Council Meeting Synopsis

DATE	START TIME:	LOCATION
11 July 2026	08:45	Online via Teams

IN ATTENDANCE:

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Carline Deal, Alex Denny, Catherine Howarth, Samantha Holgate-Davey, Emma James (Hon Secretary), Antonella Mulè, Richard Pettifer (Hon Treasurer), Sophie Rennie (NDO), Catherine Smith, Mary Tetley (CEO), Yasmine Thorn (Vice Chair)

VICE PRESIDENTS

Brian Cumming (BC), Jane Maddocks (JM), Tony Marshall (TM),

HQ COLLEAGUES

Wendy Meadows (COO) (WM)

INVITED GUESTS

APOLOGIES

Andrew Shenstone (Chair), Michelle Haywood, Sophie Heptonstall

Welcome & Opening Administration

a. YT welcomed everyone to the meeting, congratulated newly elected council members, Catherine Smith and Alex Denny and confirmed re-elected members, Carline Deal, Yasmine Thorn & Emma James. Antonella Mulè was welcomed as newly appointed Non-Executive Director.
b. The June council minutes were approved, with no feedback or comments.
c. Conflicts of Interest – None noted, but YT reminded everyone that any new conflicts of interest should be sent to HQ.
d. WM was present as HQ representative.

Sports NGB/Governing with Purpose

As this was a first meeting for several new members of Council it was good timing for a summary presentation extracted from a Sports Governance Academy (SGA) training programme entitled "Governing with Purpose: Legal duties and governance standards". This established the legal and strategic context of our role as the BSAC governing council and as a National Governing Body. It

defined the boundaries of Governance versus Management, Legal Duties as set out in the Companies Act; BSACs primary objective as stated in our AoA and our responsibility to support and promote on behalf of all members. Initiatives which are beyond the organisation's primary objectives may be *ultra vires (*ie. may be deemed to exceed the scope of legitimate legal authority). As Council members we are collectively responsible for decisions.

AD set out governance resources and considerations for all Council to research and look more deeply for themselves.

EJ outlined free training sessions and courses from the SGA available to all, as well as BSAC's own Articles of Association, Code of Conduct and other relevant documentation are fundamental to good governance. Continuous training is advised to keep up-to-date with any changes.

CEO Report

MT shared statistic from the recent AGM – turnout was 7.1%, representing a small increase on last year. Attendance was 73 people. We would like to encourage more members to attend the AGM and convening on a week day evening rather than a Saturday morning has encouraged more attendees.

MT presented the most recent risk register, which is revised monthly. The main concerns continue to be pool closures and availability of training. All are being worked on.

Discussed recent work where BSAC outlined to the government the importance of hyperbaric chambers and the subsequent successful outcome of reducing planned closures. Work is also in progress together with the Royal Navy on new legislation relating to the protection of wrecks.

Discussed work under way to partner universities with clubs to increase access to pools.

MT is also in regular contact with other NGBs and great work is being done with the Clean Water Sports Alliance, campaigning for cleaner water.

Report on the first year of the Sport:80 implementation – enhancements have been made; issues have been fixed. Further steps will be taken to continue to make it more appealing and a better experience for all users.

The Environment
MT reported on the successful implementation of the Marine Champions programme – so far 78 clubs have appointed Champions, and the number is growing. Action Weekends, including litter picks, species surveys and invasive species removal, have been popular, and a petition has been launched to ban the sale of a dog toy (rubber ring) which is a common cause of seal deaths.

BSAC is increasing partnerships with relevant national bodies, including the Wildlife Trust, Shark Trust, RSPB and Sea-Changers.

NDO and HoDT Reports

SR gave a presentation including an update on recent course updates, revisions and pilots.

There is emphasis on growing a BSAC community hub with easy access to products and courses.