

**MINUTES OF NORFED AGM 28TH January 2018**  
**at Worsley Sub Aqua Club. Monton.**

**Barbara opened NORFED's 59th AGM** at 1.38, with a welcome to all present, She stated that as we have more than usual to discuss today, to try to keep to a minimum less importance subjects to allow us to allocate time to more important discussions.

**Attendees: have all signed the Attendance sheet?**

Barbara, Bob, Ken Crow, John & Maggie Parkinson, Lindsey & Gary Fell, Nobby Clark, Geoffrey Prince, Neil Carver, and Dave Hackman.

**Apologies from:** Joanne Harvey, Phil Alberts, Gary Pittaway and Wendy Pickering - I have sent Wendy a card on behalf of you - her friends at NORFED, sympathising with her on the sad death of her brother - the reason she is not here today.

**Minutes for AGM 2017** were read out and accepted by Ken Crow and seconded by Geoffrey Prince.

**Matters arising:** None.

**Chair Address:** Barbara thanked Monton Bowling Club for hosting the AGM, serving us with pie and peas and opening the bar for us.

She also thanked the Committee for attending today and for supporting NORFED through another year. She stated that the Committee are all willing to stand again in the same capacity for another year.

**Dinner 2017:** 34 guests attended the excellent dinner held again at The Heath Cottage Hotel. We dined in the White Rose Restaurant room after an unfortunate 'blip' in the hotel's organisation, which, once resolved did not affect at all the ambience of the night.

In the afternoon we watched a presentation by International Dolphin Watch, by Robin & Kris.

A big thanks to Horace Dobbs, our Guest Speaker, who gave us an interesting insight into his inter-action with wild dolphins over many years - a very enlightening talk. The proceeds of the raffle were donated to IDW.

I awarded Diver of the Year to Dave Hackman, Droylsden branch who was proposed by a committee member for his enthusiasm and hard work to diving in general and to his branch. Photographer of the Year - was awarded to Dawn Fern of Roho branch and Diving is Fun to Bob Findlow also of Roho branch.

Thanks to Ken Crow for organising and judging the competitions again and for compiling the compilation of old NORFED films shown in the afternoon.

**Secretary's Report:** John Parkinson - no 'paper' correspondence, but lots of emails relating to AGM.

Barbara thanked John for his hard work and support.

**Treasurer's Report:** Barbara Findlow:

Loss of only **£126.50** for the year, despite NORFED paying for 4 complimentary dinners and accommodation, wine for the top table and donating the raffle money to IDW.

No Subscriptions were charged for the fifth year running, so the only income was from the Dinner and the Photographic competitions.

No fees charged for auditing the accounts (checked by Roho's accountant FOC).

Barbara asked had everyone read the Balance sheet & do you accept it? Unanimously accepted.

She asked for agreement for Roho accountant to check this current year's accounts? = Yes.

She suggested we pay a minimum of £20 to Tracey at Tekrite (website) if all in agreement?  
Yes - pay £20 plus for last year's + £20 which had been overlooked from the previous year.

**Subscriptions:** She left this item until AOB.

**Dive Co-ordinators Report:** Nobby Clark only received an advertisement from Southport branch about a Film Show and numerous dives from Roho through the year. So far, Roho has 7 for 2018. A discussion on Website V Facebook started but was adjourned to AOB. Barbara thanked Nobby for running the system.

**Election:** There were no objections to the Committee being re-elected = all re-elected.

In November we accepted 3 co-opted members onto the committee: **Neil Calver** BSAC Yorkshire regional coach who we welcome here today, **Gary Pittaway** BSAC NW Communication Officer, and **Phil Alberts** BSAC Diving Support Officer, both of whom were unable to attend today but they have assured us that they wish to work with the committee this year, particularly involving themselves with **NORFEST** and working with Geoffrey Prince on this. We will hear about NORFEST later.

We had a discussion on whether to accept the 3 new co-opted members onto full committee membership now. Concern was expressed from most members that they may not manage to complete what they intended to do to move NORFED forward, due to high involvement with their BSAC work timetable; and also to the control of NORFED's finances. After a good discussion it was voted to welcome them onto the committee now, which Barbara did and again thanked all the committee for the forthcoming year.

