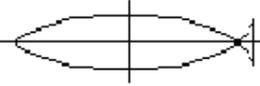


The British Society of Underwater Photographers



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date: Wednesday 18 December 2013

Time: 8:00 pm

Location: Royal School of Mines (Room G.01), Imperial College, London

Minutes of the previous AGM: The Minutes of the previous year's meeting were approved without objection.

Membership Secretary's Report: we currently have 341 members, a net decrease of 15 or 4% from last year. However, we had a total of 54 new members this year, and the number of Overseas members is fairly constant at 22.

Treasurer's Report: Overall this year experienced a loss of £1,000, however, the true picture would be closer to a loss of £3,120 (due to late payment of InFocus printing costs). As predicted last year the impact of the loss of the Holland Club contributed to additional room hire costs of £1,800, the Splash-in underperformed and contributed £700 to the loss, with the remainder of the loss being due to a minor reduction in subscriptions, the timing in respect of cash prize payments and an increase in trophy costs. However, this year saw InFocus' 100th edition and despite an increase in costs this was offset by an increase in advertising revenue so net costs match the prior year.

Overall funds stand at £9,000, although once the late payment of the InFocus costs are included this reduces to £6,900. Despite the London-wide review of rooms for hire it accepted in the short-term that we will have to incur the additional costs going forward and as such will be implementing a number of measures including the proposed increase in subscriptions and a review of InFocus production costs.

Chairman's Report: BSoUP and our members have had yet another very busy year.

Thanks, first of all to all those who gave talks during the year: Martin Davies, Alison Mayor, Mike Brodbelt, Simon Brown, Paul Colley, Paul Duxfield, Martin Edge, Martyn Guess, Keith Lyall, Paul Morgan, Alex Mustard, Mark Pickford, Brian Pitkin, Mike Pitts, Saeed Rashid, Alex Tattersall, Martha Tressler and Nigel Wade. Plus those who contributed to the Show & Tell in June - Richard Boucher, David Allan, Mark Pickford, Alex Tattersall and Paul Colley.

We produced two issues of our magazine "in focus" this year, including our special one hundredth edition in the spring. The next one, 102, will come out early next year. At this point, I must give very special thanks to three unsung heroes, team members, Mike Russell, Paul Morgan and Chris McTernan without whose help, our much improved magazine would not be possible. We are always looking for new articles and ideas though – which are few and far between - so please get in touch with anything you might have of interest. This is *your* magazine.

The BSoUP website content continues to grow and we now have 1921 php pages and numerous html pages. The site also includes 295 gallery pages and 80 members-only slide-shows. The

gallery pages have been totally redesigned; the books pages have been overhauled and updated and the online shops (linked to Amazon) have been extended to include Kindle e-books and electronics (laptops, smart-phones and tablets). The entire website has also been edited to improve down-load speeds. What would we do without Brian's tireless energy and efforts?

The BSoUP Facebook group, which is an extension to the main website, currently has 936 members.

The 2013 BSoUP/Diver Print competition attracted 135 entries with the best 80 being displayed at the Dive Show at the NEC in October where the public were encouraged to vote for their favourites in four categories. The overall winner was chosen by judges Alex Mustard, Martin Edge and Diver Magazine editor Nigel Eaton. Ellen Cuylaerts, an overseas BSoUP member based in Cayman, won a diving holiday in Tobago courtesy of Oonasdivers. Category winners were Caroline Robertson-Brown (British & Irish), Nicholas More (Overseas), Paul Colley (Advanced Overseas), Dan Bolt (Advanced British & Irish) – all BSoUP members. The Photozone is now a major feature of the dive shows and this year BSoUP members Alex Mustard, Martin Edge, Paul Colley and Nick Robertson Brown all gave presentations.

The British Underwater Championship (Splash-In) was won by Dan Bolt, winning a holiday for two to the Maldives; he also won the Mankind in the Sea and Theme categories. Alex Tattersall won the Marine Life and Joss Woolf the Humorous categories respectively. The Compact Camera winner was Paula Bailey. Congratulations to all. And thanks go to Martin Davies and Alison Mayor who are particularly involved in next year's event.

