to see BSAC going any further down the PADI route, simply focussing on making money. If we are not careful we will be turning out qualified but totally inexperienced divers after a couple of dives in a weekend of "training".

What are BSAC's plans to avoid this slippery slope?"

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BSAC courses meet and exceed internationally recognised standards for recreational diving, such as ISO 24801-2 - 'Autonomous Diver' for Ocean Diver and ISO 24801-3 - 'Dive Leader' for Dive Leader. These are checked through periodic audits by external accreditation bodies, such as the European Underwater Federation (EUF).

Throughout our training programmes, there is a strong focus on dive management that provides branches with the expertise to ensure dives are properly planned and managed. This extra level of oversight is a key contributor to keeping diving safe in our branches and centres including by ensuring divers do not attempt dives for which they lack adequate experience.

Question: “Has the new Advanced Ocean Diver qualification been recognised and provided equivalency with CMAS and other agencies yet? If not, what is the timescale and process for this?”

Advanced Ocean Diver (AOD), along with Ocean Diver and Sports Diver, is a 1* CMAS qualification.

Other agencies will take a view on how AOD fits into their training systems and, other than providing information, this isn't something we can influence.