**39th AGM Minutes**

**VENUE: Solihull Royal British Legion**

**DATE: Friday 15th March 2019**

**TIME: 7.30pm**

**Present:** Mike Berry, Colin Eagle, Doug Davies, Anne Williams, Di Huxley, Don Alcott, Lynne Daniels, Louisa Langley, Karen Davies, Paul Montgomery, Richard Evans, Julia Naden, John Naden, John Flynn Helen Greenham, Peter Greenham, Lydia Greenham, Phil Bennett, Steve Heynes, Mick White, Steve O’Nyons, Neil Thompson and Laurence Jones.

**Apologies:** Colin Barley, John Jones, Clive Heaton, Trevor Parkes, Ian Stopps, Michele and Mahyar Barad, Dave Biggs, Richard Wells and Dave Ward.

**Chairman’s Report.**

Mike welcomed everyone to the AGM and thanked everyone for attending. He explained the purpose of the AGM is to present a summary of the year’s activities, celebrate achievements and vote for a committee to take the club forward.

Mike reported another successful year as there were no incidents, there is money in the bank and people are coming to the pool on club night. There has been some diving and training as well as games of Octopush.

The club held an E.G.M. in September which was successful. The change of the pool from October to March at North Solihull was well managed. The club was fortunate to keep its day and time and members attended the session. The club is now back at Solihull in its original slot on Thursday evenings from 9-10pm.

Although only Di, Anne and Mike attended the club’s social weekend in Portsmouth visiting the Mary Rose and the Historic Naval Dockyards, a very enjoyable time was had by all, with open tickets to return before September.

Mike, Louisa and Richard attended the West Midland’s regional “Know and Grow Workshop” in November in Droitwich. There were some helpful ideas on recruitment and retention.

Mike chaired 6 committee meetings in the year. Communication was also via email and transparent minutes were shared with all members.

Mike thanked each officer and committee member individually:

Doug has managed the finances and saved the club a large sum of money both when the pit was out of action and had to move to North Solihull. Doug also works on the boats and ensures it is ready for dive trips. He brings the club banner to the pool each week. He oversees the website.

Anne produces and circulates the minutes. She coordinates the website contacts and try dives and liaises with Dave Ward for try dive kit.

Colin with his ‘safe and steady hand’ monitors diving and resolves any issues.

Di has worked hard organising the training especially for John and Kaweepoj.

Dave Ward continues to look after the kit and the club would be at a loss without him.

Paul has organised the snorkel training. Many club members have also benefitted from his snorkelling expertise.

Mike remarked that the previous evening had been a great night at the pool with snorkelling discussions, a try dive, Octopush playing in both the pit and all across the main pool and swimmers ploughing on. He has enjoyed being Chairperson and again thanked the committee for many years of hard work between them. There were no questions for Mike.

**Treasurer’s Report.**

Doug presented his report as attached and thanked Don Alcott for examining and accepting the accounts.

The sheet shows the monies that have passed through the account.

Under receipts, the membership fees are less following the subscription rebate when the pit was broken. Fees to Forward to BSAC are less and more subscriptions are paid by Direct Debit.

Under payments, training packs are not a cost to the club as the cost is passed on to the trainee. Ocean Divers will now be charged a small training fee to cover instructor’s expenses at Stoney Cove. Pool hire has reduced whist at North Solihull. Now boat equipment includes a new hand held radio, boat flares and replacement bearings for the trailer. The dive equipment cost incudes cleaning or replacing cylinders following a fill with contaminated air. Committee expenses are reduced. Octopush have bought some more bats and a new puck.

There has been a small increase in the overall funds in the bank this year. Doug aims to keep a working balance of £6,000 to £8,000 in the account as a contingency for emergencies.

Doug showed graphs and pie charts as attached. 69% of the clubs expenses are the pool hire.

Doug has calculated suggested subscriptions from April 2019 onwards to be £150 p.a. for full diving members and £120 p.a. for concessions (swimmers, social members, junior members and family members).

Steve Heynes asked about 2018’s expense on equipment – new BCDs.

Karen asked if the subscription for swimmers could be negotiated. Doug explained it was the cost of the pool hire which had to be shared equally amongst all members. It represented about £2 per week which is a very reasonable cost for a swim.

Doug was thanked for his report.

**SSAC 40th Anniversary.**

Mike explained the plan for the celebration. Solihull Sub Aqua Club started in September 1979. Events were held to celebrate the 25th and 30th anniversaries. Mike would like to have an evening with present and past members to celebrate the 40th anniversary. The date, 28th September 2019 was chosen and ‘Save the Date’ notices distributed. The Celebration Evening will take place at the Shirley Centre where early theory lectures took place. A guest list has been drawn up and invitations with a plus one will be sent out. **Email addresses of former members need to be sent to Mike.** There will be a welcome drink, a finger buffet and finally a cake with toasts at 9pm.

