

NORFED AGM 6th February 2011 at Roho Branch.

Meeting opened at 2.10 and The Chair, Barbara Findlow welcomed everyone present and thanked them for attending.

Barbara told the meeting of the sad death of Bernard Scott on 4th January this year. Everyone present knew Bernard as a larger than life person, although small in stature. Very well respected in BSAC and NORFED circles, and well loved by all his friends in the diving fraternity. We missed his jovial presence at our last Dinner, he wasn't well enough then, to come. He has seemed 'part of the furniture' of NORFED and will be very sadly missed by all of us.

Barbara sent a card and letter of condolence to Diane, his niece, and provided information and photographs for obituaries for the Dive magazine and BSAC website, and, of course our own website.

Barbara & Bob, John and Margaret, Lindsey & Gary attended his funeral in Blackpool and a donation, on NORFED's behalf, was given to the Trinity Hospice where he had been so well looked after.

Instead of a minutes silence, we all drank a toast to Bernard, we thought he would appreciate that much more! **To Bernard!**

1. ATTENDEES: Everyone signed the attendance sheet + up-to-date email addresses.
Apologies Ken Crow in New Zealand, Lindsey & Gary skiing, Geof (ill) & Jane Prince,

2. MINUTES and ANY MATTERS ARISING:

Minutes of AGM 2010. Accepted by Richard Pickering seconded by John Parkinson.

Matters Arising: The website is still being run efficiently by Tracey of Tekrite, who has not charged us anything this year. Chris Read is still planning to learn how to do it.

Equipment: we sold the O2 set for £50, making a profit of £22 and gave the Mannequins to Gary & Lindsey.

The video camera has been written off, but is available as a 'museum' piece, if anyone wants it. Ken Crow was looking to see if the Nikon 3 would be sellable.

3. CHAIRPERSON'S ADDRESS: by Barbara Findlow.

She thanked everyone for attending, and the Committee for their continued support. All committee members were willing to stand for another year, so no vote necessary.

Resume of 52nd Dinner: Another excellent Dinner was held at The Heath Cottage Hotel and enjoyed by the 37 guests representing a total of 12 clubs. The food was, as usual, *fantastic*, complemented by the excellent friendly service we have come to expect from The Heath Cottage. Had small complaints from Batley Snorkellers about service.

The Diver of the Year was awarded to Ken Crow of Harrogate Club for his loyal service to NORFED, both as Chairman and for running the Photographic all these years and he is still doing so now. And he is still enjoying his diving after all these years.

The Photographer of the Year was awarded to Matt Walker of Harrogate branch for his stunning photos: see website for all the excellent entries.

4. SECRETARY'S REPORT: by John Parkinson. Nothing to report.

Newsletter: Received very little content. Chris, who writes a Dive blog, offered for John to pick anything out of it he would like to use. Chris will email each new blog to John P. Chris told the meeting that NORFED had a Facebook = norfeddivers@hotmail.co.uk. Advised members to look at it. Some members felt the NORFED website was not attractive enough - retain emblem, add more colour? Suggestions welcome.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT: By Barbara Findlow.

We sold the O2 Set for £50, making a profit of £22 and have written off the rest of the Fixed Assets as agreed at the AGM 2010. This made a loss on paper of £2.46.

There were no questions asked and the Balance sheet was accepted by the meeting.

Thanks to John Woods for (correcting) and auditing.

Subscriptions 2011. Barbara had received a suggestion from John Parkinson not to charge this years subs. She asked John to give his reasons:

His main point: he wants more clubs to join, and we don't need the subs, but we have not a lot to offer them. Barbara then asked the members for their points of view.

A wide number of suggestions were received and discussed at length.

Finally, Bob **proposed a fee of £5 for Branches and Individuals** for a trial this year, Richard seconded it. Voted on and **unanimously accepted**.

6. DIVE CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT: by Nobby Clark.

He said he had not received any feed back from 2010 dives - this was to encourage interest in future dives. Nobby read out the 10 dives planned for 2011. *See website.*

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Communication - still problems with email addresses. It was asked if NORFED could have a common email address that was easily recognised as NORFED? Chris will try to arrange

PLEASE WILL ALL MEMBERS READING THIS, SEND THEIR CURRENT EMAIL ADDRESS To John johnparkinson2@hotmail.co.uk to ensure our records are correct.

A further discussion followed on **advertising** methods. Agreed to use Facebook and for Chris to add NORFED to his blog and Dive School website. Chris said he would contact old clubs; tell them about reduced membership fees, Facebook and blog, to encourage them back to NORFED.

It was suggested to add a section for members to sell their old equipment - agreed.

53rd DINNER 2011: Will be again at The Heath Cottage. It was agreed to book 29th October as everyone there was OK for that date. The Hotel have maintained the price of the Dinner for another year & only a small increase of £2 on the Accommodation. Details will be on the website shortly.

John suggested asking Batley Snorkellers to do Guest Speaker - they accepted.

8. Date of next Committee Meeting: Monday 11 April 8.00 at Robin Hood Cottage. Barbara thanked everyone again for attending, and closed the AGM at 3.30.