

Synopsis of online Zoom BSAC Council meeting of 16th May 2020

Coronavirus Pandemic

Budget

Council received a detailed impact assessment from the COO of the Coronavirus pandemic on forecast income, expenditure, membership and training course provision for the present financial year.

The Coronavirus pandemic is already having a very significant impact on BSAC finances and this will continue throughout 2020 and into 2021 (encompassing a huge drop off in new members, increased non renewal by existing members, loss of advertising revenue in SCUBA and the cessation of all practical training programmes).

A comprehensively revised budget that has included a wide range of measures to cut costs has been established and is being kept under very close review.

Member services

The phased approach to managing the response and issues arising were reviewed; in particular the welcome progress in the development (ongoing) of an increasingly rich suite of digital training materials, videos, blogs and other resources. Council was advised that rapid progress has been made on Ocean Diver e-learning which will be formally released by June. Thereafter plans will be formulated for other diver grades and suitable SDCs.

Resumption of diving

With the advent of phased unlocking Council was advised that BSAC had called for an extraordinary meeting of BDSG (British Diving Safety Group) to address the development of national guidance for the resumption of diving. Council noted that this was a developing and dynamic area and BSAC will collaborate with other diver agencies as we respond to and align with emerging government guidance.

Communications and business continuity

Council reviewed and strongly supported ongoing arrangements for member communications/advice, HQ business continuity and oversight arrangements.

Responding to the Coronavirus impact

Council received an update from the Officer group on the next steps in responding to the impact of Coronavirus. This will impact not just on this year's finances, but also on next year's, and so we need to take action now to ensure that BSAC adapts and remains strong.

Thanks to all HQ staff and volunteers

Council formally expressed its thanks to the leadership team and all BSAC staff and volunteers for their continuing commitment, flexibility and professionalism in the face of the present crisis.

Strategy formulation

Council received a briefing on the development of BSAC's future strategy; work will be progressed at pace and aligned with the development of digital services and the wider challenges arising from Novel Coronavirus.

Minimum age

Based on a recommendation from the National Diving Committee, Council unanimously voted in favour of reducing the minimum age from 12 to 10 (for Discovery Diver only). Implementation will proceed in the course of the year.

Online 2020 AGM

The 2020 AGM and elections had been postponed when social distancing was introduced. Council agreed that the AGM will be rescheduled for 25th July, as an online meeting.

Officer reports

In addition to the main reports from the Chair, CEO, COO and Treasurer and NDO various updates were also provided on activities since the last meeting, and these were discussed on an exceptions basis. These included NDO progress on Sports Diver updates, Vice-Chair recent decision to only issue iScuba during current crisis, and a wide range of Environmental related activities (which can often go unseen).

Actions arising

All extant actions arising from prior meetings were closely reviewed on the action tracker; closed, confirmed as addressed through prior agenda items or flagged for future action as necessary.

Additional Council meeting

Given the pace at which the Coronavirus situation is changing, and the scale of its impact on BSAC, an additional Council meeting is planned in mid June.