

DORSAR

DORSET VOLUNTARY SEARCH & RESCUE

Minutes of DorSAR AGM held on Wednesday 20th February 2013 at Crossways YC

Attended by: Trevor Antell, Deborah Chandler, Lee Crabtree, Terry Drewitt, Roger Duarte, Richard Field, Mandy Forbes, Matt Goodliffe, James Graham, Greg Howard, Kay Green, Alan Hale, Ann Hale, Edward Hawkins, Sandy Hills, Matthew Keates, Brian Kennedy, Bob Mace, Carol Ann Miller, Chris Morris, Robin Pitcher, Colin Poulter, Sari Meyrem, Richard Stubbs, Lee Stones, Barry Sweetman, Barry Taylor, Georgina Thomas, Simon Thomas, David Whitlock, Jamie Wrightson,.

Guest. DS Steve Broadhurst and DS Mark Jenkins

1. Chairman opening remarks. Colin Poulter opened the AGM by welcoming everyone, giving an H and S briefing and asking that people should take part in the meeting in an honest way. He also welcomed Detective Sgt Steve Broadhurst and Det Sgt Mark Jenkins
2. Apologies received from Lee Homer, Phil Robinson, James Rough, Jim Soloman, Andrea Webb, Jen Wraight, Dave Wraight, and Spencer Martin.
3. Put to Membership if they were happy to accept the late posting for the position of Membership Secretary. Unanimous yes in favour.
4. Minutes of 2012 February AGM- previously circulated.
5. Matters Arising - none. Proposed that they be accepted – Barry Sweetman , Seconded Dave Whitlock Unanimous decision to accept.
6. Chairman's report – Colin Poulter

Welcome to all on what is the 9th AGM for Dorset Search & Rescue. Thank you for attending.

- 2012 was different to previous years in many ways
- Low call out rates could have caused fall off in membership but it didn't.
- Starting 2013 give me great confidence knowing the current membership and the potential for the future.
- I have been a member from the start and right now I feel that we have some real talent within the team. You are all responsible for making the organisation a valuable asset to the general public.
- We also have more people willing to take on rolls than we have ever had before.
- We have been very fortunate to have had Carol Ann as Secretary and Jen Wraight taking on roles that had become vacant last year. A thank you to them for the work they have done.
- Last year before we voted I asked the membership to vote as they saw fit, I asked them to vote without looking around the room at what our friends may be doing. I also asked that we support the democratic result as final.
- This year I ask we do the same.
- There are lots of things going on this year and training will look very different from what we have seen before. A new water group (Well one that may actually get in the water) and Chris Morris heading up the training in general. Please do take part.
- I thank you all for your support last year it's been great.

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6. i Secretary's report – Carol-Ann Miller

This report will be fairly brief regarding facts, but I hope long in thoughtfulness.

At the 2012 AGM I proposed that there was distrust between members and management, therefore management meetings should be made open for members to attend. This proposal was carried; Bob Mace attended which resulted in him taking a more active role in the operations. Beside myself no one else has attended any meetings. However the meetings still remain open to members.

Following last year's AGM the job of secretary was voted to be split into General, and Membership. The candidate that was voted in as secretary then resigned shortly after the AGM. Dave Wraight continued to care take while the positions were advertised. As there was no rush from anyone to step up, Kate Ward opted to take on the role of Membership Sec, and I took on General Sec. Unfortunately for us Kate then got herself a job out of country. I hope she has enjoyed herself.

Membership Secretary work has thus been covered in bulk by Trevor and Colin.

I contacted those members who had not paid their subs by June 2012, and this resulted in the confirmed resignation, or just silence from 13 members, besides the resignation of Bob, Nicky.

We had a number of enquiries; this has resulted in 5 good new trained members. We presently have 3 new applicants.

Operational status is being processed by Bob Mace, members will soon receive notification of who needs what training wise to keep you operational, and there is an operational page on the web site to check for yourself whether you need to retrain, and in what areas i.e. comms, nav.

I do not have the stats for how many people attended what exercises. Management Meetings numbered 10, and we had 1 trustees meeting, these were attended in part by all, the new treasurer put in one attendance resulting in Roger picking up the reigns.

I think most of us agree that there has been a hole without the newsletters. Writing is not my forte, and the newsletter is best written by an active member.

When I took on the role of Secretary I did point out that as I fulltime carer I was unable to attend Alsar meetings, as most of them require allot of travel, and secondly I do not like driving.

