

Council Synopsis - August 2017

In this meeting's synopsis, we are taking a new approach. The previous meeting synopses have been fairly criticised as being hard to understand due to their list like nature and alluding to reference materials from the meeting. We hope this more conversational approach will be easier to follow and provide greater context to our updates.

Following the recent updates on social media, Alex Warzynski (Woz) updated Council on the meeting he organised and chaired in London. BSAC has been working with the whole of the UK scuba industry to adopt the risk based approach to cylinder testing proposed by Gavin Anthony to the ISO committee. The group discussed and agreed a way forward on cylinder testing which maintains the current testing periods with variations for specific high risk cylinders within the commercial (non-recreational) sectors. Check out more [here](#).

Council discussed [BSAC's franchise](#) offerings and the renewal of contracts. Currently, BSAC has three franchise offerings: [BSAC Japan](#), [BSAC Korea](#) and [BSAC Thailand](#). Each franchise operates differently, independently and each provides an income to BSAC. Meetings with each are being arranged at Conference, with the objective of exploring how we can better support the franchises without compromising standards.

There was a discussion about the process for setting budgets and agreeing the way forward for key large financial levers, including the cost of SCUBA magazine, the annual conference, headquarters costs and volunteer expenses.

The contract for [SCUBA magazine](#) is up for renewal, so Council discussed the merits of different renewal lengths and what it means for BSAC's financial position as well as workflow. These discussions allow us to continue to provide a high quality magazine to our members at a reasonable price.

Currently the volunteer expenses policy works, but is not the easiest process to manage. A proposal was put forward to investigate an online system. It was agreed unanimously this should be progressed.

There has been some feedback from members regarding the recyclable plastic wrapping that SCUBA magazine is delivered in, and although it is also biodegradable, it still takes time for it to be broken down so alternatives are being looked into. Council will report back once a suitable and cost effective solution is found.

The question at the forefront of many members minds is the BSAC website. The project to replace the current offering with an updated and improved site is still ongoing however much progress has been achieved, and although this may not be obvious to see, yet, there is a lot of work completed on the back end to improve server functionality and IT Support. The most obvious issue has been addressed - the look and feel of the new website will be clean and easy to navigate, and the current material online (some 13,000 documents) has been audited to see what to keep, what to delete and what to modify.

Functionality for new members to join online has been built and is being internally tested, once ready it will go to user testing and then release with the new website. Existing member renewals, member portal and the club portal, where branch officers will be able to view information about those people in their branch, set branch fees, check medical sign offs and so on are currently in development and will be launched alongside the website at the 2017 Conference.

The development of the new website provides some opportunities for advertising to generate income, it was discussed and agreed that these avenues should be pursued.

A BSAC member provided a proposal for Council to discuss, if you would like to do similar please email your proposal to the Hon Sec at hon.sec@bsac.com or contact any Council member. The proposal related to satellite groups within regions and was discussed at length. A response is being sent to the member.