

# The British Freediving Association



## AGM - Via ZOOM

**Date: 3/2/2024**

Chaired by: Liv Philip (Existing BFA Chair)

Hi everyone, hope you're all well.

Please find below the minutes from the AGM held on Feb 3, 2024 via Zoom. As per previous years, these minutes are not posted on the BFA's social media or circulated beyond the committee.

Thanks - For all who are attending, for all the committee member hard work this year, and for new volunteers. Special thanks to Nick Broome who is standing down, for many year of service.

### Present:

Liv Philip (Chair, training and safety officer)  
Vanessa Allen (Secretary Press and social media officer)  
Valentin Sadan Kowadlo (BFA Treasurer)  
Cara Heller (Competitions Officer)  
Georgina Miller BFA member & (proposed Membership officer)  
Matthew Turnbull BFA member & (proposed Press / social media officer)  
Andy Jardine BFA member  
Colin Christian BFA member

### Apologies:

Nick Broome (membership officer)

### Minutes:

- 2022/23 Committee, as per meeting notes

Chair - Liv Philip - Volunteered to stay on  
E-media - \*Vacant (Liv Philip) Covering since 2022  
Competitions - Cara Heller - Volunteered to stay on  
Treasurer - Valentin Sadan Kowadlo - Volunteered to stay on  
Press & Social Media - Vanessa Allen - Standing Down  
Nominated - Matthew Turnbull  
Training & Safety - Liv Philip - Volunteered to stay on  
Memberships - Nick Broome - Standing down  
Nominated - Georgina Miller  
Secretary / Records - Vanessa Allen - Volunteered to stay on

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- Minutes of last meeting - No objections received, no points to which to refer back.
- Statement of Income and Expenditure. Not possible to report back on the NHBC bank account due to ongoing issue with handover from previous Treasurer (outgoing 2022 Paul Sutton).  
Paypal Approximate membership income £4607.69  
Action: Treasurer & Chair will open new bank account and try to get old balance transferred if no success in handover in next month. Paypal statement of income and expenditure sent to committee by email. Full statement will be sent of bank account handover has been completed.
- Announcement of Fees - No proposed changes of membership fees from 2023.
- Grants given - To National Championship & BFA Pool Competition Bristol blue & AIDA International Grant secured for National pool Championship.
- Existing committee updates from the year:
  - Press/social media – Similar activity this year initial increase after pandemic. Lots of interest following Netflix 'TheDeepest Breath'. Followers same across Facebook and Instagram platforms.
  - Memberships – Membership up on 2022
  - Training and safety – advice emails for freedivers, mostly related to pool access/liaison and group start-ups. Also safety queries.
  - Junior Freedivers Entering Competitions who have no Freediving Qualification: A situation arose with a parent wanting to join BFA to enter a child in a competition. The child having no formal freediving education. Potential Welfare issue highlighted.  
Action: Liv to raise with AIDA to request a rule change on Education and Juniors in competition.
- AIDA Votes from 2023
  - Kaunas and Corsica WC Destinations.
  - Jury for world championships.
  - Anti-Doping Rules
  - AIDA Elections & Budget
- UK Pool Comp & grants
  - Update from Andy Jardine
  - Hengrove 50m pool in Bristol booked for Sat 2 & 3rd March 2024. Two-day comp with STA/DYN/DYNB/DNF.

Judges confirmed. Safety divers been doing safety training and being put through their paces on training sessions with Andy. f Paramedics available from local organisation. Registration now closed and fully subscribed.

Discussion: Problem with complaint from No Tanx Autumn Competition from participating athlete, bought to light competition now following procedures for athlete details upload to alda prior to competition. Issues with judges referring to organiser for his option on what card an athlete should be given, and no AIDA protest procedure was offered to athlete. As the athlete data had no been uploaded to AIDA system and dispute ongoing with athlete results, the results couldn't be uploaded to AIDA in the permitted time frame. The organiser incorrectly gave the impression to athletes that this was caused by the BFA. This led to complaints from their participant to the BFA. The organiser needs to be given clear guidance in pending competitions to help them observe correct protocols in future.