Congratulations to our monthly competition winners: Alex Tattersall, Paul Colley, Martyn Guess (twice), Andrew McKelvie, Debbie Henshaw, Mark Pickford, Pash Baker, Warren Williams (a long standing member who has made a stunning competition comeback), Trevor Rees, and Mark Drayton.

And congratulations also to:

- David Henshaw, Rico Besserlich, Simon Brown and Trevor Rees (and probably one or two others) had their images used as magazine front covers.
- Alex Mustard who was awarded the GDT European Wildlife Photographer of the year 2013 with his stunning image entitled Night Moves.
- Will Clark who staged an exhibition of prints (with five other artists) at the Glastonbury Galleries.
- Alex Tattersall who was the runner-up in the Underwater Worlds category in this year's Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition at the Natural History Museum, with an image entitled Lionfish Bait.
- In the same competition, Alex Mustard was highly commended in the "Nature in Black and White" category with an image entitled "Giant with Sunbeams".
- Alex Tattersall also came first in the Wide-angle category of the RSMAS Underwater Photography contest with – you've guessed it – an image of a lionfish and baitfish.
- Alex Mustard and Linda Pitkin's prints were among the 2020VISION Roadshow exhibition in Dundee, Swadlincote, Ticknall, London, Blair Atholl and Brighton. Alex also gave a presentation at the Royal Geographic Society.
- Paul Colley who won a Royal Photographic Society Gold Medal for an image that Fellows of the Society, Martin Addison and Clive Hayes, had judged the best Western Region print submission in 2013. And while we're talking about Paul, he has already published one book this year, *Diving and Snorkelling Ascension Island: Guide to a Marine Life Paradise* and is busy writing another one to be published next year - *Winning Images with any Underwater Camera: The essential guide to creating vibrant photos*.

- Nick Blake who won the world's largest on-line photographic competition which is organised by Underwater Photography.com and he became the Grand Master of 2012/13
- Brian Pitkin – in addition to everything else that he does, also judged the monthly online Red Sea World of Underwater Images competition.

The New BSoUP Meetings Venue:

After almost a year of research and visiting possible alternative venues, you will have heard that our efforts have been rewarded, at last, with a new room across the road, with its own projector and screen and, most importantly, access to a bar. Full details are on the website. Just a reminder that we start there next month on the third TUESDAY of every month.

Other thanks...

To all the helpers at the Dive Shows, especially Pete Ladell for helping me to take all the stuff for the stand at the Excel Show – and bringing it all back again, and for bringing it all back from the Birmingham Dive Show. It's a lot of effort.

To Pash Baker for making and mounting a new set of prints for our stand at the Birmingham Dive Show. I'd like to thank her too for her hard work as Membership Secretary – some committee roles take up a lot more time than others.

Not to be left out is Sarah White who took over the role of Treasurer at very short notice and prepares our accounts, highly efficiently, on a monthly basis.

Thanks also to Colin Doeg – who reminds us of why we are here and constantly offers help and suggestions at the age of 85!

We're almost there; Simon Brown – like it or not we need people like him to keep us on the straight and narrow – to protect all of us from others who might seek to exploit our hard work.

And finally, to thank all of you for being here, for entering the competitions and for giving us our *raison d'être*, for without you, there would be no Society.

Chairman's Award

Last year, I revived the custom of presenting a Chairman's Award and I don't think there can be any doubt as to whom it should be given this year. Unfortunately she is away at the moment but we'll be making a big fuss of her in January. Martha Tressler has, for so many years, put in more than could be expected of anyone; she has adopted most roles on the committee, including Chairman and currently acts as Honorary Secretary as well as Meetings Secretary.

She has also carried out detailed research, with Sarah, into our running costs. She calls a spade a spade and often crushes to death with a single blow some of our ideas if she believes they do not accord with the BSoUP ethos. Sometimes she tries to do some of our jobs as well, but above all, she gets things done. BSoUP would not be what it is without her and it's time her work was recognised.

Election of new committee: The proposed committee was unanimously approved by the meeting.

Subscription increase: The proposed increase in subscriptions was put to the meeting and was passed without opposition.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.25pm