**Any Other Business:**

Our **60th Anniversary Dinner 2018** is provisionally booked at the Banquet Suite at The Heath Cottage Hotel on 3rd November: nb. this cannot be held without a deposit of £75 being paid. At the last meeting, someone had suggested we look for an alternative venue so Barbara requested everyone get comparisons to vote on today. Ken said it was too late to book The Cairn Harrogate but a double room there was £110 v £70 at The Heath. Barbara had obtained 2 suggestions: Holiday Inn, Clifton and Gomersal Park Hotel but both were considerably more expensive than The Heath Cottage Hotel. No-one had any other suggestions and it was an unanimous decision to book The Heath Cottage again. Barbara to send £75 cheque to hold booking. Geoffrey will ask Tracey to put an entry on website.

Barbara stressed the need to find a suitably 'impressive' Guest speaker or as already suggested a 'trio' of NORFED celebrities (as we did for the 50th - unfortunately they have long since hung up their fins) and to start advertising the Dinner ASAP to the Northern branches via Facebook and the Regional Coaches, now the venue has been decided.

Geoffrey to ask Phil Alberts for suggestions from BSAC for Guest Speaker, taking into account their expenses.

Ken will be running the Photographic Competition & the Diving is Fun Competition again, thank you Ken.

**Website/Facebook:** Geoffrey has been talking to Tracey of Tekrite about him being able to up-date the website, Tracey advised the starting of a Blog' which GP could maintain and comments and videos can be added. Unfortunately, only 1 item has been put on and later withdrawn - need to leave the blogs on so it is obvious it is in use.

On discussion it was decided that Facebook was a better way to go rather than just the website.

**Suggestions from Geoffrey:** (not covered elsewhere in the meeting). The committee had all received a copy to read before this meeting, so have had time to consider some of the points raised. To save time Barbara omitted reading out the history of NORFED and moved on to the discussions.

Geoffrey has received offers of help from:

David Taylor re: to run NORFEST for 2018/19. Geoffrey said it was too late for 2018 now.

Kevin Philips, Peter Routledge, Joanne Hartley and Mike Rowley have all expressed their willingness to help NORFED in some way, as has Phil Alberts who is now on the committee. GP, Gary Pittaway and Ken need to put their heads together and collate these offers.

Having the AGM on Sunday morning of this year's Dinner is not feasible as our Year End is 31st December and the year's finances will not even be completed, never mind audited, by then. It is a good idea to have the AGM when we have the most NORFED people in one place but we would need changes to the date of the Year End - these have to be decided at an AGM, or to change the date of the Dinner - too late for this year, but to be discussed before the next AGM.

Geoffrey suggested NORFED running an active 'Divers HUB' using Facebook as Nobby has had very little response to the existing 'hub' run on the website. He suggested using **Word Press**, using several administrators - this would cost about £200 to set up. Need FTP info etc from Dave Carter who is the existing Administrator and owner of the website. Barbara to request this from Dave. Need to buy new Domain name? Voted to go ahead with Ed Lamb opening new one.

Dave Hackman said we need to remove the old Facebook - confusing & difficult to remove - Gary Fell said he closed it 3 years ago but still there, Dave H will send a 'loophole' suggestion to GP to do so.

Peter Routledge requested sponsorship for HMS Pattea expedition 13th Oct 2018. This request only arrived this week, GP to ask for business plan, John said he would expect to pay for himself in a similar situation - voted NO to sponsorship.

The committee agreed that a lot of our suggested ideas would benefit from financial sponsorship, so Barbara asked for someone to put together a 'business plan' to sell the idea to businesses asking for their financial support? No volunteers.

**Membership Subs:** In 2011 we had 9 branches joined and have not charged any subs since then. GP suggests charging £10 per branch per year - we decided not to charge subs for 2018 as we still have not much to offer. Will review at next AGM when we will have something to offer to the branches.

Neil Calver suggested that we run a **Dive Charter** facility on Facebook. Charterers could email a weekly alert to us with any spaces they want filling etc. Lindsey volunteered to make enquiries and set up.

**Next Meeting:** More people involved now, from different areas: where and when?

Monday evenings have been the preferred time in the past - still OK for everyone present. The venue was discussed. GP said that he had found a similar system to Skype, called 'Zoom' - less problems, free for first 45 mins. GP will email us all with a link to register. Then we can set date and time to 'Zoom'!

Barbara gave the good wishes of everyone present to John P for his hip operation this Tuesday.

**Meeting closed:** 3.40pm.