

Synopsis of BSAC Council Meeting

18th November 2017

Chair's Opening Address;

At the beginning of the meeting, as always the Council was asked for any declarations of interest. There were none.

Our minutes for September were signed off.

The chairman informed Council that Andrew Shipley had agreed to support the Council with legal advice, but a formal agreement was required..

There was discussion that the volunteer expenses policy needed updating in regards to events. This was agreed and the expenses policy will be updated.

We looked at ITS, resits, variable costs for different locations, students given spaces in return for discount on venue hire and removing limits on spaces - no decisions were made at this meeting.

Debbie Powell gave us a presentation on the new website and answered questions that came up. Overall it was looking much better than the old website and more user friendly.

Chairman's report

He reported that he has been at meeting with MMO about removal of nets from wrecks and this has been positive and all parties concerned have agreed on the way forward.

HQ had provided the financial information to the 2018 Budget items suggested in September. Council then discussed, and agreed, which items could be taken forward or parked.

Growth coaching – Woz has been piloting a scheme to help a branch recruit new members, using a range of tools including contacting other branches and using the coaches.

Council Elections – He suggested we needed to be thinking now about the gaps we will have next year, and about clarifying that Council are not diving related roles, but more business and strategic development. He planned to ensure that candidates knew what was needed to be a Council member by contacting each candidate after they had submitted their application

There are four Council positions to make the minimum required numbers, NDO, and Honorary Secretary are also for election.

Focus for 2018 – We will to focus on retention and recruitment, strengthening what we as BSAC offer and being proactive about marketing and branch support.

We are continuing better support for the BSAC International overseas franchises to maintain and develop the business while protecting our reputation.

National Diving Officer's report

Diving for all – good reception at Conference and there are courses in place.

Diving Training Programme - Sophie enquired whether in order to speed the process up, we should pay for some of the none technical aspects of an update rather than solely rely on volunteers.

Ocean Diver - finished and there has been positive feedback

Instructor Training Group – work developing well.

Regions – The regional coaching team has been refreshed, in some areas.

Synopsis of BSAC Council Meeting

18th November 2017

SDCs – Work being done on a one day GoPro course

Courses are being developed quicker than before, but there is room for improvement.

We need to find out exactly which courses members want and then decide how BSAC can help develop them.

Technical – Going well but there is a need to ensure that Try Techs break even.

CEO's Report

Agency Meetings are useful and to help agencies work together.

Charter Boats – they are struggling with declining numbers. We discussed what BSAC could do to help skippers. ProFinda was suggested as a means of matching resources to tasks, or the new website.

AP Diving – They had a good experience at the conference, and the relationship with BSAC is going well.

Blue Planet II – HQ was trying to capitalise on the series. It was also suggested that David Attenborough be asked to record a short video on diving and conservation for the website. A Blue Planet poster has been produced and is in the Marketing Hub for members / clubs to use.

Duke of Cambridge – The Scuba Award had been very well received and Mary had invited him to a future event.

Paul Rose and the Blue Belt – We were told of the government's initiative – the blue belt to protect our marine environments. Mary also told us of the Paul Rose presentation - more info?

Plastic wrapping for the magazine – An alternative naked mailing was offered at conference, but the response was mixed as the magazine could arrive with some damage. Although our wrapping is bio-degradable, we are looking at bioplastic alternatives.

RNLI – we continue to have a good relationship with them

World Travel Show – discussions have started with Malta and Mary is look at various sponsorship possibilities.

Strategic Update

Ocean Diver, Branding, digital membership launch, and the Diving Conference had been completed.

Key Priorities for 2018

Recruitment and retention is key for next year. This includes supporting clubs more, and the rollout of Direct Debit promotions to clubs.

Council was asked to input ideas to HQ to attract new members and retain existing members. Debbie Powell suggested that marketing should come up with further ideas for Council to consider. All new plans need proper consideration and implementation.

General Data Protection Regulation – HQ are undergoing training for the new legislation.

NDC – There was a decision to work better and agree on clear joint priorities. Sophie said that NDC needed clearer objectives and deadlines as well as feedback.

Synopsis of BSAC Council Meeting

18th November 2017

Budget 2017

Council carefully examined the differences between the forecast and the actual figures.

IT costs were up due to upgrading a server.

NI – the costs of running the NI exams were challenged as whether they represented value for money. There was some discussion on the matter and any changes would need serious consideration as to how it affects the members.

Stationery & printing – costs were up on budget, but this was due to a change in supplier. However, there was a corresponding drop in postage costs.

AGM – cost of the AGM up on budget due to the need for legal advice being needed as a result of legal challenges from members.

Conference – discussion was held on increasing revenue, as there are many free tickets. It was suggested that we discount tickets for students.

Budget 2018

NDC budget needed to be approved with any changes. There followed a discussion. This ended with prioritising some projects for NDC and putting others as a lower priority..

There was some discussion on the Great Northern Dive Show and our involvement in it- further information needed.

NDC budget was approved with minor changes.

2018 AGM

We were asked for any potential motions for the AGM.

It was suggested that we needed a code of conduct addressing members behaviour, and also giving ways to raise issues. This would mean amending the articles. A draft code of conduct is to be created for Council's approval

Vice Presidents

It was decided to look at the criteria for making someone a vice president, so a nomination could be measured against it. It was agreed that this should also apply to awards so this was to be looked into and the criteria should be made public to ensure transparency.

AOB

There was a discussion about making the Council meeting more efficient, and to ensure that important matters were discussed at the beginning of the day.

Rachel Sharp
Council Member