

Council Meeting Synopsis

20th May 2018

The Council meeting following an AGM involves a number of necessary administrative functions, as well as the normal business. It is important that these functions are noted and explained. The results of the AGM can be found here: <https://www.bsac.com/news-and-blog/congratulations-to-the-new-bsac-council-elected-candidates-2018/>

The day following the Annual General Meeting, the new Council members were welcomed to their first Council meeting. David Brander, Mark Lovesey, Clare Pooley and Janos Suto were all successful in their election on to Council, along with Dai Atkins who was elected National Diving Officer and Rachel Sharp who was elected Honorary Secretary.

Following Rachel's appointment as secretary, Council was required by the Articles to appoint another Council member, to meet minimum numbers. It was proposed that Clare Peddie should be co-opted on a temporary basis until the next Council meeting to allow the meeting to run, and allow a suitable person to be co-opted.

All non-life Vice-Presidents also need to be re-appointed, currently they are Brian Cumming, Phil Harrison, Jane Maddocks, Tony Marshall and Clare Peddie. As Clare was earlier co-opted she was not included in this re-appointment. At this time, there is one Life Vice President, Harry Gould.

Legal advisor, Andrew Shipley was also re-appointed, along with the Audit sub-committee. The last formal decision was to give the new NDO the authority to appoint his National Diving Committee.

Turning to usual business, the first action of the new Council was to discuss co-opting an additional Council Member, as Clare Peddie's appointment is only temporary. There was discussion over the expertise that BSAC Council needs, and the democratic nature of our elections. It was proposed that candidate with the next largest share of the vote, Mark Allen, if he agreed, would be co-opted as a member of Council until the next AGM.¹

One of the most important duties for BSAC Council members is to ensure the finances of the club are in good order. There was a long discussion about project spends, revenue streams and budget controls with actions falling on several Council members to examine areas that need improvement and new potential areas to generate revenue. If you are interested in learning more about BSACs finances, end of year accounts appear in SCUBA magazine as well as being published via Companies House.

You may have noticed that SCUBA magazine came in a different packaging in May, this outer shell is made from compostable potato starch. In August all SCUBA magazines will be delivered naked. You can read more about this upcoming change here:

<https://www.bsac.com/news-and-blog/bsac-steps-up-on-plastic-waste/>

¹ Post meeting note, Mark Allen has accepted the appointment.

BSACs role as NGB was discussed and the need to be more proactive was raised. Clare Pooley volunteered to work on the NGB role and help BSAC become more active in lobbying the government about issues that affect divers. If you come across issues you think we should be looking at please send them to Info@bsac.com.

Other updates that were highlighted included the Know and Grow workshops and the Let's Grow Diving campaign, you can read more here: <https://www.bsac.com/news-and-blog/bsac-launches-lets-grow-diving-programme/>

Council was informed that BSAC retained European Underwater Federation (EUF) accreditation for scuba diver and instructor qualifications. The audit was conducted by the European Underwater Federation and involved the inspection of BSAC headquarters' processes and BSAC training. You can read more here: <https://www.bsac.com/news-and-blog/bsac-retains-euf-accreditations-scuba-diving-qualifications/>

The new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) came into force on the 25th May 2018 and all branch officers have been provided guidance to ensure they are prepared. You can read more here: <https://www.bsac.com/this-is-bsac/bsac-rules-and-policies/gdpr/>

The IT update also covered some bug fixes that been completed on the website, such as some formatting issues, captchas and an issue that was stopping direct debit signups for new members in branches with no online branch levy. If you come across any bugs or issues, please email them to info@bsac.com.

David Brander
BSAC Council Member