New competitions agreement needed, including safety protocols. Organiser must adhere to the agreement. Safety divers must comply to AIDA standards, including completing AIDA safety course. Registration would need to be open to all, not just club members. Places must be allocated by open ballot and publicly advertised in adequate timeframe for competition admin to be carried out. Judging would need to be as per standard AIDA competition.

Action: New competitions agreement work to be commenced.

- World Championships 2024 – Pool WC in Kaunas, **Lithuania from June 21-29.**  
Depth WC in **Ajaccio, Corsica, from September 4-15 September 2024.**

Team selection communications to go to members via email and social media.

Ranked performances and witnessed performances to be considered going back to pre-covid method, AIDA world championship team selection will be by AIDA ranked points dated from 18 months prior to 3 months before the competition entry deadline.

Witnessed performances continue to be judged at 80% and witness must be a current judge/instructor.

- Announcement of British Champions. Congratulations! Pete Sturgeon and Georgina Miller. Highest points earned across all eight competitive disciplines between October 31 2022 and November 1 2023.

Action: Vanessa, Liv & Matt to communicate with Pete and George re press release. Liv to amend typo in BFA constitution re dates.

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- Constitution proposals
  - Amendment to UK Champion ranked performance Dates. Liv explained with 8 disciplines and many athletes, the calculation process is time consuming and increases likelihood of mistake due to searches over 2 years for all athletes and all disciplines in multiple comps. Suggestion to simplify for forthcoming years. EG. 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2024 ongoing.  
Approved.  
Action: Update in Constitution.
  - AGM Dates - Liv proposed that it would be attract more attendance and be easier to organise in January each year as Nov/Dec are very busy for people. Also they tend to have little mental space for new initiatives at end of year.  
Approved.  
Action: Update in Constitution.
- Insurance for BFA - Now Active and committee are covered for roles working within the BFA constitution.

- **Election of committee members.**

To remain in existing roles:

Liv Philip - Chair & Training & Safety, Valentin Sadan - Treasurer, Vanessa Allen - Secretary, Carer Heller - Competitions

Elections of new Officers:

Georgina Miller - Nominated for Memberships officer by Liv Philip - Vote: Approved

Matthew Turnbull - Nominated for Press officer by Liv Philip - Vote: Approved

\*Agreement that Cara Heller will assist with some Social media items but remain in competitions role.

- Key development ideas/Any other business
- IT / Website - Liv Has completed migration of the website from Paul Suttons hosting to a new Ionos account for the BFA. The Domain name has also been transferred fro [joker.com](http://joker.com) to Ionos. Email migration has been moved from [TheCP.co.uk](http://TheCP.co.uk) to Ionos so everything is in one space. Liv will submit invoice to be paid back for monthly subscription that needed a bank account for initial set-up. She will transfer these payment to paypal. The website is now back under BFA control.  
Action: Quartly password changes and shared login info with 2 other committee to commence. Liv will organise password pusher secure transfer.

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- A consultant was found to help with some website plugin issues. Wordpress are available to help in future for website issues. Either on monthly retainer for instant help, or pay as you go for 1-2 week turnaround.
- Judges Course
  - Liv has apologised for not having time to organise judges course as discussed last AGM. This is due to time take sorting IT issues.
  - Action: Requires work to organise in 2024.
- AIDA have a new standardised safety course being rolled out.
- Question raised CMAS Ranking Dives to count for WC's team selection.
  - Georgina explained CMAS have no existing ranked dive system so UK divers dives difficult to log and are done to different rules.
  - Action: No change to selection rules. CMAS ranked dives not to be used for UK Team selection.

Membership has increased this year. Should be possible to increase, especially with competition, possible judges course, possible social event.

- Thanks for attendance.