



ON A BRIGHT sunny day 37 members from 17 branches gave up a day's diving to attend the AGM in Stirling University and our thanks to Stirling Uni Branch for arranging the venue. The Chairman opened the meeting with his report which highlighted the committees achievements over the past year based on the 3 year plan he introduced last year.

By far the most important was the change to a company limited by guarantee making for a safer environment for all the members. He thanked the staff for their help especially Annmarie for the extra hours she worked during the five months she was on her own.

He introduced Hazel McBride our new administrator who joined us in December. He finished by outlining what the GC hope to achieve in the coming year and handed over to the treasurer Jim Anderson.

Jim ran through the accounts and the lack of questions must mean either the members are happy with them or they don't understand them. He thanked **sports**scotland for their continued support and Sharon Macdonald for her help over the past year. He announced that due to a significant saving on our insurance premium he was proposing no increase in subscriptions this year.

He also said that as part of our ongoing modernisation plans he

had set up a finance sub-committee to set budgets and monitor forward financial planning. We have a healthy reserve fund but he stressed that we should be investing some of our income on improving our services to branches and members.

Next up was Kevin Miller the National Diving Officer (NDO) who started by thanking everyone on his team who helped him during the year. There had been 11 incidents reported over the last year, 8 in 2006, and 3 this year.

A range of courses had been run including 5 BI courses with 55 candidates, 68 enjoyed 3 sets of master diver lectures. There had been boathandling, O2/heartstart and 2 nitrox courses, however several courses had to be cancelled due to lack of numbers.

The Sport Diver lecture pack had been published and was available to download from the website. Kevin also announced the introduction of the Junior Snorkel Award and thanked all those involved in the production of the training manual and **sports**scotland for funding it. Phil Rodgers congratulated him on the Junior Snorkel Award. Again thanks to **sports**scotland for funding the purchase of a full sized mannequin for rescue training.

The NDO then announced his plans for 2007 which included training days and a full range of courses. Questions followed and were dominated by what the NDC intended to do about buddy breathing ascents. Andy Parks, Sue Macgregor and Phil Rodgers all raised concerns over what they see as an outdated and dangerous practice.

However as the NDO pointed out the proposal to abolish it was presented to Branch Diving Officers and it failed to attract a two-thirds majority of those voting at the DOs conference. He said the National Diving Council would welcome any evidence on the subject.

The Secretary reported some of the work he does, keeping minutes of meetings, dealing with correspondence including making submissions to the Coastal Marine National Park, Loch Lomond National Park and others. He thanked everyone who returned forms for the member survey and said over the next few months he and others would be scrutinising the answers and incorporating them into our three year plan. He closed by describing his new role as company secretary which means he is responsible for completing and maintaining of company records.

This rather modest report belies the amount of work he does and how quickly and efficiently he does it and as Chairman I must thank him for that and for his support throughout the year.

The meeting elected the committee, the Chairman, Treasurer and one ordinary member for one year: and the secretary and two ordinary members for two years. The NDO, director of communications and the third ordinary member were elected for three years.

A late nomination for the NDC from Sam Paske was accepted and Bert Smith was elected from the floor to fill the last place on the NDC. The meeting closed with the Chairman thanking everyone for attending.

## Committee Reports At AGM



Bill Bowman

BILL BOWMAN was born and brought up in Bonnyrigg, Midlothian and joined Pentland Sub-Aqua Club in October 1999, becoming the Branch Equipment Officer / Committee member and a Master Diver who was also working towards his Branch Instructor qualification. A devoted family man he had been married to Eleanor since 1969, and had two daughters, Kelly and Amanda, and a little grandson Liam.

## A Tribute To Bill Bowman

He first became interested in learning to dive after a holiday to Australia, where he tried snorkelling for the first time. He decided to learn to Scuba dive and become qualified so that he could enjoy the freedom to dive deeper. He had also dived on a club trip to Malta, where we was also the best man at the wedding of Lisa and Mo. He was able to dive in Australia on a return visit and has dived in Tenerife. Diving was not his only leisure pursuit, over the years he had several other hobbies including keeping tropical fish, small bore target rifle shooting, karate, photography, Tai chi, archery and even tried his hand at Bonsai. As well as working towards his Branch Instructor award Bill held coaching and judging awards in women's artistic gymnastics and trampolining.

Bill will be remembered in Pentland branch as someone who was always determined to push himself to better things, even after a serious illness, he strived to

become a Master Diver, which he completed in May 2004.

His easy going and affable manner will be sadly missed, as will his sense of direction and his white van, which was not the fastest van on the road, but he would simply smile and say "look at the lovely scenery they would be missing if they were not behind me".

Another of Bill's pleasures was the regular branch barbeques, no matter where the club dived, Bill would have a kettle barbeque in the back of the white van and no matter the weather could be found cooking up a storm, and because of this earned himself the name Barbeque Bill.

Bill will be sadly missed by those that knew him. Our thoughts and best wishes go to Eleanor, Kelly, Mandy and Liam.

Kev Watson

CONGRATS RETURNS  
IN NEXT EDITION