A photograph of SSAC has been published in April’s edition of SCUBA to advertise the event.

Karen suggested advertising the event in the local paper to attract past members. Mike is in contact with Solihull Observer.

Richard Evans suggested having a dive at Stoney Cove during the day as part of the celebration. The committee with proceed with the suggestion.

Mike explained that the two proposals were to give the new committee a mandate to proceed with organising the 40th celebration. If the new committee agrees, the current committee will form a sub-committee to organise the celebration.

Mike put the first committee proposal to the meeting:

* The committee proposes Solihull Sub Aqua Club funds should be used to cover the costs of the 40th anniversary celebrations. These costs to include a finger buffet at £10 per head, the hire of the hall and a welcome drink.

Working on a guest list of 100, Mike explained the approximate costs. The hall and welcome drink £500, the buffet and cake £1000 and Trevor’s expenses £400.

Don Alcott asked why the club plans to fund the event rather than charging for tickets. The costs could escalate with a large guest list. The fire regulations limit attendance to 200. There will be an A, B and C guest list to ensure a fair invitation process. The balance of funds is large due to the sale of Soldive. Soldive was funded by past members so it seems fair to use their funds to subsidise a party rather than subsidise the fees of future members.

After a vote, the meeting agreed to the proposal.

Mike put the second committee proposal to the meeting:

* The committee proposes Solihull Sub Aqua Club funds should be used to cover the travel costs of Life Member Trevor Parkes to allow him to attend the celebration. A limit of £400 has been placed on this expense.

Mike explained Trevor Parkes is the founder chairman of SSAC. He feels it is important for Trevor to attend the celebration and say a few words. Trevor is keen to attend. He lives in Majorca, would arrive the day before and stay with friends during his visit.

After a vote, the meeting again agreed to the proposal.

**E.G.M Action Points.**

Colin reported that the E.G.M had gone well and action points produced had been investigated at following committee meetings as seen in committee meeting minutes.

It had not been possible to do any pool training as the club had lost the use of Tudor Grange straight after the E.G.M. North Solihull was not big enough to accommodate try dives or training.

The club agreed to fund BSAC skill and training courses. Disappointingly there has been no take up for the offer.

North Solihull wasn’t big enough to organise activities or games in the pool such as water polo.

It will be up to the new committee to organise pub activities now we are back at the Woodmans where there is more space.

To encourage PADI divers to join, 3 club members attended the Know and Grow event for ideas. Further thought is needed such as a try dive event. Previous recruitment ideas such as attending carnival with the club boat or advertising in the local paper had not produced any enquiries. Suggestions using social media have been acted on with the club website and Facebook page.

A club minibus would be too expensive to maintain. It would be better to hire a minibus as required

It is up to club members rather than the committee to organise dive trips as well as regular nights at Stoney Cove and Dosthill. The club needs to encourage newer divers to go on club trips.

Paul is organising a successful snorkel course. Two more trainees will start next month.

A suggestion to change the start on the club boat or buy a new boat is not financially viable or practical, despite some members being unable to use the pull start. Doug showed some explanatory slides which are attached at the end of his Treasurer’s report. It is important to ensure at least one diver in a buddy pair can start the boat. For the past 3 years the boat has only been used twice each year. The plans for this year only include the boat once.

Car stickers advertising the dive club may not be a sensible action as they indicate to thieves the possible presence of expensive dive kit in the boot.

A club member is researching club polo shirts or t-shirts.

**Secretary’s Report.**

Anne’s report is attached. She explained her PowerPoint presentation. She thanked Dave Ward for organising the dive kit for try dives. She thanked all the divers who have taken in try divers. Finally, she thanked Mike and her fellow committee members for a great year. There were no questions. Anne was thanked for her report.

**Membership Report.**

Doug presented the membership report as attached at the end of his Treasurer’s report. The figures are interesting and self-explanatory. Doug was thanked for his report.

**Diving Officer’s Report.**

Colin reminded members that SSAC is primarily a diving club and it is important to promote and encourage divers, especially younger active members.

The Stoney Cove shake down day in March was cancelled due to the Beast from the East. Only 4 divers attended the day rearranged for 4 weeks later.

A trip to Eastbourne had one good day of diving. The second day was abandoned due to poor weather and visibility.

There were two trips to Plymouth during the summer, one with Soldive and one using Sound Diving as there were only 3 divers due to last minute sickness.