We have therefore had a lack of attendance and communications with Alsar, so we are slightly in their black book. Hopefully the post of Alsar rep can be re-established.

Having attended the Management meetings in the first instance as a member it was interesting to find out what happens to keep us going as an organisation. So on that note I have this to say.

At present DorSAR is held together by Colin and Trevor. They meet with the CGLs, Mike Darkin, William Grownow, and deal with the post and more. The CGLs have worked hard to ensure their groups have run as smoothly as can be, and I hope members have appreciated the training they have received from these groups.

This year appears to have run smoothly, which has enabled DorSAR to get back on track, and on that note I feel the need to get on my soap box.

I joined DorSAR to help and be part of a team that was there for whatever we were called upon to do. I know we are not called out as often as we used to, but in the first place by wishing we are called out you are wishing that someone is trying to commit suicide, or you are hoping that some poor dementia parent has walked off and is lying freezing to death, just so we can get a call. I know many of you read reports regarding missing persons and wonder why we were not called out. Our attitude should be thank goodness I are not getting any calls, but I am happy to continue attending training to ensure my skills are honed, ready for any unfortunate occurrence. Mike Darkin has worked closely with us over the years, and certainly knows when we can do what we do best, and has trust in our more experienced members to know they have the nose of a blood hound at times, and does not want us to waste fuel and time as we have done in the past. A major problem with our call outs is that we do not have many members that can do daytime calls; therefore we have to encourage people we may know who have the time and enthusiasm to join to cover daytime searches. If you are enthusiastic about DorSAR you will talk to people, and you may find that as I did when recounting my experience to Kay Green she became interested in learning and training herself, and is now a trained member. If we all find one person who we can influence our team will grow.

I ask you all as members to be proud to be there when we are, you may not think you are appreciated but consider families are distressed. However as has been shown by the recent thank you and donations received regarding Simon Douthwaite we are appreciated. It is not about the thank you and monetary gain it is about going to bed satisfied we have done all we can.

You probably have all had to endure the increase in fitness, and I am the first to admit it possibly was down to me. I have been happy to hold my hand up over the years when I was active to say I cannot do, members have waited for me to fall on my butt, and I have scaled fences in my own clumsy way. But after 8 years I still have not done anything to acquire a nickname, and at the same time I and my team members have remained safe. Sometime back it was stated that we could be a foot soldier or a green beret, needless to say that got my back up, but I am still here. All I can say to you is the small actions and deeds of all members result in a big performance. We did not join DorSAR to get an OBE or MBE if you want one of those get fit and run around a track or throw something and join the Olympic team. Do not expect praise and a pedestal just go home with the warm thought that I and we as a team did all we could.

AND finally I ask all members to step up – do not expect Colin and Trevor and a few regular members to keep us going – you all have more to contribute than just an occasional call out.

Remember there is no I in TEAM just together everyone achieves more.

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6. ii. Treasurers Report – Roger Duarte

Statement of Account for period 01/01/12 to 31/12/12

	2012	2011
Balance Brought Forward	£16,565.13	£ 16,567.85
Income		
Donations :-		
Trelux Charitable Trust	£ -	£ 4,000.00
Kristian Alexander Trust	£ 2,000.00	£ 2,500.00
Synergy Housing Ltd	£ 1,200.00	
United Church - Dorche	£ -	£ 875.53
Richard Kirkman Trust	£ -	£ 500.00
Other Donations < £250	£ 1,442.05	£ 2,941.65
Fund Raising & Events	£ 2,536.34	£ 2,803.77
Sale of Old Control Vehicle	£ -	£ 200.00
Subscriptions	£ 757.50	£ 952.50
External 1 st Aid		
Training Courses	£ 1,285.00	£ 330.00
CRB Checks	£ 24.00	£ 106.24
Total Income	£ 9,244.89	£ 15,209.69
Expenditure		
Control Vehicle	£ 1,262.20	£ 8,012.22
Insurance	£ 1,285.55	£ 1,240.75
SMS Responder (Text Messaging)	£ 548.71	£ 1,130.68
Association of 1st Aiders	£ 799.14	£ 1,107.90
Equipment	£ 1,552.40	£ 754.90
Office Supplies	£ 637.78	£ 806.52
ALSAR - Subs, Conference & Travel	£ 353.09	£ 658.50
Clothing	£ -	£ 536.76
Training Courses	£ 644.00	£ 481.87
CRB Checks	£ 35.97	£ 107.40
Hall Hire	£ 691.00	£ 89.00
Other Expenditure	£ 545.62	£ 374.91
Total Expenditure	£ 8,355.46	£ 15,212.41
Balance Carried Forward	£ 17,454.56	£ 16,565.13

Having taken over as caretaker in January this report is as accurate as the paperwork that has been received.

