



# GLUG AGM Minutes

3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2011

**Venue:** Phoenix Artists Club, 1 Phoenix Street, London WC2H 0DT

**Link :** <http://www.phoenixartistclub.com/aboutus.html>

**Time :** 3.00pm for 3.15 start

**Chair :** Brian Broadbridge

**Committee Members Present:** Brian, Mark, Corinne, Steph, Martin.

1. Matters Arising – vote in minutes from last AGM
2. Apologies Dave Bonney Doug, Val & Ian
3. Committee Reports
4. Chairman's Report
5. **Vice-Chairman's Report:** This has been a very active year for GLUG. Recruited many new members, particularly at London Pride and through the Try Dives. Will try and attend London and Brighton Pride this year, costs permitting, though this year London Pride becomes World Pride which, if we are in attendance, will increase GLUG's profile within the gay community . This year we did not attend Brighton pride as it clashed with a UK trip so most of the committee we unable to attend. The Red Sea trip was well attended by 10 members. Brain and Val may run it again this year. There were lots of new trips too, both UK and abroad with one of the largest ever attendances, 30 people going to NEMO in November.
6. **Treasurers Report:** see Financial Report sent out before AGM
7. **Membership Secretary's Report:** Our maximum membership for the year was 151.
8. **Webmasters Report:** A huge amount of work has gone on behind the scenes this year. There were some issues with committee email addresses which are now resolved. A few bugs with the trip system which are now ironed out. Wordpress is regularly updated once their bugs have been sorted. There are plans to change the layout of the posts and for the gallery to be updated so that more recent photos are shown on the home page and around the site. Changes have been made to increase the usability of paypal and to improve the menu options around the site. This is a work in progress and will continue. Mark has introduced a Google app. which allows us to track data such as which countries look at our site,

for how long and which search words are used most frequently to access the site. Those interested in such stats can obtain a read out from Mark.

9. **Training Officers Report**

Open water courses.	12
AOW.	6
Dry Suit.	7
Currently	2 still completing AOW 1 Dive Master course

Try dives. In previous years we were able to offer free membership to those participating in the Try Dives as we had sponsorship. As that sponsorship was not forthcoming this year we need to look at other ways of running the Try Dives. Martin began Combining OW courses and other training with Try Dives to reduce cost to GLUG. This meant that whilst the other courses were running, Martin was paying for the pool time from the course fees which allowed GLUG members to stay longer and socialize. We need to look at ways of making the Try Dives more effective in future and also to explain costs in terms of social cost and Try Dive costs as the current accounts do not reflect that correctly. Martin proposed that Try Dives either lead to half price membership or perhaps a charge of £15 rather than £25. This can be discussed and agreed at the next Try Dive planning meeting.

Members using the pool during Try Dives have not contributed to the cost at all. From now on Martin recommended a charge for use of tanks, equal tot that used for trips (amount to be agreed at a future meeting) and for members to pay for air fills.

The new kit has been used on all UK trips as well as training and has facilitated members without kit to dive in various locations and on Member's Trips as well as GLUG trips.

10. **Publicity Officers Report:** Apologies that I cannot be at the AGM, will be on a plane to Cuba, for a holiday including a dive or 3.

This was year 1 for me as Publicity Officer for GLUG.

The main achievement for the year was a much increased PR presence at Pride London, with our first float (well bus!) as well as the usual stall. From a publicity aspect it was a big success in raising our profile, as it resulted in a radio interview (on BBC London) and numerous GLUG mentions on various news websites including the Independent and Gay Radio UK. It was a real example of a few GLUG members (the GLUG working party) working hard together to make it happen.

Other publicity work this year has been less high profile, like updating a GLUG flyer template which was used to distribute flyers advertising our try dives and socials (so flyers were distributed around gay venues in central London e.g. First Out Cafe).

We have also increased the profile of the GLUG facebook page, which is now a

'community' page and 1,103 people 'like it'. There is a lot of rubbish posted on it though, any Facebook loving volunteers who'd like to help out with the page are very welcome.

We had planned to have a stall at Brighton Pride but we pulled out of this due to the high costs involved.

Our publicity plans for 2012 include repeating our high profile presence at WorldPride 2012 (which is here in London!). We also plan to have a stall at 1 other Pride event outside London in 2012. We'd really like suggestions from non-London based GLUG members on which city this should be for 2012. We also plan to have a fundraising event, e.g. a cabaret night (this is likely to be fundraising for GLUG and a charity).