Anne and Di had 9 dives whilst on their 3 month adventure in Australia – on SS Yongala near the Great Barrier Reef, under the jetties of Perth and up at the World Heritage Site of Ningaloo Reef including the world famous Navy Pier dive.

Brian organised a very successful trip to Scapa Flow.

Stoney Cove has been used intermittently through the summer for training and pleasure dives.

There were no incidents through the year. Although overall diving is reduced, it was all safe.

Trips are organised this year to Plymouth, Weymouth, Eyemouth and the Red Sea.

Members were reminded any BSAC skills course or training expenses will be reimbursed.

Members are welcome to attend any of the theory lectures to share refresh their training and share their expertise and knowledge.

All Thursday night swimmers are reminded that they need to be out of the pool by 10pm and off the premises by 10.20pm.

Colin put the third committee proposal to the meeting:

* The committee proposes to change the name of the “Novice Diver of the Year” Award to “Student Diver of the Year”.

Colin explained this change means the award will be open to everyone.

After a vote, the meeting agreed to the proposal.

There were no questions for Colin and he was thanked for his report.

**Training Officer’s Report.**

Di reported on the current status of training:

John Flynn needs to complete his Ocean Diver rescue dives when the weather warms up – he is in a wetsuit.

Kaweepoj needs to do his Ocean Diver open water training. It is important divers don’t slip through the net between finishing their pool and theory work and starting their open water training.

Neil Thompson and John Jones have completed their Dive Leader theory. John has crossed over from PADI and needs nitrox training as it is now covered at Ocean and Sports Diver level.

Di proposes to organise a shakedown dive trip to Stoney Cove that would include rescue scenarios for John Jones and Neil.

Di is drawing up an Ocean Diver training schedule for Lydia and her friend Elizabeth who did a try dive on Thursday evening. As they are juniors their parents will be members. They also have a connection with the scouting movement.

There are two more club members with offsprings who are considering learning to dive. All junior members must be 14 before they can go into open water. The way forward for the club is to train youngsters to offset the club wrinklies!

Di was thanked for her report.

**Social Secretary’s Report**

Di thanked Lynne for organising an excellent Christmas party with Karen’s help.

Di is organising a quiz night on Friday 12th April at the Red Lion in Knowle. It is a charity night in aid of her grandson’s charity Mikey’s Wish supporting Verbal Dyspraxia. The pub is providing a fish and chip supper. Tickets are £10 and it is suggested teams of 6 people.

**Octopush Report**

Karen reported it is great to see the underwater hockey as a themed activity on a Thursday. It has grown from 6 regular players to about 8. It includes divers who have tried it, liked it and stuck with it. Octopush is a great way to stay fit or not get fat! Everyone is continuing to enjoy the game without it becoming too violent and they are improving their fitness.

Karen then announced the winner of the Octopush Award:

It was given to Lydia for her effort, determination and not being scared to get the puck.

Karen was thanked for her amusing report.

**Election of committee officers**.

Paul Montgomery supervised the election. He thanked the committee and their assistants. He recognised their contribution over the years. The committee stood down from their roles.

Paul explained the four officers’ roles. The Membership Secretary, Training Officer and Social Secretary will be co-opted on at the first committee meeting.

Chairman – Mick White volunteered from the floor. He was seconded by Steve Heynes.

Secretary – Louisa Langley proposed by Di Huxley and seconded by Anne Williams.

Treasurer – Dave Biggs proposed by Mike Berry and seconded by Colin Eagle.

A show of hands was given and all three officers were voted onto the committee.

There were two proposals for Diving Officer:

Mahyar Barad proposed by Mick White and seconded by Phil Bennett

Brian Brookes proposed by Anne Williams and seconded by Di Huxley

After a written vote, Mahyar Barad was appointed Diving Officer in his absence.

Thanks and best wishes were given to the new committee.

**Presentation of awards**

Diver of the Year – Colin Eagle presented this to Louis Langley. Louisa is an excellent diver, new to the club and is organising trips. Louisa was delighted to receive it.

Clive Strong Award – Mike Berry presented this to Lynne Daniels for all her hard work over the years for the club. Lynne is always willing and ready to help whenever asked. Lynne was delighted to receive it.

The Novice Diver Award was not awarded as there hadn’t been any new trainees this year. The name change will allow it to be awarded in future.

The Aquaprat Award was not awarded this year as no one had done anything outrageously stupid.

**Close of meeting.**

Mike closed the meeting at 9.45 pm. He thanked everyone for coming, hoped they had enjoyed the meeting and thanked Doug for sorting out the electronics at the British Legion. He wished everyone a safe and good year of diving and a safe journey home.

Anne Williams

Secretary Solihull Sub Aqua Club