6. iii. Operations Report – Trevor Antell – Operations Officer

A short one this year, its quiet simple it's been a cracking year. Our Chairman's request at the last AGM to move forward and support those who had been elected could not have been better delivered by the vast majority. An absolute credit to you all and a pride to work for.

I would firstly like to thank the Operations Team as a whole and (along am sure with the rest of you) wish Nicky the very best as she approaches motherhood for the second time (we were congratulating her on her first born in last year's report).

Simon as Operations Coordinator has continued to provide good support even with his time consuming studies.

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Competency Groups have continued to develop and mature nicely, some groups have pressed a head First Aid and Water in particular, the rest have all made good progress. In addition to looking after their own groups the CGL's have played a much bigger part in operations, with them all attending Ops meeting and playing a large part in the decision making and actions required to run the organisation.

From an Ops and organisational perspective we have lost a bit of contact with ALSAR something we must address in the coming year.

Search Statistics.

2012

DorSAR Callouts 7

ALSAR Callouts 2

2013 to date

DorSAR Callouts 4

Much has been discussed about the few number of callouts we had during 2012. I can tell you that during my Quarterly meetings with Dorset Police I get to view the statistics close up and can assure you that we are considered and used wherever appropriate.

Our Chairman has set out his objective to get more and more of you involved in the running of DorSAR to spread the load and increase the resource available for that which we are capable of doing.

I enjoy the role and hope that you all feel I deliver it in the right way, however it is good to have rotation of post holders so would encourage those with an interest to come and be an apprentice for the year ready to step up and take over next year.

Our Prime minister talks of the National Big Society in DorSAR we need our own version.

6. iv. P R Report – Brian Kennedy in respect of– (PR Officer absent)

Once again the PR Team, although small in numbers, has attended a variety of events throughout Dorset. Probably our most successful activity – in terms of money raised – is the distribution of wristbands at the main agricultural shows. Although there is no charge for the wristbands, parents usually make a donation just to have the security of knowing that they could be contacted easily should they get separated from their children.

Although several of our 'regular' annual events were cancelled due to Olympics or weather, other activities included:

- ❖ Village fetes and carnivals – by invitation
- ❖ Talks to a variety of groups
- ❖ Horse trials and shows
- ❖ Christmas Sparkle Evening (Weymouth)
- ❖ Static collection boxes in pubs, shops etc.
- ❖ Everyclick and Easy Fundraising

Safe and Sound Campaign

This is now ready to be launched by the PR Team and all DorSAR members. A questionnaire has been produced so that carers can complete all the details about the person they care for so that, in the event of that person going missing, all the information is in one place and can be handed to the Police to assist in the search.

Looking to the future

The grant received from Synergy Housing will be spent on Search Manager training shortly. Courses and candidates have been identified!

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The staff from the Land Registry in Weymouth are nominating us as their designated charity for the year. They will be raising money towards equipment for the SWTeam.

The list of proposed events will be published on the website soon. The PR Team would welcome help at any of the events - for any part of the event! In order to raise more money for equipment and training there must be more help from the membership. Please contact a member of the PR team if you can help!

If you can't come along to events you could help by registering with **Everyclick** and **Easy Fundraising**. Both of these sites link with retailers who donate a percentage of your purchase to DorSAR. So if you are booking a holiday, buying from Amazon or trading on e-bay each purchase generates income for DorSAR. It's amazing how these pennies all add up – with little effort on our part! You could help DorSAR raise ££££s. Simply register with Everyclick and spend £10 on any transaction Everyclick will donate £5 to DorSAR. 50 new registrations mean £250!

<http://www.everyclick.com/> / <http://www.giveasyoulive.com>
<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk>

I wish to record my thanks to Barry Sweetman and Brian Kennedy who have worked hard throughout the year, and also to Greg, Debbie and Spencer who have recently joined the team.

Jen Wraight

7. Election of Officers.

7. i. The secretary invited members to vote for the role of chairman – there being only one nomination.