**11. UK Dive Coordinators Report:** Four weekends in uk all filled.

Weymouth was the best weather of all year, dives included Durdle Door, Alex van Opstal which was a beautiful dive. Weymouth in July saw us on the Aeolian Sky and Eleanor R, & Balaclava Bay. Pembrokeshire was choppy, so two wall dives and then two wrecks Dakotia. Plymouth was also a huge success with four tremendous dives.

- 12. Equipment Coordinators Report:** Need to insure the kit tanks and also BCD's & Regs and to ask members to donate a charge for using GLUG kit to help towards servicing costs. Kit storage has been split between Steph and Martin to reduce travel time when kit is needed for training and such.

**13. Election Of Committee Members:**

Chairman		Martin Sigston
Vice-Chairman	Incumbent	Brian Broadbridge
Treasurer		Debbie Pippard
Membership Secretary	Incumbent	Mark Vowles
Webmaster	Incumbent	Mark Vowles
Training Officer	Incumbent	Martin Sigston
Publicity Officer	Incumbent	Val Cohn
UK Dive Coordinator	Incumbent	Corinne Sargeant
Equipment Coordinator	Incumbent	Steph Butcher

All members voted in with no objections.

Martin Sigston then took the chair.

**14. Vote to Increase membership fees:**

2 people present voting for £15 x 3 voted for £25  
Votes on the website 4 x £10 8 x £15 and 36x £25

It was therefore agreed that the membership fee be raised to £25.

A query was raised as to whether online voting could be used for such decisions as online voting is not mentioned in the constitution. It was agreed that we may need to look at the wording in the constitution. Online voting was introduced to allow members unable to attend meetings to have a say in the running of the club. It was also felt that those who had voted, did so believing that their vote would count at the AGM. The votes were therefore counted.

15. **Plans for 2012:**

Martin and Debbie have called for a proper budget to be agreed at the next meeting with a formal Treasurer's Report at each meeting thereafter so members can see how GLUG money is allocated and spent. It was agreed that we need to account the cost of Try Dives more clearly to show the cost for the social and training side of the days.

Brian suggested increasing the 'Cross Fertilization' between gay sports clubs and announced that the S&CA had expressed an interest in sharing a float or bus with us at Pride. Another member asked whether links could be made with groups such as Front Runners and Outdoor Lads. Martin stated that such links had been tried before, but that Outdoor Lads had a very complex hierarchy system and previous discussions had failed to produce results. Also, some groups are exclusively male or have age limits, which does not fall in with the GLUG ethic or constitution. Martin also expressed concern of managing such links correctly so as not to 'dilute' GLUG's standing as a SCUBA diving group. Many members of GLUG are also members of other groups and it would be great to increase social interaction and such, but whilst maintaining GLUG's identity.

As most members and the Committee members struggle to get to meetings for 6.30pm it was decided the meetings will now start at 7pm. The Committee meeting will finish by 8pm at the latest. Members are welcome to sit in on the committee meeting or socialise at the bar. Once the Committee meeting is finished, there will be a short comfort break and a report then given to the members present. The agenda will now be posted on the website as a post, giving those who can't attend the meeting the chance to submit their thoughts and ideas as comments, which should allow members who can't attend meetings to feel more included in decision making.

16. **AOB:** Steph proposed that as Dave B is one of the founder members of GLUG and Dorothy Divers and as he is unable to dive this year he be given a years honorary membership to thank him for all his work in the club over the years. This was agreed unanimously.

Debbie asked why there had been no charitable donation this year. GLUG had in fact donated money via DFL to Foodchain and that a vote had been taken

at a meeting earlier in the year and members had voted to spend the GLUG excess money on investment in the Club, namely kit, rather than giving money away. Debbie asked that this decision be revisited next year as many charities were having their budgets cut and would benefit from donations from clubs such as ours and that it was important for GLUG to support the gay community. Martin thanked all the members for attending and extended thanks to Dave Ewing for supplying and driving the bus for us at Pride this year. He thanked Doug for all his hard work as Chair and Dave and Ian for their hard work and contributions as Treasurer and Training Officer respectively.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> Jan at 7pm in the Phoenix Bar on Charing Cross Road.

The meeting closed at 4.45pm