

BSAC36 – AGM 2009

27th April 2009. The FAT CAT pub, Alma Street, Sheffield. 8 p.m.

Present:

Committee members present	Club members present
Martyn Nicholls (MN)	Louise Lane
Louisa Nicholls (LN)	John Wytak
Steve Barber (SB)	Ian Turner
Adrian Lane (AL)	Mick Himsworth
Mark Stevenson (MS)	Susan Gill
Norman Norsworthy (NN)	Alan Gill
	Glynn Fearn
Apologies received	Tim Schmielau
Jim Swithenbank	Sonya McIlmoyle
Margaret Swithenbank	Brian Parkinson
Terry Armitage	Paul Baker
Duncan Moutrie	Phil Rhodes
Frank Athey	Chris Keating
	Alex Sohl

The meeting opened 8 pm

Martyn Nicholls opened meeting – welcomed all, volunteers requested and offered as tellers for vote counts.

Minutes of 2008 AGM meeting agreed as true representation of last year's AGM.

Matters arising – Martyn Nicholls: 2008 minutes mentioned new website on its way, technical difficulties have regrettably prohibited this. Existing website will be maintained for now.

Chairman's report

Last year poor weather generally. Personal observation – there is a need for people to organise "short duration, cheap trips". The club has had plenty of diving but this has not been to everyone's needs. Recent experience has proved that short trips, even midweek, are in demand. Encouragement for anyone to organise a trip to do so. Many social events have taken place, and a special thanks to Adrian Lane, Louisa Nicholls and Ben Houghton for dinner-dance. £140 raised for RNLI.

Pegasus berthed at Bridlington. Not well used. Weather prohibitive.

Martyn Nicholls last year as Chair. Thanked last year's committee for effort, particularly those stepping down, and also previous two years' committee members. Much work acknowledged by committee in background. Martyn Nicholls encourages any newer members to come forward as and when they feel ready to do so.

Diving Officer's report

Norman Norsworthy – took over from Rob Hanwell around October, therefore not too much diving to discuss. Various trips have taken place: namely Red Sea, Scilly Isles and Farnes. Importantly it has

been a safe year with no incidents to report. Quite a lot of training has taken place, Capernwray, Stoney Cove, etc.

Norman Norsworthy reiterated the point – there is a dearth of a calendar for diving. Tends to be trips organised on a grand scale – sometimes not appropriate for all (a potential issue), e.g. N. Ireland live-aboard. If a “proper” calendar was published early in the year it may be a good idea. Club has 6 open water instructors, so training is possible. Club needs to organise “cheap” trips. Diving carried out was enjoyed.

Martyn Nicholls – obvious person to co-ordinate trips is DO, all trips under guise of club should be informed to DO so he/she has an overview of what is happening when.

Adrian Lane – there may be a need for a “trip organiser”.

Louisa Nicholls – there is a big difference between the trips organised as a “I’m going here, who wants to come?” and the “we are organising a trip for the club, what does the club need in terms of experiences, training, etc...”

Treasurer’s report

Louisa Nicholls - Thanks to Jenny Gould for auditing.

Balance is decreasing slightly year on year, approximately £300 p.a. Generally fairly healthy balance. Membership around 40-45. Fairly stable. Membership fees have stayed consistent thus far, garage and Ponds Forge fees will be increasing.

This year’s social made just under £200.

No boat fee income – due to lack of use.

Training aids included a new projector.

Proposed by Ian Turner, seconded by Mark Stevenson.

Pegasus – resolution debate

Main issue is there is a revenue cost to having boat whether used or not. Approximately £600 per year just to own. Once used there are more costs. Currently needs a couple of hundred pounds spending before seaworthy. As such a cost and due to lack of use, membership should look at it. If got rid of, very unlikely to replace. Is it a phase?

Ian Turner – please Steve Barber and Adrian Lane give ideas as to why proposed and seconded. Steve Barber – expensive to run on fuel. If Steve Barber could, we should get a new diesel engine. Towing also an issue.

Adrian Lane offered his opinions. Duty on committee to raise issue as large cost to club and underused. Personally wants club to keep boat, sees getting rid of boat as a loss of opportunity.

Ian Turner gave his opinions, loss of skills, dive planning, boat handling, and loss of “spontaneity” in diving, loss of opportunity. We will lose the opportunity of arranging our own boat diving. The excitement, showing novices how to use, control, etc. Big decision. If got rid of, what to do with money.

Steve Barber happy to keep boat his premises.

Steve Barber, Paul Baker and Norman Norsworthy all happy to tow boat.

Debate continued. Arguments for and against were put by many club members. Topics ranged over economics; the amount of hard work; time it takes to run; whether it would be possible to hire the boat for SDCs; use it for socials – BBQs on beach, etc.; are we in such dire straits to get rid of it?; is it not much diving or not much boat use?; these are interrelated; newer members don't know what they would be missing; older members discussed how fantastic it has been to have it and dive from it; gap between "old hats" and "newbies", therefore maybe the experience gap is widening; issue of towing boat; is last year's weather a bad year to make a decision on?; etc.

Tim Schmielau – proposed "sharing" with another club. Potential.

Vote for resolution to dispose of club boat Pegasus.

Three postal votes received. 2 for and 1 against.

No Proxies received.

Members present vote:

For: 3 plus 2 = 5 **Against:** 13 plus 1 = 14 **Abstentions:** 2

The resolution is therefore voted against by club members. The club will not get rid of the boat.

Proposal to have this discussion again next year. Proposed by Alan Gill, seconded Paul Baker.

Steve Barber offered to do two trips to Treadduar Bay this year.

Election of new committee

Martyn Nicholls – we have people to fill committee position next year. There are not two people for one post so posts duly filled: Adrian Lane Chair, Membership and Treasurer Louisa Nicholls, Duncan Moutrie secretary, Glynn Fearn equipment officer, Steve Barber boat officer. We don't have a social secretary at present, Alex Sohl may offer.

AOB

Vote of thanks for Martyn Nicholls by all.

Adrian Lane – a recognition of the strength of the club and its members.

Awards

Ken Furness has passed his Ocean Diver.

Award for trainee of the year: Ken Furness.

Chairman's award – given to person who has done most for benefit of club: Louisa Nicholls.

Acknowledged by all present. Well done Louisa and thanks.

9.10 pm meeting closed with refreshments.