Colin Poulter - Proposed by Bob Mace, Seconded by Debbie Chandler – a statement had been previously circulated to all members.

For 30 against 0 Abstentions 0

Colin Poulter is therefore voted in as Chairman for the forthcoming year.

7. ii. The chairman invited members to vote for the role of secretary – there being only one nomination. Dave

Wraight – proposed by Chris Morris, seconded by Debbie Chandler – a statement was posted

For 27 against 4 abstentions 0

Dave Wraight is therefore appointed as Secretary for the forthcoming year.

7. iii. The chairman invited members to vote for the role of treasurer – there being only one nomination. Roger

Duarte – proposed by Lee Crabtree, seconded by Mandy Forbes – Supporting statement posted

For 30 against 0 Abstentions 0

Roger Duarte is therefore appointed Treasurer for the forthcoming year.

7. iv. The Chairman invited members to vote for the role of Membership Secretary – there being only one

nomination. Mandy Forbes – proposed by Sandy Hills, seconded by Trevor Antell – no supporting statement.

For 30 against 0 abstentions 0

Mandy Forbes is therefore appointed Membership Secretary for the forthcoming year.

7. v. The chairman invited members to vote for the role of Operations Officer – there being only one nomination –

Trevor Antell – proposed by Chris Morris, Seconded by Georgina Thomas. Trevor had previously circulated a statement outlining his thoughts on the future role he would play within DorSAR.

For 30 against 0 Abstention 0

Trevor Antell is therefore appointed Operations Officer for the forthcoming year.

7. vi. The chairman invited members to vote for the role of Operations Co-ordinator - there being only one

nomination – Simon Thomas – proposed by Jim Soloman, seconded by James Graham. Simon had previously circulated a statement outlining his thoughts on the future role he would play within DorSAR.

For 30 against 0 Abstention 0

Simon Thomas is therefore appointed Operations Co-ordinator for the forthcoming year.

7. vii. The chairman invited members to vote for the role of PR officer – there being only one nomination – Brian

Kennedy - proposed by Howard Gregory seconded by Spencer Martin. Brian had posted a statement

For 30 against 0 Abstentions 0

Brian Kennedy is therefore appointed PR officer for the forthcoming year.

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7.viii. The chairman invited members to vote for the role of members' representative – there being only one nomination - Robin Pitcher proposed by Bob Mace seconded by Trevor Antell. Robin had previously circulated a statement.

For 30 against 0 abstentions 0

Robin Pitcher is therefore appointed as the members' representative for the forthcoming year.

7. ix. Position of President had no nominations. It was proposed to hold the position open for one more year, if no one applied for the post it would be abolished at the next AGM. Carried unanimously

7. x. The Chairman invited members to vote for the role of additional Trustee – there was only one nomination – Eddie Hawkins proposed by Colin Poulter, seconded by Jamie Wrightson. Eddie had circulated a statement.

For 26 against 0 abstentions 4 proxy abstention 1

Eddie Hawkins is therefore appointed as the Additional Trustee for the forthcoming year.

8. The Chairman thanked the outgoing officers for their help and support - being Jen Wraight (PR), Carol-Ann Miller (General Sec), and Tim Howson-Green (Treasurer). Then welcomed the new officers on board.

9. Items for discussion and voting

1. Items for Discussion/Vote - Proposed by the retiring Management Committee - **Fees:** To retain at £20 for subs due 2014. ^{Note 1}

Accepted For 31 against 0 abstentions 0

2. Items for Discussion/Vote - Proposed by the retiring Management Committee - **Addition to the rules of the organisation:** a. New rule 9: **Voting rights.** To retain voting rights within DorSAR you must; have been a member of DorSAR [from acceptance of membership] for a minimum of 6 months and contribute to the work of DorSAR as an active member [Definition of active: attended and taken part in a minimum of 8 events (Training, Callouts, Meetings, PR, Fund Raising etc) over the previous rolling 12 months or for new members since acceptance of membership. In extenuating circumstances a member falling short of that required to vote may do so where accepted by 3/4 of those present (and qualified to vote) at the meeting at which the vote is being taken] b. Old rule 9 becomes rule 10. ^{Note 2}

Accepted For 31 against 0 abstentions 0

3. Items for Discussion/Vote - Proposed by the retiring Management Committee - **ALSAR Representative Appointed Position:** To create a new Appointed position under the Chairman to act as the DorSAR/ALSAR Representative. ^{Note 3} **Accepted**

For 31 against 0 abstentions 0

4. Items for Discussion/Vote - **Request from Crossways Community Centre to change from Wednesday to Tuesday Training nights.** ^{Note 4} **Rejected - night to stay as Wednesday**

5. Items for Discussion/Vote - Proposed by Eddie Hawkins - **New PR Position** - To create a new position of Press Officer/Spokesperson. ^{Note 5} **Accepted with the meeting agreeing a new role but if possible to be carried out by the PR Officer Post**

For 28 against 0 abstentions 3

This would be against our Service Level Agreement with the Police, but saying that after having spoken with Mike Darkin it was agreed that he had no objection to us contacting the press to give them authorised information. The role will be to purely say DorSAR is called out at such a time and place, and if permitted we may state sex, age and description. The fact that the treasurers report shows we are down on income – is it because we are not being reported, most reports will state that the Police and Coast Guard were in attendance. Sgt Broadhurst gave his full backing for us to receive more press coverage. We need to be careful what is disclosed to the press, and beware of sensitive issues, it will need many caveats, but the police give us their full support. 1 press officer may be appointed in the future, but they will need to be trained, and it is proposed that anything to be reported must go through the Management Committee. If we are involved in a search at present, and we are approached by the press they are to be referred to the Police Press Officer until this proposal is fully sanctioned.

10. Police Address (Representative from Dorset Police) **DS Steve Broadhurst & DS Mark Jenkins addressed the meeting.** Went on to say there are 8 POLSAR Officers in Dorset who all have the same enthusiasm as and towards DorSAR. Dorset Police greatly appreciate all that DorSAR is and do, and the search

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results appreciate us. At present there are no outstanding missing persons in Dorset. DorSAR has led the light up until now when it comes to all aspects of search and rescue organisations. Now we may feel there is not allot going on, but if we get an A1 call out we save a life, if the police are stuck we get a callout. The police are now better trained in searching, but at the end of the day they are still better trained in counter terrorism and not missing persons.

Misper Stats

	Recorded Incidents	Recorded Mispers	Calls to PoISA	Actual Searches	DorSAR Call out	Calls to DorSAR v Incidents	Calls to DorSAR v calls to PoISA	Calls to DorSAR v Actual Searches
2009	3497	1115	61	39	14	0.40%	23%	35%
2010	3524	998	41	31	10	0.30%	25%	32%
2011	2937	882	50	10	6	0.20%	12%	60%
2012	2661	839	41	9	7	0.26%	17%	77%
2013	288	97	6	4	4	1.30%	66%	100%

Notes:

- 1) Out of the 50 calls in 2011 25 were resolved within 1 hour
- 2) Actual Searches relates to when a PoISA search is conducted.... and not merely advice on the phone for local staff to do stuff

11. Meeting Close. 21.03

Note 1 - The retiring Management Committee consider with the rise from £15 to £20 for subs due 2013 voted in at the last AGM and considering the current costs associated with membership (i.e. Insurances, CRB re-checks etc) coupled with the current financial situation of the organisation, there is no need to propose a change in membership fee and that it should remain at £20 for subs due in 2014.

Note 2 - The retiring Management Committee have 'adjusted' that voted against at the last AGM to account for constructive comments made at that AGM. The rational behind his proposed rule is to prevent any future hijacking of the organisation against the will of the bona fide active membership.

Note 3 - The retiring Management Committee consider that having an appointed position focused on the two way communication between ALSAR & DorSAR would benefit the organisation. They would attend Management/Operation Meetings as appropriate but as an appointed position not have a vote on either meeting. The AGM are asked to agree the principle and allow the new Management Committee to develop and recruit into the role

Note 4 - We have received a request from the Committee of the Crossways Community Centre to change our evening from Wednesday to Tuesday. We need to decide whether Tuesdays would be a better night (on a positive possibly less other activities going on, but if members have committed to other activities on Tuesdays this would be negative).

Note 5 - The reason for my (Eddie Hawkins) proposal is that the agreement we have with Dorset Police, to notify the press when DorSAR is active is not working. We as a charity need all the funds we can get if we are to continue to provide a service, and to support future projects. People will not give to a charity if that charity is seen to be inactive, therefore it is of the up most importance that members of the public are aware of our activities. The role of this position is solely to inform the local press when DorSAR is called out, and to give the reason if in the public domain.